

Lesson No. 136 – A New Year, the Ultimate Possibility of A Beginning For All

(By Donald Crosswell – 3/20/2020)

At the time of this lesson, we are only a few days from ELOHIM's new year. As such, I wish each of you, and all others who are of the Household of Faith, a wonderful and prosperous new year. However, this will probably be the most unique new year since I was drawn to the MESSIAH and learned that this is indeed the true new year.

The nation the world knows as the Children of Yisrael (COY) were told the following:

- Exo 12:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, Exo 12:2 **This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.**

Well, as someone who professes a belief in the Bible to be the true WORD of ELOHIM and is assessing my direction, I should want to know whether or not these directions given to Moses, Aaron and the COY are applicable to me as well.

- Exo 12:3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, **In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:** Exo 12:4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take *it* according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Exo 12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take *it* out from the sheep, or from the goats: Exo 12:6 And **ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month:** and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

- Exo 12:7 And **they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.**
- Exo 12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; *with* your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: **it is the LORD'S Passover.** Exo 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the LORD. Exo 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and when I see the blood, **I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.** Exo 12:14 And **this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.**

So, this “beginning of months” is also the month of YAHWEH’s Passover, a day during which HE “will pass over” the COY and others, and not destroy those who obeyed HIS commandment. And notice in verse 14 how YAHWEH called it a Feast. So, let’s correct ourselves right now. Along with the weekly Sabbath, all of the annually commanded holy days of the 23rd chapter of Leviticus are appointed times (the Hebrew word “moed”). However, there are four Feasts (the Hebrew word “chag”) within these appointed times; the Passover, Unleavened Bread, Weeks, and the first seven days of Tabernacles. Passover falls within this category because it is a form of supper that involves some form of eating; the lamb under the Old Covenant, and the unleavened bread under the New Covenant.

We sometimes forget that the Passover is also a Feast because of the following scriptures.

- Exo 23:14 **Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year.**

- Exo 23:15 **Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread:** (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) Exo 23:16 **And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours,** which thou hast sown in the field: **and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year,** when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. Exo 23:17 Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.

This only describes three feasts. However, we must all try and remember that there are actually the four Feasts, not just these three. And regarding the Passover, it is in the beginning of the new year, which the WORD of ELOHIM has identified for us what was the name of this month.

- Deu 16:1 Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.

This first month of the year is Abib or Aviv. Just so we understand what is in ELOHIM's WORD, Nehemiah 2:1 and Ester 3:7 record this also as the month of Nisan. Based on a little study, Abib is of Canaanite origin, meaning it was in force in the land flowing with milk and honey when Yisrael was created. Nisan, on the other hand, is of Assyrian/Babylonian origin, meaning it probably replaced Abib once the Assyrians and Babylonians became the two great powers, during the days of Nehemiah and Ester. However, Abib is considered to be the more Hebraic choice of the two names.

With this backdrop, the Household of Faith is now preparing themselves for the new year and the two Feasts, Passover and Unleavened Bread, to occur two weeks after the beginning of the new year. History teaches us the month of Abib falls between the Roman calendar months of March and April, depending on the new moon of what is called the spring equinox.

And for this year, the whole world is reeling back and forth because of a virus that seems to be out of control. In fact, many congregations have decided to not have Passover and Unleavened Bread services because of civil directions to curtail large gatherings, as well as to maintain appropriate spacing in smaller gatherings.

Now, even in more normal times, in comparison to all who dwell upon the earth, those who honor this new year, the Passover and Unleavened Bread, are relatively few in number. And for those who partake in these Feasts, there should a total awareness that these represent a time of spiritual reflection. You see, it is okay to ask ourselves the question. Am I going in the right direction? And with that question, ask another question. What is the direction I should be going in? This question may be even more profound this year. As a result, I thought it appropriate that we discuss Lesson No 136 – A New Year, the Ultimate Possibility of a Beginning For All.

Isn't it interesting that perhaps the most frightening virus to the world of modernity is occurring just as the new year and YAHWEH's Passover are approaching? Being the repetitive creatures that we are, the members of the Household of Faith are all too familiar with the following words of the Apostle Paul.

- Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but **fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God**; Eph 2:20 And **are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone**; Eph 2:21 In whom all the building **fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord**:

This is but one of the more powerful discourses given to the members of the Household of Faith by YAHSHUA through HIS apostles. And yes, I said YAHSHUA and not YESHUA. I will explain shortly.

The saints, the Household of ELOHIM/Faith, are built upon the foundation of the apostles of YAHSHUA and the prophets of YAHWEH. As members of the Household of Faith, we know, or, we should know, that YAHWEH and YAHSHUA are the same persons.

Notice these words spoken by Yisrael/Yacob (called Jacob).

- Gen 49:18 I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD.

If you remember, the word salvation is translated from the Hebrew word “yeshua”. This is the primary word translated salvation throughout the Old Covenant. It has the meanings of welfare and prosperity, deliverance, salvation by ELOHIM, and victory. In fact, it is translated salvation 65 times, help 4 times, deliverance 3 times, health 3 times, save 1 time, saving 1 time, and welfare 1 time. Of more relevance, where have we heard this word before?

- Exo 14:13 And Moses said unto the people, **Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD**, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever.

Moses shouts out to the COY as they have been trapped against the sea by the Egyptians to “fear ye not, stand still, and see the “yeshua” of YAHWEH”. Well, what we are learning here? This word “yeshua”, which means salvation, is a noun. A noun can be a person, a place, or a thing. In this context, is “yeshua” a name or a place? Obviously neither. It is a thing; an act of protection YAHWEH is about to perform for the only nation HE has ever known.

We know that the MESSIAH’s name before HE came in the FATHER’s name was YAHWEH. This is an absolute. Based on additional study and simple Biblical reasoning, the name YAHSHUA, given as HE dwelt in the flesh, has a meaning of “YAH is salvation”.

As such, YAHSUA carries the more appropriate Biblical rendering. I have a great study on this I can share with anyone who is interested. I have noticed others who have also transitioned to this name. Now, so have I. I stand by earlier comments that I take no issue with those who believe YAHOSHUA to be more appropriate. We are all still learning. We both are giving YAHWEH, I AM, the praise.

Now, regarding the apostles and the prophets, Daniel, a prophet of YAHWEH, was led to write the following:

- Dan 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

In previous studies, we have confirmed that this “time of trouble” and “the time of Yacob’s trouble” in Yeremayah 30:7, are one and the same event, when major turmoil shall befall the COY as they are scattered amongst the nations as their return to their land draws nearer, or is in process.

- Dan 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt. Dan 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. Dan 12:4 But thou, **O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, *even* to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.**

After prophesying about “Yacob’s trouble” and the first and second resurrections, the Prophet is told by YAHWEH’s angel to shut up the words and seal the book until the time of the end.

And when this time occurs, many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. This is the time we are currently witnessing. For a variety of reasons, including major virus outbreaks, mankind of modernity is running to and fro. However, there is at the same time a most interesting and unique turn of spiritually related events. Knowledge is indeed increasing, and yet, there is a lack of total agreement and acceptance of provable knowledge, even within the Household of Faith. With this, there is confusion as so many differences prevent the saints of the Household of Faith from walking in a united manner. YAHWEH ask this of the COY.

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

There is a rather obvious answer to HIS question for the COY, and even more important for modernity's Household of Faith. For my thinking, it would appear that the events of today should proclaim to the Household of Faith the need of unity more so than at any other moment of modernity. When the COY were trapped by the Egyptians, Moses proclaimed to them who was their "yeshua". It was YAHWEH. Other than YAHWEH HIMSELF, the greatest king the COY ever knew, wrote the following.

- Psa 107:24 These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep. Psa 107:25 For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. Psa 107:26 They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. Psa 107:27 **They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.**

Does this sound relatable to the distresses of today? Isn't mankind reeling to and fro like drunken men, led by selfishness, at their wits end? We remember how that in times of a recession many commit suicide. They simply give up. They lose all hope because of the loss of material gains that led to unbearable emotional stress. And unfortunately, their lives were not established on the solid ground of the WORD of ELOHIM.

In the news of today, we witness so many, particularly young adults, who ignore the warnings of health officials and continue to carry on as if there is no need to be concerned. This is the selfish world we exist in, at least until the distress becomes personal. Many will fall when personally affected, because of unbelief. When this happens, all petition YAHWEH for relief in time of distress.

The Prophet King David spoke these words to those who should be trusting in YAHWEH.

- Psa 107:28 **Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.** Psa 107:29 He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Psa 107:30 Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.

These words were written of the COY, of whom YAHWEH was their “yeshua”, their salvation in the time of distress. And until their scattering, HE delivered a form of physical salvation unto them.

For the Household of Faith, a valid question must be asked as to whether we believe in the Prophet’s words. Do we trust in YAHWEH in HIS current name as YAHSUA? As we approach HIS appointed times in the midst of the calamity that surrounds us, what are our thoughts? How do we prepare and seek HIM, as the world about us is reeling to and fro? The Prophet continues with words of exhortation for each of us as these days are upon us.

- Psa 107:31 **Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!** Psa 107:32 **Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.**

Are we continuing in our praise? Are we remembering HIS promises to us?

Are we remembering that faith is based on unseen promises inherent in our belief that what ELOHIM has promised for our trust and obedience based on the knowledge, HE has provided to us in this “time of the end”?

- Psa 107:33 He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the water springs into dry ground; Psa 107:34 A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein. Psa 107:35 He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into water springs. Psa 107:36 And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation; Psa 107:37 And sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase. Psa 107:38 He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease. Psa 107:39 Again, they are minished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow. Psa 107:40 He poureth contempt upon princes, and causeth them to wander in the wilderness, *where there is no way*. Psa 107:41 Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh *him* families like a flock.

The only question is whether or not the Household of Faith has the courage to trust in the words of YAHWEH’s Prophet.

- Psa 107:42 **The righteous shall see *it*, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.** Psa 107:43 **Whoso is wise, and will observe these *things*, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.**

As this new year is now upon us in a time of distress, do we maintain an understanding of the lovingkindness of YAHWEH? You see, in so many instances, ELOHIM’s WORD has cautioned those who are THEIR’s (YAHSHUA the FATHER and YAHWEH the SON), of what was to come to pass. Look at the Prophet Isaiah’s words. And for the record, the Prophet’s name in Hebrew is “Yeshuyah”, which means YAH has saved.

The Prophet Yeremiah's Hebrew name is "Yirmeyah", which means YAH will rise. These also are some of the reasons why YAHSHUA appears to be the proper name given to the SON of ELOHIM when HE came.

- Isa 24:18 And it shall come to pass, *that* he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. Isa 24:19 The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. Isa 24:20 **The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard**, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. Isa 24:21 And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones *that are* on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. Isa 24:22 And they shall be gathered together, *as* prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited. Isa 24:23 Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

These are events that are prophesied to occur upon this earth around the same time as "the time of Yacob's trouble". Notice what verse 18 says shall befall those that shall flee from the noise of fear. The Prophet Isaiah/Yeshuyah, in verse 20, repeats what the Prophet King David said about the fact that the "earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard".

Here we are, in the midst of our physical and mental preparations to appear before ELOHIM at the times appointed, caught up in what YAHSHUA has described to us as the beginning phases of these prophesies on the earth.

- Mat 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, **Tell us**, when shall these things be? and **what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?**

Like all things in ELOHIM's WORD, the true question for the Household of Faith is whether or not we believe in YAHSHUA's words to HIS disciples, who later became HIS apostles. This was a straight forward question to HIM.

- 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.

It is safe to say that in the last days, this has and continues to occur as prophesied.

- Mat 24:6 And **ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled:** for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. Mat 24:7 For **nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:** and **there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes,** in divers places.

So, don't we see and hear of rumors of wars? HE then told us that in addition to these many wars, there would be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. As seen even until this very day, each of these are fluidly occurring on the earth today, as noted with this new coronavirus all over the globe. The coronavirus is a form of pestilence that has the world of modernity reeling to and fro. YAHSHUA quickly warned about these.

- Mat 24:8 All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

The NASB reads "the beginning of birth pangs". The Greek word for sorrows is "odin", which actually means pain, sorrow or travail. And as we are approaching this new year, this is what the world is experiencing in various ways, and primarily now with this virus.

Now, I heard something about this virus that really caught my attention this week.

Dr. Sanjay Gupta of CNN stated that this virus must have a host to survive. I.e., it can survive on hard surfaces for up to two days. It can survive in clothing for slightly less time. However, it must seek a human host in order to survive for a longer period of time. What should this say to members of the Household of Faith?

YAHSHUA gave us the following information about unclean spirits.

- Mat 12:43 **When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.** Mat 12:44 **Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out;** and when he is come, he findeth *it* empty, swept, and garnished. Mat 12:45 **Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.** Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Here, HE says that the unclean spirit, after it is gone out of a man, seeks rest with another man, i.e., another host. Eventually, it accompanies other unclean spirits and renders the last of the new host worse than he was at the first, probably death. This is how these deadly viruses also work. They desire close unprotected contact so that they can find new hosts, that may be weaker than the original host. Can we see the analogy? Let's look at another example.

- Mat 8:28 And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, **there met him two possessed with devils,** coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. Mat 8:29 And, behold, **they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?** Mat 8:30 And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. Mat 8:31 **So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.**

- Mat 8:32 And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters. Mat 8:33 And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told everything, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils. Mat 8:34 And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought *him* that he would depart out of their coasts.

Notice how that these devils, unclean spirits, pleaded for a host of some form. They knew YAHSHUA would not cast them into another human. HE sent them into a herd of swine, themselves being unclean animals. According to health authorities, the coronavirus may have infected the Chinese because the virus is contained in certain forms of unclean meat eaten by some. Notice the following consistencies we read in the WORD of ELOHIM.

- Luk 7:18 And the disciples of John shewed him of all these things. Luk 7:19 And John calling *unto him* two of his disciples sent *them* to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? Luk 7:20 When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? Luk 7:21 And **in that same hour he cured many of *their* infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits;** and unto many *that were* blind he gave sight.
- Luk 8:1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve *were* with him, Luk 8:2 **And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities,** Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,

- Act 19:11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: Act 19:12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and **the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.**

Are we seeing this? In each instance these evil spirits are spoken of in direct connection with infirmities, plagues and diseases. As such, as we approach this new year, the commanded appointed times and the severity and impact that the coronavirus is having, we must maintain an awareness of cause and effect. How were these sick individuals cured of these infirmities, plagues, diseases and evil spirits?

- Luk 4:31 And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days. Luk 4:32 And **they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.** Luk 4:33 And **in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice,** Luk 4:34 Saying, Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, *thou* Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God. Luk 4:35 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And **when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.** Luk 4:36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word *is* this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

These evil and unclean spirits knew who YAHSHUA was. Notice too, they knew that HE could destroy them. So much for the theory that these evil spirits cannot be destroyed. In Acts 19:11 and 12, those who were sick were cured by the Apostle of YAHSHUA, who was walking in the trust and faith in YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC, who was drawn to HIM by ELOHIM. Others, who always sought signs tried to partake in these signs.

- Act 19:14 And there were seven sons of *one* Sceva, a Jew, *and* chief of the priests, which did so. Act 19:15 And **the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?** Act 19:16 And **the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed** against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

This evil spirit knew YAHSHUA and Paul. Why didn't it know this priest? Obviously, this Yehudan priest was still living according to the Old Covenant and he himself did not know YAHSHUA. He did not know that YAHSHUA was YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of Yisrael, that had come in the testimony of the prophets to do just what HE HIMSELF had spoken.

- Joh 12:46 **I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.** Joh 12:47 And **if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.**

YAHSHUA came to save the world. HE was a light. Those that believed in HIM were called to abide in HIS light. Paul was abiding in HIS light. The Yehudan priest was not.

- Act 19:17 And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Act 19:18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Act 19:19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all *men*: and they counted the price of them, and found *it* fifty thousand *pieces* of silver. Act 19:20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

And here is the guidance that the Household of Faith is required to rely upon as we approach this new year in the midst of the fear that seems to have gripped the world.

What we must remember is the purpose for the new year, the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and ultimately, the Feast of Weeks. It is all about cleansing, forgiveness, humility and hope. As we read through the scriptures, even the disciples didn't get it initially. The New Covenant had not officially begun.

- Mat 17:14 And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a *certain* man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Mat 17:15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. Mat 17:16 And **I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.**

They were not walking in the light that they would eventually grow to be.

- Mat 17:17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. Mat 17:18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

YAHSHUA was the light.

- Mat 17:19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? Mat 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, **If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.** Mat 17:21 **Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**

This is why the disciples made the following request.

- Luk 17:5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

- Luk 17:6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

Luke records that the disciples asked YAHSHUA at this time to increase their faith. Perhaps we also need to make this request. As we approach this new year and the related appointed times, here is where we must question our belief to ensure we are not walking in unbelief.

This is the purpose of the new year, to refresh our knowledge, to eliminate false knowledge, to grow in our total reliance upon the true LIGHT that ELOHIM has given to us.

However, this is not to say that we walk in defiance. The Apostle Paul was led by ELOHIM's Spirit to teach the following:

- Rom 13:1 **Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.** For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

The NASB reads as follows:

- Rom 13:1 (NASB) **Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities.** For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

This provides a clearer perspective of this discourse.

- Rom 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. Rom 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

- Rom 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. Rom 13:5 Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. Rom 13:6 For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Rom 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

As members of the Household of Faith, we are to subject ourselves to civil authority. As we approach this new year's commanded appointed times, governing authorities all over the world have banned public gatherings. And yet, we know the spiritual commandments we are bound to.

Perhaps these current events are occurring as we approach the new year for a purpose. Our faith and trust in YAHSHUA will be tested. None of us have all of the answers in how we must approach this new year. What we should know is the following:

- 1Co 10:9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. 1Co 10:10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. 1Co 10:11 Now **all these things happened unto them for ensamples**: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 1Co 10:12 **Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.**

These are instructions to the Household of Faith on what our mindsets should be as we approach the coming days. We have been given Biblical examples of what we see in the world today. Verse 12 is an appeal to our humility and hope, which cannot be in ourselves. Our stand must be ONLY in YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC.

- 1Co 10:13 **There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.**

These words are not new to us. Yet, they are a constant reminder to us that what is common to man can also tempt and affect each of us. And yet, our ELOHIM is faithful to each of us and will not allow us to suffer and be tempted beyond our capabilities. And, HE will make a way to escape, that we can bear it.

This is the reminder we receive at the beginning of each year. We know that when we partake in YAHSHUA's Passover, we affirm to ELOHIM our trust and faith in the plan of salvation HE has established through HIS SON. We eat of YAHSHUA's body and drink of YAHSHUA's blood. However, as commanded, before we eat HIS body and drink HIS blood, we assist in our Brothers and Sisters once again being washed, so that they too are prepared to partake in these new year spiritual protocols. This is our annual beginning.

Most in modernity, and down through the history of mankind, do not partake in this new year and the hope and comfort it provides. However, when YAHSHUA returns to this earth, HE will restart the process, as HE promised HE would do as YAHWEH to HIS chosen nation, the COY.

- Eze 45:18 Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the first *month*, in the first *day* of the month, thou shalt take a young bullock without blemish, and cleanse the sanctuary: Eze 45:19 And the priest shall take of the blood of the sin offering, and put *it* upon the posts of the house, and upon the four corners of the settle of the altar, and upon the posts of the gate of the inner court.

These prophecies begin in the 37th chapter of Ezekiel describing the return of the COY to the land of Yisrael.

Like so many in the world of modernity, the vast majority of the COY were in disobedience to the WORD of ELOHIM and did not partake in the new year's observances as commanded. And as such, when YAHSHUA returns, unlike the saints whom HE will resurrect to see HIM, and reign with HIM in new spiritual tabernacles, these COY and other nations that shall exist at that time shall remain in their bodies of fleshly tabernacles.

As such, when their new year arrives for each of the 1,000 years of the reign of YAHSHUA, their mindsets shall exist in a mix of physical salvation, hopefully sprinkled with the teachings and hope of the New Testament that will be available to them.

- Eze 45:20 And so thou shalt do the seventh *day* of the month for every one that erreth, and for *him that is* simple: so shall ye reconcile the house. Eze 45:21 **In the first month, in the fourteenth day of the month, ye shall have the passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten.**

Those will partake in YAHWEH's Passover and Unleavened Bread, similar to the Old Covenant Passover.

- Eze 45:25 In the seventh *month*, in the fifteenth day of the month, shall he do the like in the feast of the seven days, according to the sin offering, according to the burnt offering, and according to the meat offering, and according to the oil.

They shall also be required to partake in the first seven days of Tabernacles, similar to the Old Covenant. There is no Biblical evidence that they must partake in Weeks, Trumpets, Atonement, and the eighth day of Tabernacles. These four appointed times apply to those who walked in faith and belief to YAHWEH and YAHSHUA by enduring until their ends in these bodies of flesh. However, YAHSHUA said that HE came to "save the world".

Well, as we approach this new year, we know that we have a responsibility to look into our own self mirrors for reflection and honesty of how we must once again become new babes in CHRIST. And yet, our reflection is also on how we can assist one another to achieve the same goal.

However, as the world reels to and fro, many shall be overcome by these diseases. But they will also be overcome by the evil and unclean spirits. And, as members of the Household of Faith, we should be walking in the light of the newness of life granted unto us by the knowledge we have received that has allowed us to become as the salt of the earth. And as lights, we cannot partake of our new year observances in the arrogance of judging an ignorant world before its time.

Once again, the Apostle Paul was called to help shape our mindsets of hope in YAHSHUA at this beginning of the new year.

- 1Co 4:1 **Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.** 1Co 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. 1Co 4:3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. 1Co 4:4 For **I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.**

If we are approaching this new year in the right mindsets, we welcome YAHSHUA's judgement. ELOHIM did not draw and call us to fail. We simply have to get out of our own skin and become as little children. We have all that we need to do this as we approach the new year.

And as we continue to grow together, we learn that there is a time and place for all that ELOHIM's plan of salvation continually teaches us.

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

YAHSHUA HIMSELF shall bring to light the hidden things of darkness when HE comes. HE will make manifest the counsels of the hearts, when HE comes. Then shall every man and woman have praise of ELOHIM. Why?

- Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Rev 20:15 And **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

These words teach the end result of the plan of salvation for all. At this time, the words of 1 Corinthians 4:5 shall be fulfilled. This will provide that possibility of a new beginning for all. This should be our hope as we partake in what we have been given. Let's close once again with the Apostle Paul's words, which were given to guide us through times like this particular new year.

- 1Ti 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; 1Ti 2:2 For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 1Ti 2:3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

This new year, we see how that leaders of the nations of the world need our prayers. In fact, all that are upon the earth need our prayers. Our prayers should be that all will some day come to perform the type of works that ELOHIM has required of us in HIS WORD.

As we humble ourselves in prayers for all, it opens the door for each of us to lead quiet and peaceable lives in godliness and honesty. This is how we endure whatever is before us. This is how we show love to all. This is how we defeat the evil and unclean spirits seeking a host each and every day.

- 1Ti 2:4 **Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.** 1Ti 2:5 **For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;** 1Ti 2:6 **Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**

We know what the testimony reveals to us. Yes, we must learn how to beware of the physical entrapments that desire our bodies as hosts of these various form of uncleanness. And yet, our true goal of the beginnings that the WORD of ELOHIM teaches us as we approach this new year must guide our every thought and actions. YAHSHUA told HIS disciples that to remove and protect ourselves from some unclean spirits, we must fast and pray. Remember, these are simply the beginnings of sorrows or birth pangs. The real time of trouble is yet to come. We are in the elementary stages of that time. This is our fire drill. How are we doing?

As we prepare to partake of the new year and its appointed times, endure Brothers and Sisters. Let this be your mindset. Endure until the end!

Shalom!!