

Lesson No. 143 - Satan and the Household of Faith

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April 24, 2020

As this lesson is presented, we are now in phase two of our annual training; approximately two and a half weeks from Passover and one and a half weeks from Unleavened Bread. In another five weeks we will observe the Feast of Weeks, also called the Feast of Harvest. Spiritually speaking, that will be our first true opportunity to gauge our progress during this year's spiritual training camp.

Our first Bible study together was on February 24, 2017, a little over three years ago; and with ELOHIM's blessings, we are still standing. Some who were there in the beginning are no longer with us. However, ELOHIM has allowed us to maintain despite the efforts of spiritual forces created to impede the progress of the servants of YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC.

Many in the world might despair that these forces are allowed to attempt to impede the progress of those drawn and called-out to the SON of the MOST HIGH. The answer to anyone who questions this needs a lesson in salvation 102. Salvation 101 teaches us of the physical salvation oft provided to and promised to Vineyard of YAHWEH, the Children of Yisrael (COY). Salvation 102 is the ultimate salvation based on the grace that can only be obtained through YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC. This type of grace is only understood by one's spiritual faith in the promises of ELOHIM, which we cannot yet see. Furthermore, these promises are probably the most misunderstood doctrines in the world of modernity.

Today, the world is undergoing a dramatic transformation that has and will impact each of our walks in this world this year. We all will be faced with challenges we never have faced before. Some perhaps have already faced unexpected challenges. I lost a very special friend, as we are told, to the coronavirus of 2020.

As such, tonight we will revisit a lesson from the very beginning, to again strengthen our understanding of the obstacle that stands in the way of our fulfilling our commissions before ELOHIM. We need to maintain our growth and discernment of the evil power and the tools it uses that have the greatest potential to distract us from the opportunity given to us to have our names written in the LAMB's Book of Life.

So, tonight we are once again discussing as Lesson No. 143 – Satan and the Household of Faith.

YAHSHUA established the core understanding the Household of Faith should never forget about this evil spirit.

- Joh 8:39 **They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. YAHSHUA saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.**

Remember, Abraham's works were based on his faith in YAHWEH.

- Joh 8:40 But now **ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of ELOHIM: this did not Abraham.**

One of the most amazing things about the walk of “called-out ones” is how that we attack one another, particularly when another tells us truth. It sometimes appears to be the most difficult thing for brethren to accept from one another. You perhaps have experienced something I question all the time; the “let's agree to disagree” church syndrome. Is this syndrome of ELOHIM? YAHSHUA was talking to the scribes and pharisees, as HE often did. They loved to quote Moses to HIM.

Well, YAHSHUA told the truth, that HE heard it from ELOHIM. If we speak the truth, our only source should be ELOHIM's WORD; either spoken by YAHWEH/ YAHSHUA, HIS apostles and/or HIS prophets.

For us today, we attempt to be pleasant in our responses to other's spiritual questions; trying not to offend. YAHSHUA was a little more blunt to these, the so-called spiritual leaders of the COY of that day.

- Joh 8:41 **Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even ELOHIM.** Joh 8:42 **YAHSHUA said unto them, If ELOHIM were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from ELOHIM; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.**

Isn't this a perfect lesson for those who claim to be members of the Household of Faith. If ELOHIM is our FATHER, we would love YAHSHUA, as well as one another. With this, YAHSHUA lays it on the line.

- Joh 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* **because ye cannot hear my word.** Joh 8:44 **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

Satan is the father of lies. And we learn much in ELOHIM's WORD about his fruit.

- Hos 10:13 Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; **ye have eaten the fruit of lies:** because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men.

The fruit that he willingly sows is the fruit of lies. This verse also documents how that this fruit manifests itself in many ways. Here, the House of Yisrael trusted in their own way, in the way of their mighty men, rather than in YAHWEH of ELOHIM.

We must continue to pray for our discernment that we do not fall prey to Satan's devices, which are to do what to the Household of Faith; divide and conquer. The Apostle Paul admonished the church at Corinth to do the following amazing thing that many in modernity take very leisurely.

- 1Co 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, **by the name of our Lord YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.**

Answer this question. Should we create an interpretation of the Apostle's exhortation to the Household of Faith here? Or, do we simply accept his words and patiently and lovingly work towards this goal of agreement so there are no divisions amongst us? Notice that he completed this exhortation with the powerful statement that we "be made complete in the same mind and in judgement".

The Household of Faith was and is established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with YAHSHUA as the cornerstone. We read what an apostle of YAHSHUA taught. What about the prophets? Well one of them asked the following:

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

The primary concern of the prophets was the Children of Yisrael (COY). They were the only family or nation YAHWEH knew. Because they had rejected HIM, HE makes it plain that HE will punish them for their iniquities. This resulted in this powerful question that was meant for the COY, and in duality, for the now current and future Household of Faith.

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

There is an obvious answer here. No! However, someone or something has placed something in the ear of some members of the Household of Faith that continues to separate and weaken us towards our growth together in the knowledge of the truth. We know that YAHSHUA prayed the following.

- Joh 17:20 **Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;** Joh 17:21 **That they all may be one;** as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, **that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.** Joh 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

Let us step back and truly see what YAHSHUA is saying here. HE desires for HIS followers to be one with each other. Why? HE says so that they may be one with HE and the FATHER! Is there a logical consequence to what happens if the Household of Faith does not become one with each other? We need to think seriously about this.

At some point, the Household of Faith must realize that the spirit that urges us to “agree to disagree” is this same lying spirit that YAHSHUA just accused the scribes and pharisees of being its sons. They were disagreeing with the only man who tried to tell them that HIS source was directly from ELOHIM. This must too be our source; YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC. YAHSHUA has told us that HE gave it directly to HIS disciples to give to us. So, the Household of Faith has its sources.

Three years ago, the subject of whether or not Adam was with his wife when the serpent lied to her came up. ELOHIM’s WORD provides the following:

- Gen 3:12 And **the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.**

- Gen 3:13 And YAHWEH ELOHIM said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And **the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.**

Did Adam and Eve both lie to YAHWEH about the woman feeding Adam of this tree? Was the woman's admission that the serpent beguiled her alone, and giving her of the tree, a lie?

And while we are at it, the woman states plainly that it was the beguiling of her by the serpent that caused her to eat. This was not an ordinary fruit tree. This was a tree that talks. The fruit was and is what we are told in a subtle manner. What we just read is what the Prophet Moses taught us. Let's read the Apostle Paul's interpretation of this account.

- 1Ti 2:13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 1Ti 2:14 And **Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.**

The Apostle says the man was not deceived, "but the woman being deceived was in the transgression", which is sin. He also taught us this about the woman's deception.

- 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 HAMASHIAC.**

It is up to us to accept or not accept what is strongly stated here. How is it that some in the Household of Faith believe that the man was somehow with the woman when she initially was beguiled and ate of the tree? She confessed to YAHWEH. The Apostle said that he feared that we might be beguiled, as was the woman, to allow our minds to be corrupted to turn from the simplicity of HAMASHIAC. This is the potential result of disagreements within the Household of Faith on these Biblical subjects that should be simple for us to agree on.

What is the simplicity of HAMASHIAC?

- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of ELOHIM, 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 ELOHIM, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

The answer to this question is a lesson within itself. But I believe these verses stand as a vital aspect of the answer. The simplicity of HAMASHIAC is our putting on the “whole armor of ELOHIM so that together, we are able to withstand in the evil day”.

Now, over the last few years we have seen, in a consistent pattern, that ELOHIM designed us to be one, as man and woman. And so, the ultimate metaphor of man and woman being one is for the Household of Faith to be one with one another, which we now see leads to the Household of Faith to be one with ELOHIM. We have talked about the “chosen of ELOHIM”, the eklektos, the selected, and the eklesia, the called-out ones, the church. However, the church has a great detractor, just as did the man and the woman then and even today; Satan.

Let’s look at a very interesting contrast in the spirit world.

- Rev 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, **having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of ELOHIM sent forth into all the earth.**

Here we have 7 spirits of the MOST HIGH who are “sent forth into all the earth”. Solomon gave us some insight on this.

- Pro 15:3 The eyes of YAHWEH *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

These are seven ministering spirits, sent forth into all the earth. This is their commission, to behold the evil and the good. Wow, Satan has corrupted the world into believing that Santa sees when you've been good or bad. Isn't that something. So, we also see where HAMASHIAC is pictured as having seven horns along with these seven eyes. Obviously, the fact that there are seven of both, factors into our understanding of spiritual completeness in ELOHIM's plan of salvation as we continue to put on the whole armor of ELOHIM. But notice a description of Satan.

- Rev 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; **and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.** Rev 12:4 And **his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth:** and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Now here, we have the dragon appearing with seven heads, also symbolic of spiritual completeness. It also had 10 horns, and 7 crowns. The seven crowns symbolize not only completeness, but spiritual rulership. As we remember the following verses, also note that these are a follow-up to the Apostle's warning to the Household of Faith about being beguiled by Satan to corrupt our minds from the simplicity that is in HAMASHIAC (verse 3).

- 2Co 11:13 For **such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of HAMASHIAC.** 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.

So, this is why Satan is presented metaphorically as appearing spiritually as HAMASHIAC. When he was kicked down to the earth, he drew a third of the angels with him. They assist him in his commission along with certain so-called “ministers of righteousness”. And keep this in mind. ELOHIM allowed this. We previously saw how he presented himself to the woman. In Rev 12:4 we see where he attempted to devour the woman.

The woman is pictured as the sun and the moon, with 12 stars. We know that Yacob’s name was changed to Yisrael; and that he, his wife and his sons are the foundation for the COY, or, the Nation of Yisrael. So, the woman in Rev 12:1 was the Nation of Yisrael. The child was YAHSHUA.

As Satan sought to destroy the child, he constantly sought to destroy Yisrael and redirect it from its commission. We remember that Yisrael was the first church.

Now notice something about how the MOST HIGH works. In Rev 5:6 we saw the 7 eyes/spirits of the MOST HIGH “sent forth into all the earth”.

- Rev 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. Rev 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; Rev 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.
- Rev 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

So, we have these angelic beings, who are the eyes of YAHSHUA. Here we further note they are seven angels carrying HIS message to the seven churches, which we now understand to metaphorically picture the Household of Faith. This is also their commission. Let's also remember the following.

- Heb 1:7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. Heb 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Heb 1:14 **Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?**

The spirits that YAHSHUA provides the New Covenant church are commissioned to provide what the church needs to obtain salvation. They collectively roam throughout the earth doing the missions they were commissioned to do. Who else goes throughout the world that we are we told of in scripture?

- Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of ELOHIM came to present themselves before YAHWEH, and Satan came also among them. Job 1:7 **And YAHWEH said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered YAHWEH, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.**

Now more than ever we need to constantly remind ourselves that Satan goes to and fro, seeking to divide and conquer, just as he did with the man and the woman in the garden. Today in modernity, statistically, 70% of the households of the descendants of the great slave trade do not have fathers. The question is, why? Why is this particular group probably the one family on earth who can claim this statistic? Has the serpent accomplished his commission towards the COY?

The Apostle Peter gave the following warning to the Household of Faith.

- 1Pe 5:8 **Be sober, be vigilant;** because **your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:**

This is what Satan does. His commission as well as those who came with him to the earth is directly opposite of the “ministering spirits” we just read of. However, there is one element we need to recognize about this process. Just because Satan is actively seeking to devour, he isn’t out of control. He is performing his commission. We know that ELOHIM calls the end from the beginning. ELOHIM is in total control as HE executes HIS plan.

- Job 1:8 And **YAHWEH said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth ELOHIM, and escheweth evil?*** Job 1:9 Then Satan answered YAHWEH, and said, Doth Job fear ELOHIM for nought? Job 1:10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

There are some that are taught that Satan is the second goat in the Day of Atonement ritual because Satan is the “instigator”. Here again is one of those Biblical disagreements. Who is the “instigator” in verse 8? YAHWEH was the “instigator” by bringing Job to the mind of Satan, not the other way around. Here, we see that Satan is encouraged by YAHWEH and allowed to test Job. He cannot do his evil without permission. Why not? This next verse is not universally taught amongst some of the Household of Faith. Yet, it is a vital lesson that should be universally understood by every member of the Household of Faith. Why, because we are commissioned “to live by every word from the mouth of ELOHIM”.

- Isa 45:5 **I am YAHWEH, and *there is none else, there is no ELOHIM 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 YAHWEH, and there is none else.*** Isa 45:7 **I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I YAHWEH 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 YAHWEH have created it.** Isa 45:9 **Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! *Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?***

Here, YAHWEH lets us know that HE is the CREATOR. The Household of Faith should know this. HE creates peace. HE also creates evil. The clay, the man and the woman, strive against their commissions. Evil is created and used wherever and whenever ELOHIM deems it necessary. And this was why.

- Pro 16:4 **YAHWEH hath made all *things* for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.**

YAHWEH created Satan for a purpose, for the “wicked for the day of evil”, and to prove our trust in HIM when we are enticed by the wicked in the day of evil. This is why the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:13 that the Household of Faith must take unto each of us “**the whole armour of ELOHIM, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day**”. We saw how Satan was used to test Job. Is there anything or anyone more wicked in the creation than Satan? Why Job? We remember the mercy and grace of ELOHIM.

- 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.

- 1Co 10:13 **There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but ELOHIM 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.**

What was Job's example to the Household of Faith?

- Job 2:9 **Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse ELOHIM, and die.** Job 2:10 **But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of ELOHIM, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.**

Job didn't flinch; even though he was encouraged to do so by his wife. In these last days, Job reminds the Household of Faith that we must be thankful for the goodness of ELOHIM, and yet also endure the evil, also from ELOHIM, and that HE will provide to us a way of escape.

Yisrael, as the first church had a great opportunity. However, it flinched from the beginning. Now remember, Satan was probably allowed to know parts of ELOHIM's plans; thus, his persecution of the first church. Now remember as well that he drew a third of the angels to the earth with him. ELOHIM uses them as well.

- Jdg 9:22 When Abimelech had reigned three years over Yisrael, Jdg 9:23 **Then ELOHIM sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem;** and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech:

The COY did not appear to truly understand the spiritual significance of their existence. Satan and his cohorts were consistently used to teach it a lesson, even from the moment of its first human king.

- 1Sa 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of YAHWEH came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. 1Sa 16:14 **But the Spirit of YAHWEH departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from YAHWEH troubled him.** 1Sa 16:15 And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from ELOHIM troubleth thee.

First, we see that the Spirit of YAHWEH came upon David. I believe many have mistaught and as such, misunderstood this. But if we allow it, ELOHIM's WORD interprets itself. In verse 14 this spirit is shown as departing from Saul, and another evil spirit, from YAHWEH, coming upon him. Both of these spirits are angelic beings, who are totally controlled by ELOHIM. When the Old Covenant church, Yisrael, lived according to ELOHIM's commandments, they enjoyed the blessings of holy spirits. When it did not, Satan and his followers of evil spirits were dispatched.

- 1Ki 21:25 But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of YAHWEH, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up. 1Ki 21:26 And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all *things* as did the Amorites, whom YAHWEH cast out before the children of Yisrael. 1Ki 21:27 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly. 1Ki 21:28 And **the word of YAHWEH came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,** 1Ki 21:29 Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, **I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.**

Here again we see that if evil was to come upon Ahab, it would be from YAHWEH. One thing to remember is that beginning with Adam, man and woman were given the freedom to choose. They were shown the way that leads to life. They had the choice to not eat of the fruit that leads to death. The choice was theirs. The COY had those same choices.

So too does the Household of Faith. The wrong choices that were made brought on severe punishments from YAHWEH.

- 1Ki 22:18 And the king of Yisrael said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil? 1Ki 22:19 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of YAHWEH: **I saw YAHWEH sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.** 1Ki 22:20 And **YAHWEH said, Who shall persuade Ahab,** that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. 1Ki 22:21 And **there came forth a spirit, and stood before YAHWEH, and said, I will persuade him.** 1Ki 22:22 And **YAHWEH said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.** And he said, Thou shalt persuade *him*, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. 1Ki 22:23 **Now therefore, behold, YAHWEH hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and YAHWEH hath spoken evil concerning thee.**

Here we see a lying spirit being authorized by YAHWEH to deceive Ahab's prophets. This was a day of evil. Just as Satan reported to YAHWEH in the Job account, the evil angels that followed him are held accountable to YAHWEH as well. They were allowed to entice Yisrael to not fulfill its commission. Yet, we know that there were some individuals that endured.

- Heb 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, *leaning* upon the top of his staff. Heb 11:22 By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Yisrael; and gave commandment concerning his bones. Heb 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw *he was* a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. Heb 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

- Heb 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of ELOHIM, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Heb 11:26 Esteeming the reproach of HAMASHIAC greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. Heb 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Heb 11:28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. Heb 11:29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry *land*: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. Heb 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. 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 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

All of these individuals are examples to the Household of Faith. And yet, while we see these individuals, who endured and overcame the evil, the COY as a nation did not endure and was taken out of the land. Is it any different under the New Covenant? Is it any different for the church of today?

- Mat 2:3 When Herod the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Mat 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, **he demanded of them where HAMASHIAC should be born.**

Can there any doubt that an evil spirit troubled Herod, as one did Saul?

- Mat 2:13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of YAHWEH appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. Mat 2:14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: Mat 2:15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of YAHWEH by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. Mat 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

We see how Herod attempted to do what was previously read. ELOHIM allowed this evil for HIS own purpose; to fulfil prophesy. It was to fulfil this part of HIS plan. I.e., this was a day of evil purposed by ELOHIM to fulfill prophecy. Remember Rev 12:4, how that “the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born”?

We see the confirmation of who troubled Herod. Satan tried to kill YAHSHUA before HIS commission could even get started. Yet, we know he could not do so before YAHSHUA fulfilled HIS commission.

- Mat 4:1 Then was YAHSHUA led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. Mat 4:2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. Mat 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of ELOHIM, command that these stones be made bread. 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 ELOHIM.

- Mat 4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, Mat 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of ELOHIM, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

The first mention of Satan by name in the New Covenant writings is his attempt to thwart YAHSHUA from HIS commission at the beginning of HIS ministry in HIS human form; after his failed attempt to kill HIM after HIS birth. We also see where YAHSHUA gave the New Covenant church the example of the sword of the spirit in verse four as HE stated, “it is written”. The MESSIAH constantly taught the New Covenant using the same metaphors from the beginning to show us how the tree of the knowledge of good and evil lurks to thwart ELOHIM’s plan.

We must always remember that he was allowed to do so by ELOHIM. It is the Household of Faith’s responsibility to understand this and continually bear good fruit in spite of his presence.

- Luk 13:6 He spake also this parable; **A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.** Luk 13:7 **Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down;** why cumbereth it the ground? Luk 13:8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung *it*: Luk 13:9 And if it bear fruit, *well*: and if not, *then* after that thou shalt cut it down.

Here we find a vineyard that is expected to bear fruit in the man’s vineyard. What was this vineyard?

- Isa 5:1 Now will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well-beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:

- Isa 5:7 **For the vineyard of YAHWEH of hosts is the house of Yisrael, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant:** and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

This is the vineyard that YAHSHUA spoke about in HIS parable, the COY. Even during the time period when HE came unto the COY in the flesh, they did not understand.

- Luk 13:10 And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. Luk 13:11 And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up *herself*. Luk 13:12 And when YAHSHUA saw her, he called *her to him*, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. Luk 13:13 And he laid *his* hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified ELOHIM. Luk 13:14 And **the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that YAHSHUA had healed on the sabbath day,** and said unto the people, **There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.** Luk 13:15 YAHWEH then answered him, and said, **Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?** Luk 13:16 And **ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?** Luk 13:17 and when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.

Satan and his coworkers are allowed to inflict harm in part to fulfil prophecy, as we noted during the first New Covenant Passover with Judas Iscariot. Here he was allowed to bind this daughter of Abraham to teach Yisrael that it is the TREE OF LIFE that heals. This TREE was in their presence; yet were they blinded. Even in this day HE tried to enlighten them.

- Luk 17:20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of ELOHIM should come, he answered them and said, **The kingdom of ELOHIM cometh not with observation:** Luk 17:21 **Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of ELOHIM is within you.**

Here the Pharisees demanded YAHSHUA tell them when the Kingdom of ELOHIM should come. According to the KJV, HIS response to the Pharisees was that the Kingdom was within them. Now many ministers have taken this and created a doctrine about the traditional Christian church of today being the Kingdom, within the hearts of modernity's church.

However, let's read the next verse.

- Luk 17:22 And he said unto the disciples, **The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it.**

Notice here that YAHSHUA's entire focus in answering their question was about HIMSELF. HE was the Kingdom. Here again is one of those verses where the KJV is weak. Notice how the NASB translates verse 21.

- Luk 17:21 nor will they say, 'Look, here *it is!*' or, 'There *it is!*' For behold, **the kingdom of ELOHIM is in your midst.**"

And the CJB.

- Luk 17:21 nor will people be able to say, 'Look! Here it is!' or, 'Over there!' Because, you see, **the Kingdom of ELOHIM is among you.**"

You see the Greek word translated within, is "entos", which can mean within, in the midst, or amongst. Verse 22 clearly shows that YAHSHUA's focus in discussing when the Kingdom should come was on HIMSELF, and as such, using in your midst and even amongst, was more appropriate.

Who do we think has caused this deception to be changed in ELOHIM's WORD? Again, the vineyard failed to recognize the influence that was upon them. Who then are these ministers of unrighteousness that the Apostle Paul spoke of when he described Satan's attempt to appear righteous in 2Cor 11? We read YAHSHUA's response to this earlier tonight as HE announced that Satan was the father of lies.

Those words HE spoke to the Pharisees, the pillar of the church in that day. To the Household of Faith of today, HE constantly warned it to stay humble because of the influence of Satan.

- Luk 22:31 And YAHWEH said, Simon, **Simon**, behold, **Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat**: Luk 22:32 But **I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not**: and **when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren**.

Over and over we learn how Satan's commission is to redirect the church from its mission through his lies. If he sought to do so with Peter and the other apostles, who are we to think we are immune. It is just when we think the world all about us is fantastic, that we are at our weakest. Look at the results of this year with this virus of 2020.

Why is the Household of Faith of today warned about those who may be closest to us? As I said earlier about HIS discussion with the scribes and pharisees, YAHSHUA is blunt.

- Mat 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my FATHER which is in heaven. Mat 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. Mat 10:35 **For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law**. Mat 10:36 And **a man's foes shall be they of his own household**.

If we haven't experienced this yet, expect it. HIS bluntness continues.

- Mat 10:37 **He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.** Mat 10:38 **And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.**

The Household of Faith of today is made up of individuals called out from this world to bear fruit for the Kingdom of ELOHIM. It is warned that our families have the greatest potential to allow an opportunity for Satan to redirect our paths. Who amongst us is it that we sacrifice YAHSHUA to please? And, how do we sacrifice YAHSHUA to these persons?

- 1Jn 3:7 Little children, **let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.** 1Jn 3:8 **He that committeth sin is of the devil;** for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of ELOHIM was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 1Jn 3:9 **Whosoever is born of ELOHIM doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of ELOHIM.** 1Jn 3:10 **In this the children of ELOHIM are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of ELOHIM, neither he that loveth not his brother.**

There was a stark contrast made between Satan's way and ELOHIM's way, beginning with the man and the woman in the Garden of Eden. It continues even until this day. Satan is a master at using loved ones, who may or may not be "called out ones", to entice us towards compromise. And here is where each of us must be mindful of his tricks.

- Heb 5:13 For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. Heb 5:14 **But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

There are more false gods in the world today than ever, and Satan has the authority to use them all. Why? Consider the reward, to truly become a true image of YAHSHUA in HIS Kingdom. And consider this. The more we convert and become as little children, the more we become of full age. This is a spiritual oxymoron. This truly blows the mind when you really think about it.

When the Apostle Paul first met YAHSHUA, note the commission given unto him.

- Act 26:15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am YAHSHUA whom thou persecutest. Act 26:16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Act 26:17 **Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,** Act 26:18 **To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto ELOHIM, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.**

The more I read the Apostle Paul's writings, the more I understand the burden he carried. And yet, he overcame the burdens to teach the Household of Faith what to expect and how to overcome it. This was his commission; **“to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto ELOHIM”**.

What about the commission of the Household of Faith?

- Rom 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

To do this, we must look to the very words of YAHSHUA HIMSELF.

- Mat 5:13 **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.** Mat 5:14 **Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Mat 5:15 **Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.** 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.**

Each member of the Household of Faith has a different light to shine. We must grow into our own individual lights to become one house. We each can help one another. But in the end, we must all find within ourselves how to withstand this evil spirit that seeks to destroy us. We must remember that our fates are in our own hands.

Let's allow the Apostle given the keys to the Kingdom to remind us as we are in this day of evil which has come upon this world. Earlier we read 1Peter 5:8. Let's reread it in context.

- 1Pe 5:6 **Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of ELOHIM, that he may exalt you in due time:**

Can the Household of Faith humble itself as individuals for the good of the whole? This is what it will take for us to convert, become as little children, and become of full age as one with each other and one with ELOHIM.

- 1Pe 5:7 **Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.**

This is the question we each must answer if we are to endure as members of the Household of Faith. Can we cast all of our care upon ELOHIM, who desires that all come to the knowledge of the truth.

- 1Pe 5:8 **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 1Pe 5:9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.**

Can we be sober (which is to be discerning of the spirits) and vigilant (which is to prove all things)? From the beginning of our creation, this devil has roared and tried to devour us as, just as he tempted Eve to feed her husband the forbidden fruit. Today, even within the Household of Faith the subtlety of divisiveness continues to grow and challenge our ability to become At-One-Ment with ELOHIM.

- 1Pe 5:10 **But the ELOHIM of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by HAMASHIAC YAHSUA, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.**

Our suffering is our chastening to make us stronger. But we cannot walk this course alone. It was not set up for loners. This is the humility that the world fails to see. Satan has done his commission.

For the Household of Faith, our duty to ELOHIM is to resist Satan's commission, with the commission that we have been given. ELOHIM's WORD is just that simple.

Let's continue to grow in the knowledge of the sword of the Spirit, the WORD of ELOHIM, in a humble manner knowing that standing alone we are vulnerable.

Together, we can form a bond that will see us through the tribulations that are to come, as well as those which are currently upon us. And in the end, we stand together as one and with ELOHIM, not simply agreeing to disagree, as some are being led to do. We agree "on every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of ELOHIM".

Let's stand on the WORD of ELOHIM! When we do this, Satan has no authority over us. And this again is how each us will thwart all of the fiery darts Satan is throwing against us, and shall indeed "endure until the end".

Shalom Brothers and Sisters!