

## **Lesson No. 155 – Spoiler Alert, Just Whose Covenant Is It, Anyway?**

Hosted by Donald Crosswell  
July 17, 2020

It can be factually proven that the biggest source of the spiritual indifferences that exist within the communities of the Household of Faith, as well as within the communities of the descendants of the pan-African slave trade, is the ability to read and discern truth for one's own self. Humans are prone to seek out leadership and accepting what leaders say, rather than being leaders for themselves.

Is this so wrong, to seek out leadership in others, rather than in ourselves? Well, it probably depends on why we seek out leadership for in the first place.

In the past week I read some very interesting responses to one of our Brother's Facebook posts where he was challenging his readers to live sin-free. They ranged from ELOHIM being a woman, to the Brother not teaching of the true love of ELOHIM by his quoting Biblical scriptures about sin, to attacking the Bible as a European written book. Nick Cannon, the Black actor, was fired for saying some so-called inflammatory words that included, Blacks are the true Hebrews. This is the diversity and result of others' actions towards some who would be leaders in this modernity.

And yet, the president of the US responded to a reporter's question about the killing of Blacks in America by police by saying, "Whites are killed by police also", even though anyone can read the statistics and understand that Blacks are proportionately killed by police at a much higher rate than other cultures.

As we live in such an uncertain world, led by leaders that lead according to their own personal agendas despite the need of their constituents for a more responsive and inclusive form of leadership, what should we be considering in our walks with ELOHIM at this moment of our lives?

Of course, the answer depends on our beliefs, and our faith in those beliefs. The typical Christian tends to look to their pastors for guidance. Muslims tend to look to their Imans for guidance. And what about the Household of Faith? Who do we look to for guidance, our pastors and/or teachers?

Well, in this Lesson No. 155 – Spoiler Alert, Just Whose Covenant Is It, Anyway?, we want to understand the covenant relationship that ELOHIM expects as it relates to each member of the Household of Faith. As we shall see, this process has great meaning for all who claim a belief in ELOHIM through HIS SON YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC.

Last week, we read through some very interesting scriptures that truly establish the significance of the use of the number seven prophetically in the WORD of ELOHIM. As we read through those scriptures, did you get the feeling that ELOHIM actually made a covenant with time from the very beginning, on the spiritual value of honoring that number in all that we do spiritually?

Think about it. The Sabbath was created on the seventh day of the week of creation. And during that week of creation, we remember this.

- Gen 1:14 And ELOHIM said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

We remember that the Hebrew word for seasons here is “moed”, which means appointed times. For sure the 1<sup>st</sup> through the seventh day of each week were appointed times within themselves. And yet, special significance was assigned to the seventh day, which YAHWEH ELOHIM called the Sabbath.

In fact, YAHWEH would assign HIS own name unto this seventh day.

- Exo 20:10 But **the seventh day is the sabbath of YAHWEH thy ELOHIM**: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates:

HE did this three times; here, in Leviticus 23:3, and in Deuteronomy 5:14. This seventh day of the week was and remains the Sabbath day of YAHWEH.

And why do I say it was and is a covenant? Of course, my statement about a covenant with time is somewhat metaphorical. However, what is a covenant? It is an agreement between two parties. In ELOHIM's WORD, when someone is drawn by ELOHIM, they are presented with HIS commandments and/or protocols, along with special tasks to perform, for which HE promises them special blessings. YAHWEH had the Prophet Isaiah write something special about HIS special day.

- Isa 58:13 **If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD**, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking *thine own* words: Isa 58:14 **Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of YAHWEH hath spoken it.**

A covenant always includes a promise. You do this, and then I will do that. These words describe what YAHWEH will do for those willing to elevate HIS Sabbath day to the place of honor and respect HE gave it from the very beginning. And yet, there are also provisions within each covenant for breaking a covenant. ELOHIM's WORD is also ripe with examples of YAHWEH's wrath upon HIS called-out nation, the Children of Yisrael (COY), for not honoring HIS covenants.

- Gen 17:14 And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

The covenant of circumcision was one of the principle agreements between YAHWEH and HIS chosen people, the COY, under the Old Covenant. This covenant included the promise of a land flowing with milk and honey.

- Lev 26:14 But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; Lev 26:15 And **if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:** Lev 26:16 **I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.** Lev 26:17 And **I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.** Lev 26:18 And **if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.** Lev 26:19 And **I will break the pride of your power;** and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: Lev 26:20 And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.

These words were of course spoken to the COY. The Household of Faith should understand that the COY did break YAHWEH's covenant and were taken from their land into captivity and scattered throughout the nations of the world. And while many believe themselves to be the descendants of the COY based on material blessings, wherever these COY exist in the world, these are the descriptive narratives that follow them. Wherever they exist, they have no pride of power, even today in modernity. They are being slain by their enemies. They are ruled over by those who hate them. Sound familiar to anyone?

These are the consequences of breaking YAHWEH's covenants.

We have also read how that this number seven was assigned to two others of YAHWEH's appointed times; the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Tabernacles. We know as well how that YAHWEH used this special number in establishing seven Sabbaths in counting towards the Feast of Weeks and the year of Yubilee, both of which metaphorically commemorate a future Sabbath day which shall culminate the fulfillment of ELOHIM's plan of salvation. What a covenant!

Speaking of covenants, the Prophet Daniel wrote the following in what we have come to believe is the WORD of ELOHIM.

- Dan 9:25 Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. Dan 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

If one takes the timetable out of the equation, the focus person and others here is HAMASHIAC in verses 25 and 26, and then, the people of the prince in verse 26. It is the people of the prince who "shall destroy the city and the sanctuary". And being that the other focal point here is Yerushalaim, this prince of the people who destroyed the city and the sanctuary had to have been referring to the leader of the Roman armies, who destroyed Yerushalaim in 70AD. In verse 25 we learn that after a certain time HAMASHIAC shall be cut off for someone other than HIMSELF.

Let's continue.

- Dan 9:27 And **he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week**: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

And here is where there is great controversy. The KJV reads that someone “shall confirm the covenant for one week”. And then, that someone “shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease”. The controversy is of course the identification of the person who caused the sacrifice and the oblation to cease. Some believe this to be the pope, the religious leader of the people that destroyed the city.

Both the NASB and the CJB read “make a covenant”.

First of all, let’s look into this word confirm, as written in the KJV. It was translated from the Hebrew word “gabar”, which has the meanings of prevail (14x), strengthen (3x), great (2x), confirm (1x), exceeded (1x), mighty (1x), put (1x), stronger (1x), valiant (1x). Now, I don’t know about you, but when I look at these word meanings, I recognize that words often carry multiple definitions. And yet, we must rely upon the Spirit of Truth to open our eyes to see what the Hebrew writer, Daniel in this case, was teaching us. Notice the commonality of the words prevail, strengthen, great, exceeded, mighty, stronger and valiant. And then we see confirm. I don’t see the word make, in this context.

What we are obviously being taught in verse 27 is that someone prevailed by strengthening a covenant with many for one week. While it does not appear that this is a new covenant is being made, we will however keep an open mind to see what scripture teaches us as we continue. For now, it is being confirmed by the assignment of some form of attestation to it. And whoever prevailed and strengthened this covenant, also caused the sacrifice and the oblation to cease in the middle of the week.

The question is, who prevailed and strengthened this covenant, and, who cut off the sacrifices and the oblations in the midst of or middle of the week.

The Apostle Paul may offer us a clue as he wrote to the called-out one's in Galatia.

- Gal 3:15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; **Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.** Gal 3:16 **Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is HAMASHIAC.**

Obviously, the Apostle Paul is referring to the covenant that YAHWEH made with Abraham. Let's first remind ourselves of this covenant.

- Gen 22:14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said *to* this day, In the mount of YAHWEH it shall be seen.

For those of us who have attended the Appointed Time of Tabernacles in Jamaica over the years, the congregation typically sings this very special song titled Jehovahjireh, which simply uplifts all in attendance when it is sung. However, the Household of Faith must come to understand that this title may sound good, but is an inaccurate translation. The verse interprets itself. It teaches us that this is the Mount of YAHWEH, YAHWEHYIREH.

- Gen 22:15 And the angel of YAHWEH called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, Gen 22:16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son*: Gen 22:17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; Gen 22:18 **And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;** because thou hast obeyed my voice.

There are two covenants written here. Verse 27 refers to a physical covenant between Abraham's physical seed, the COY. However, the second covenant is the spiritual covenant that the Apostle Paul is referring to. This seed is singular, and refers to ONLY HAMASHIAC, who was YAHWEH come in the flesh to bless all the nations of the earth. And interestingly enough, the fulfillment of both the physical and the spiritual covenants shall occur on that future Sabbath we spoke of earlier. It is as though both of these covenants are running a parallel course. The question is, which covenant are you and I a part of? The Apostle continues.

- Gal 3:17 And this I say, *that* the covenant, that was confirmed before of ELOHIM in HAMASHIAC, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

The word confirm here is a Greek word “prokyroō”, which means to ratify, used only here in scripture. Ratify falls within the family of definitions we read of in the Book of Daniel. The Apostle speaks of a covenant that was ratified, confirmed, strengthened, and prevailed before of ELOHIM in HAMASHIAC. HAMASHIAC remains the focal picture of the strengthening of this covenant.

Now, we know that the foundation of the Household of Faith is the apostles and the prophets, with YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC as the chief corner. With this knowledge, we can be certain that the Prophet Daniel is teaching us exactly what the Apostle Paul is teaching us; that YAHSHUA was the “HE” that confirmed and strengthened the covenant with many for one week, and, who caused the sacrifices and the oblation to stop in the middle of the week.

Here is one of those circumstances where there is disagreement within the Household of Faith where there should not be. Perhaps it is entirely possible that the events of today having an effect over the entire earth is for a simple reason. Perhaps on the one hand mankind is being shown that it is powerless without ELOHIM.



And on the other hand, the Household of Faith is being tested to understand the covenant relationship YAHWEH established in the beginning, and then confirmed and strengthened with the many when HE came unto HIS own in the flesh as YAHSHUA; in HIS FATHER's name. Perhaps it is time for each of us to revisit our individual relationships with YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC, YAHWEH of ELOHIM.

Last week we spoke about a period sometimes referred to as the dark days of summer. For the Household of Faith, in the midst of great controversy in the world, we observed YAHSHUA's Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feats of Weeks. There are approximately 62 days until ELOHIM's next appointed time, The Memorial of the Blowing of Trumpets, 72 days until the Day of Atonement, and 77 days until the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles.

If we are parents of school-age children, we are focused on the controversies involved with preparing our children to return to a somewhat broken school system, broken by leadership which refuses to lead. All about us is misery in this world that either directly or indirectly affects each of us. I spoke to a dear Sister in HAMASHIAC this week whose adult daughter is going through such great physical pain that most have not experienced. This has caused my Sister great mental pain and anguish as well. And yet, she has found the courage to rely on her spiritual guidance for strength.

On the other hand, I learned that one of the European-led congregations of the Household of Faith that believe that cooking should not be done on the Sabbath (no kindling of fire on the Sabbath), did in fact, cook on the Sabbath in celebration of this year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July, which fell on the Sabbath day this year. How ironic, in the midst of this global epidemic, some of us in the Household of Faith chose to perform a civic celebration of the USA on the Sabbath of YAHWEH, in spite of YAHWEH's covenant and its own supposed convictions about not kindling a fire on the Sabbath. Somehow, these actions were justified in the minds of these Brethren. Well, this is why we ask, just whose covenant is it, anyway?

We have read that the Sabbath is the Sabbath of YAHWEH. Well, every member of the Household of Faith has the knowledge of the Sabbath day being the seventh day of the week.

How does one become a member of the Household of Faith in the first place? Again, we must be led by the words of YAHSHUA which we read last week and many other weeks before this. HE established the protocol for the Household of Faith. It is made up of those who have and will come to believe in HIM by the words of HIS chosen disciples, known to the world as the apostles of YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC (Yochanon 17:20). HE gave one of these disciples/apostles the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. That Apostle gave the formula as the Household of Faith was established.

- Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

With these words, the keys to access the Kingdom of Heaven was firmly established to the Household of Faith. This is the covenant relationship that every member of the New Covenant Household of Faith must establish. There are three parts. First there must be repentance, once one has learned those things ELOHIM considers to be sinful in HIS WORD. Second, after repentance there must be baptism, accepting the invitation to commit one's life to YAHSHUA. These must be our actions. And finally, for accepting and following through on these actions, we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is the covenant relationship that must be established when we come to YAHSHUA. We know that this happens only after the following.

- 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.

- Joh 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of ELOHIM. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

We must be drawn to HAMASHIAC by the FATHER. And then we are called and chosen by YAHWEH unto HIMSELF as YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC. Once we accept this calling and choosing, we repent and become baptized. It is then that we enter into our covenant relationship with ELOHIM under the spiritual covenant with Abraham. Notice how the Apostle Peter continues.

- Act 2:39 For **the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as YAHWEH our ELOHIM shall call.** Act 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

The promise was to those hearing his words, just as YAHSHUA prayed, and to all afar off, just as YAHSHUA prayed; as many as YAHSHUA would call. This promise is not of land. It is of the Kingdom of Heaven through the seed promised to Abraham, YAHSHUA.

Last week we learned that the Household of Faith has “Yerushalaim of above” as our spiritual mother, if we are under the promises of ELOHIM through YAHSHUA HAMSAHIAC. As such, we are no longer children of the bondwoman, the mother of those that reside in the flesh. This is important for the mindsets of the Household of Faith in modernity, particularly those who are also descendants of the COY. We must elevate our thinking in the midst of the chaos that surrounds our families and friends. “We are children of the free woman, holy Yerushalaim”. The Apostle Paul speaks in this way.

- Heb 12:22 But **ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living ELOHIM, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,**

One of the things I love about ELOHIM's WORD is its consistency. Isn't it obvious that this is an actual heavenly city where ELOHIM and an innumerable company of angels exist? You see, each member of the Household of Faith must understand that they each have access to this heavenly city and all that exist in it. This is the city of ELOHIM. Well, who is ELOHIM? ELOHIM is YAHSHUA and YAHWEH, who have presented themselves to the Household of Faith under the New Covenant as the FATHER and the SON. And then we read of this innumerable company of angels we are come to. These angels are there for each of us. This must be our mindsets, once we can correctly answer the title question, and live by it. Whose covenant is it, anyway? The Apostle continues to lead us.

- Heb 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to ELOHIM the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

When any member of the Household of Faith repents and is baptized, this is where they have come to. Does this speak to us? This is where each member of the Household of Faith has come. And this is key to the covenant YAHWEH made with Abraham. The Apostle continues.

- Heb 12:24 **And to YAHSHUA the mediator of the new covenant,** and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel. Heb 12:25 **See that ye refuse not him that speaketh.** For **if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:** Heb 12:26 **Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.** Heb 12:27 And this *word*, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Yes, each member of the Household of Faith has come to YAHSHUA, for whom the Apostle issues to each of us a warning.

Do not refuse HIM, as some have as HE spake in the past as YAHWEH.

- Heb 12:28 Wherefore **we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve ELOHIM acceptably with reverence and ELOHIMly fear:** Heb 12:29 For our ELOHIM *is* a consuming fire.

We are to have grace that we may serve ELOHIM acceptably with reverence and ELOHIMly fear. Is it possible that the conditions now upon the world are a wake-up call to each of us? Even if not, isn't this a good opportunity for each member of the Household of Faith to remember the commitment we made to ELOHIM at our baptism? Are we each serving ELOHIM acceptably with reverence and ELOHIMly fear?

For each member of the Household of Faith, in the midst of confusion is where true leadership steps forward. We read recently how that each member of the Household of Faith is now in training camp to be a king/queen and priest of ELOHIM. Have you reviewed your mid-term grades lately? You see, as we look forward to the upcoming spiritual season, now is the time to review ourselves to honestly compare our progress. Why? Shouldn't it be to ensure that we are continuing in our serving with the type of reverence that is acceptable to ELOHIM, with the appropriate fear and understanding?

And if there is an honest appraisal of the fact that we have not gained any progress, now is the time to reassess our priorities. You see, the apostles are clear. The question for modernity's version of the Household of Faith should be clear.

Do we decide that it is okay to celebrate this nation's annual celebration on YAHWEH's Sabbath? Is this godly fear and acceptable reverence? Now understand, this is simply an example. Each of us, if we are true to ourselves, have vices that need to be reassessed in order for us to honestly gage our mid-term success before ELOHIM.

Regarding the covenant, the Apostle Paul made something crystal clear. But first let's revisit an interesting dialogue.

- Joh 8:31 Then said YAHSHUA to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; Joh 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. Joh 8:33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Joh 8:34 YAHSHUA answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. Joh 8:35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever. Joh 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. Joh 8:37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. Joh 8:38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

These Yehudan's claimed to be Abraham's seed. And in verse 37, YAHSHUA agreed with them. But they did not comprehend that Abraham was promised two different seeds, one physical and one spiritual. They did not comprehend that YAHSHUA was appealing for them to become heirs of a different promise than that of simply being the physical seed. In the midst of this dialogue YAHSHUA spoke of being the servant of sin. If any of the members of the Household of Faith do not observe YAHWEH's Sabbath as HE has directed us, what does this make us? HE then said that "if the SON of MAN has made you free, ye shall be free indeed". Well, the Apostle was led to follow-up on this dialogue.

- Gal 3:26 For **ye are all the children of ELOHIM by faith in HAMASHIAC YAHSHUA.** Gal 3:27 For **as many of you as have been baptized into HAMASHIAC have put on HAMASHIAC.**

The Apostle informs each member of the Household of Faith they are the children of ELOHIM by faith in HAMASHIAC YAHSHUA.

And that once they were baptized into HAMASHIAC, they have put on HAMASHIAC. Or rather, they should have put on HAMASHIAC. This, each of us must review to ensure that we have a passing grade as we approach the final season's spiritual appointed times. And then the Apostle makes it clear, the physical makeup of the Household of Faith.

- Gal 3:28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in HAMASHIAC YAHSHUA.** Gal 3:29 And **if ye be HAMASHIAC's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

All in YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC are one. There no longer is this physical barrier of separation. There are no Yehudan's or Gentiles. There is no bond nor free. There is no male nor female. Thus, when the Apostle Peter spoke these words.

- 1Pe 2:9 But **ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:**

He was referring to males and females who have been transformed as all one in YAHSHUA. Yes, all females in YAHSHUA are priests of YAHSHUA. All of the COY and members of the nations in YAHSHUA are priests of YAHSHUA. And then the Apostle Paul said that if we are HAMASHIAC's, "then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise". Which promise is he talking about? Well, if we are HAMASHIAC's, we know and are assured that he is talking about the promise of blessings upon all of the nations of the earth. And this is what the whole earth fights against, and yet, yearns for true leadership.

Now, this lesson is not to suggest that spiritual leadership for any member of the Household of Faith is going to be easy. However, it is to make it clear that you were drawn, called and chosen to lead.

The Apostle Paul told the called-out Corinthians the following.

- 1Co 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? 1Co 6:2 **Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?** 1Co 6:3 **Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?**

ELOHIM's WORD asserts that the saints shall live and reign with YAHSHUA for one thousand years. This is the future leadership that each member of the Household of Faith should be in training for. This is to occur during that final Sabbath day of YAHWEH that ELOHIM's WORD speaks of.

- Heb 4:4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh *day* on this wise, And ELOHIM did rest the seventh day from all his works.
- Heb 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of ELOHIM. Heb 4:10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as ELOHIM *did* from his. Heb 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

This is a mystery to the world. But not so to the members of the Household of Faith. We know that this one thousand years of reign with YAHSHUA is this rest that the Apostle is admonishing us to enter into, "lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief". It is during this rest that the saints shall judge the world and angels. Are we practicing our chosen skillsets?

If we believe we are heirs of the spiritual promise of Abraham, this is our calling. If we are not practicing and training, the question to each of us is why not. Whose covenant is it, anyway?



Have we ever considered why the Apostle referred to YAHSHUA as the mediator of the New Covenant? Why is it called “a New Covenant” in the first place? We read how that the promise of this covenant was given to Abraham. We read where if we are in YAHSHUA, we are Abraham’s seed and heirs to the promise.

Well, notice that the word promise is singular. The Apostle Paul provided us with further clarification.

- Heb 8:6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

We are Abraham’s seed because of the singular promise, HAMASHIAC. However, HAMASHIAC came to establish a new covenant based on new promises that were not offered to the COY as a nation. I.e., the new Covenant is an extension of the spiritual Abrahamic covenant, complete with new protocols and commandments deemed appropriate by ELOHIM.

- Heb 9:11 But HAMASHIAC being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*. Heb 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of HAMASHIAC, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to ELOHIM, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living ELOHIM? Heb 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

These new promises are all based on the promise of eternal inheritance, rather than the land flowing with milk and honey. Remember, we have come to the heavenly version of Mount Zion, where ELOHIM and the innumerable company of angels reside.

- Heb 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of ELOHIM; Heb 10:13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. Heb 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

ELOHIM the family has done THEIR part of the New Covenant to ensure that our access to the Kingdom of Heaven is assured. By the death of YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC, we are perfected and sanctified.

- Heb 10:15 *Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, Heb 10:16 *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;* Heb 10:17 And **their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.** Heb 10:18 Now **where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.**

I have heard pastors say that either we must ask YAHSHUA when HE returns why the COY shall once again perform the sacrifice of bulls and goats when they are returned to their lands, or, they do not believe that these prophesied sacrifices shall occur. Wow! These thoughts were spoken by first, a descendant of the pan-African slave trade, and second, a European pastor within the Household of Faith. One knows it shall happen but does not understand why these sacrifices shall return, and the other does not believe these sacrifices shall take place because of the blood shed by YAHSHUA. Obviously, the latter has not yet understood that the scattered COY that shall return to its land during the millennial reign of YAHSHUA and HIS saints will not be under the blood of YAHSHUA.

If these were under HIS blood, they would be resurrected as saints, rather than physically brought back to the land of Yisrael. This is symbolic of the lack of spiritual leadership of modernity. Each of these groups seem to have their own agendas, rather than simply relying totally on ELOHIM's WORD.

The Apostle spoke that if we are in HAMASHIAC, we are Abraham's seed. Shouldn't the Household of Faith clearly understand the difference between those who are "in HAMASHIAC", and those who are not? Perhaps this is the confusion in answering the title question; whose covenant is it, anyway.

The Apostle Paul continues to lead us by the Spirit of Truth. Earlier he spoke of this heavenly city of innumerable angels. When I have spoken to others about the Holy Spirit, who are led by the leadership of those of the nations who have come into the Household of Faith, I mention the impact of these angels. For the most part there has been resistance to this line of thinking. And yet, we read where there are only ELOHIM and this innumerable company of angels in the heavenly Yerushalaim. I once asked a Brother, what do you think these angels were doing when ELOHIM designed the plan of salvation that included the creations performed on the first seven days of creation? There was no response.

Well, if we indeed are in YAHSHUA and are Abraham's seed and heirs to the promise, ELOHIM has provided almost a fail-proof opportunity for us because of these angels.

- Heb 1:7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.
- Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

These angels are ELOHIM's ministers of fire. And what were they created to minister to? It was for those who shall be heirs of salvation. Each member of the Household of Faith has access to these ministers of fire.

Notice that they are sent forth to perform their ministry. And this is not new. They have been doing this for a very long time.

- 2Ki 6:15 And when the servant of the man of ELOHIM was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? 2Ki 6:16 And he answered, Fear not: for **they that be with us are more than they that be with them.** 2Ki 6:17 And **Elisha prayed,** and said, **YAHWEH, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see.** And YAHWEH opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, **the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.**

These are the same ministers of fire that operate in the New Covenant.

- Act 2:1 And when the fiftieth day was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. Act 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. Act 2:3 And **there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire,** and it sat upon each of them. Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

These are those same ministers of fire that Elisha and his servant saw, ministering unto the heirs of salvation.

Well, have we answered the question yet; whose covenant is it, anyway? With this form of power made available to the Household of Faith, we have been given all that we need to succeed. But we need to understand the answer to this question. We know that YAHWEH has and continues to punish the COY because they broke HIS covenant. So yes, these are HIS covenants. But remember, it takes two parties to make a covenant.

- Heb 10:19 **Having therefore**, brethren, **boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of YAHSHUA**, Heb 10:20 **By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;**

Do we remember that under the Old Covenant that only the high priest was allowed to enter into the holiest beyond the veil of the temple? The Apostle is simply teaching and reminding us that if we are in HAMSHIAC and Abraham's seed, as heirs to the promise, we are now the priests of ELOHIM through HAMASHIAC and now have access into the holiest by the blood of YAHSHUA, the mediator of the New Covenant. So, whose covenant is it, anyway?

- Heb 10:21 **And having an high priest over the house of ELOHIM;** Heb 10:22 **Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.**

As we review our mid-term grades, do we have in our hearts a true assurance of faith, sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water? Do you see the beautiful duality in these words? This is the Apostle's call to action to all who have been drawn to YAHSHUA by the FATHER, and called and selected by YAHSHUA. This is our repentance and baptism into HAMASHIAC. This is our acceptance of the invitation to participate in this New Covenant of better promises that the Nation of Yisrael was never offered. Then the Apostle challenges us to do our part in this fail-proof offering.

- Heb 10:23 **Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)** Heb 10:24 **And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:**

There can be no wavering in our faith because ELOHIM is faithful in HIS promises.

We are to continually provoke one another unto love and to good works. Are we doing this?

- Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

And here we have the challenge of modernity. You see, with the many differences that have permeated the Household of Faith, along with the coronavirus of 2020, we all have in some manner forsaken the assembling of ourselves together. As it was under the Old Covenant, so is it under the New Covenant. Where is the leadership? Who is the leader? Who are the leaders? Whose covenant is it, anyway? Remember, each covenant comes with penalties.

- Heb 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, Heb 10:27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. Heb 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Heb 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of ELOHIM, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? Heb 10:30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, YAHWEH shall judge his people. Heb 10:31 *It is* a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living ELOHIM.

And as it was with the Old Covenant made with the COY, so is it with the Household of Faith. However, we are reminded of a sorer punishment for us because we are in that seed promised to Abraham, YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC. These verses represent the most serious caution to each member of the Household of Faith in ELOHIM's WORD.

This exists because of the promises. It is the most serious understanding that any member of the Household of Faith must consider. This is why we provoke one another unto good works. This is why the Apostle Paul also taught us this simple explanation of good works.

- Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Gal 6:10 **As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.**

These words need no interpretations, if we simply accept them as the Apostle wrote them. And after cautioning us, he taught this.

- Heb 10:36 For **ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of ELOHIM, ye might receive the promise.** Heb 10:37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

As we access ourselves, remember that we must also be patient. The most patient of them all is ELOHIM. HE is longsuffering for each of us. But our attention, our focus, must be on doing the will of ELOHIM. And what is the will of ELOHIM?

- 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 every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

If we believe on YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC, we have the opportunity for everlasting life. If we endure, according to the FATHER's will, YAHSHUA will not lose us, but will raise us "up at the last day".

The Apostle Peter spoke these words.

- 1Pe 2:13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 1Pe 2:14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. 1Pe 2:15 **For so is the will of ELOHIM, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:** 1Pe 2:16 **As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of ELOHIM.** 1Pe 2:17 **Honour all men. Love the brotherhood.** Fear ELOHIM. Honour the king.

This almost seems to be especially written for the descendants of both the pan-African slave trade and the descendants of the COY in modernity who are also of the Household of Faith. We know that there are other scriptures teaching us how to submit to the powers of the governments in which we exist. And let us not make any mistake about it. The descendants of the pan-African slave trade are scattered amongst the nations of the earth. YAHWEH made it clear the following through the prophets.

- Eze 11:16 Therefore say, Thus saith YAHWEHELOHIM; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come. Eze 11:17 Therefore say, Thus saith YAHWEHELOHIM; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.
- Eze 36:16 Moreover the word of YAHWEH came unto me, saying, Eze 36:17 Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman. Eze 36:18 Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols *wherewith* they had polluted it:



- Eze 36:19 And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them. Eze 36:20 And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These *are* the people of the LORD, and are gone forth out of his land.

This was and is the fate of the COY. Another fact that all in modernity know and yet may not have considered. The descendants of the pan-African slave trade have also been scattered amongst the nations. As mentioned earlier, they have no pride of power. As such, these have something in common that no other culture in the world can claim. For all my Brothers and Sisters in HAMASHIAC, take these truths and meditate on them.

And as members of the Household of Faith, we who know these things have been told to submit ourselves to the powers that be. This is ELOHIM's will so that we may put to silence the foolishness all about us. And yet, we must at all costs remember what YAHSHUA has already told us. We are in this world, but we must not be of this world.

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

Whose covenant is it, anyway? The prophets have spoken. The apostles have spoken. YAHWEH has spoken. This world is passing away. We may be seeing this happen right before our eyes. Regardless, **we must patiently ensure that we are walking in a manner that is acceptable only to ELOHIM.**

- Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. Heb 10:39 But **we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.**

Are we living by faith? Does our soul find pleasure in the ways of the world? Are there some in our lives that smile in our faces while they draw us back into the world?

There are so many other scriptures relating to ELOHIM's covenant that we could read this evening. But I believe we have now read enough for each of us to answer the title question. Whose covenant is it, anyway?

Okay, yes, it is YAHWEH's covenant. However, it is also our covenant. Once we repented and entered into HAMASHIAC through our baptism, it became our covenant as well. We have entered into this covenant with an agreement to live in accordance with the commandments of ELOHIM in faith of the promises to be given unto all who are in HAMASHIAC, the seed of Abraham.

As we perform our mid-term examinations, let us remember these things. Let us do good unto all, but especially unto the Household of Faith. Let us focus on who we are, and not allow ourselves to be pushed back into the world. Let us submit to the authorities, while yet maintaining our adherence unto the WORD of ELOHIM. When there is opposition of the powers of modernity and the WORD of ELOHIM, there should be no confusion. We have an innumerable company of ministers of fire, ready and prepared to minister unto us, and for us.

Remember our covenant. Adhere to our covenant. For our covenant was made with ELOHIM. HE is doing HIS part. Let us continue to do ours, in spite of it all.

Shalom!!