

Lesson No. 151 – Will the True Church Please Stand Up?

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Over the years I have been privileged to study with and learn from various ministers and teachers from different cultural backgrounds that had as a common belief the weekly Sabbaths, the annual appointed times, the dietary laws, and the Hebrew influence of the Bible, based upon ELOHIM's WORD. Beyond these beliefs, however, differences continue to take center stage, and are the primary cause of the separation of fellowship between many, if not most, of these ministers, teachers and their followers. As some of you no doubt know, I, for one, disagree with the spirit of segregation that now exists amongst these groups. And as we have increasingly learned, a spirit of let's agree to disagree has grown amongst these groups in modernity.

Tonight's lesson is an updated version of a lesson I taught several years ago. It was titled Will the True Church Please Stand Up. Well, tonight's updated version still is asking the same question. Now if anyone is wondering why I'm asking this question, perhaps you can point me out to the location of the "true church". I'm still seeking it. Now, tonight's study is not meant to step on toes, or call out any specific group in particular. It's just that I wonder if YAHSHUA were to return today, what would HE find? Where would HE go to be with the true church?

According to the various Webster dictionaries, church is consistently defined as the following:

1. A building set apart or consecrated for public and especially Christian worship
2. A public divine worship
3. All Christians considered as a single body

4. The clergy or officialdom of a religious body
5. A body or organization of religious believers
6. The clerical profession

These do not answer the question. The 11th Edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica states, very interestingly, that “church is a word originally applied to the building used for Christian worship, and subsequently extended to the Christian community itself. Similarly, the Greek word ecclesia” (the New Covenant word translated as church) “or assembly, was very early transferred from the community to the building, and is used in both senses, especially in the modern Roman and Celtic languages”. I am sure we all recognize that these languages are all of European origin.

So, we see that according to the leading authoritative information available today, mankind is led to accept that church primarily represents a place, a building of worship. So, is it some building where YAHSHUA will look for upon HIS return? If we remember, we have read that the beast with 7 heads and 10 horns was modeled after the great red dragon which had 7 heads and 10 horns. We have also read where this great beast was to make war with the saints, and to overcome them. We have further read that “all that dwell up the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb” (Rev 13:7 & 8).

We identified this great beast as the Roman Empire. We also read that this beast gets its power from Satan. Let’s remember something else.

- Rev 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: Rev 12:2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

We identified this woman as the Children of Yisrael (COY).

- Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto ELOHIM, and *to* his throne.

We know that this child, YAHSHUA, now resides at the right side of HIS FATHER in heaven.

- Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
- Rev 12:12 Therefore rejoice, *ye* heavens, and *ye* that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. Rev 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man *child*. Rev 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Heaven is rejoicing, but woe to the earth. Here we see the dragon, Satan the devil, persecuting the woman, the COY, who was protected in the wilderness from the dragon.

- Rev 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of ELOHIM, and have the testimony of YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC.

These verses have much to say. First, the dragon, Satan, deceives the whole world. We know from other lessons that Satan is allowed to use the beast, the Roman empire, to accomplish this feat.

Then we see the dragon making war with the remnant of the woman's "seed, which keep the commandments of ELOHIM, and have the testimony of YAHSHUA". So, the remnant that is persecuted has the testimony of YAHSHUA. This obviously is the New Covenant church.

So, according to the WORD of ELOHIM, Satan is making war with the Household of Faith, those keeping the commandments of ELOHIM that have the testimony of YAHSHUA. We also see that the COY were referred to as a woman. Why?

- Act 7:37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Yisrael, A prophet shall YAHWEH your ELOHIM raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. Act 7:38 **This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness** with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sinai, and *with* our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

Here, amongst other things, we see the COY called the church in the wilderness, and the woman that flew into the wilderness (in Rev 12:14). So, we now understand that the church is presented as a woman by the MOST HIGH. If we have not by now, we need to plant it in our minds how that the MOST HIGH uses metaphors to present HIS plan of salvation. Sadly, this is not consistently recognized and understood by all amongst the New Covenant church.

At the same time, we need to remember that the dragon presents his own brand of metaphors to deceive the world. It is obvious that any mindset that pictures the church as a building is deceived. And we know who deceives the whole world. We also recognize that the Biblical emphasis in all that we have read thus far is on a particular group of people, the COY.

Why is all this important? The first church, pictured as a woman, was the COY. Let's go back to Revelations 12:17 very quickly.

- Rev 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of ELOHIM, and have the testimony of YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC.

The end-time church includes a remnant of the church, the COY, that the dragon makes war with, that keeps “the commandments of ELOHIM, and have the testimony of” YAHSHUA”, is also pictured as a woman. The Apostle Paul presented one of the greatest metaphors in the MOST HIGH’S WORD.

- Eph 5:22 **Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.** Eph 5:23 For **the husband is the head of the wife, even as HAMASHIAC is the head of the church:** and he is the saviour of the body.

Now, we know that it was the COY that were first thought of as a church. However, we need to see the depth of the metaphor the Apostle Paul is presenting here. Isn’t he metaphorically telling us that the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve, were in fact the first church? Look at the next verse.

- Eph 5:24 Therefore **as the church is subject unto HAMASHIAC, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.**

We also know that this first edition of the church failed. Why; because of disobedience. We also know that the second, and most understood edition of the church fell short of its mission, its commission. The Apostle plainly said that YAHSHUA is the head of the church.

The first church fell because the woman, Eve, chose to ignore the instructions given her by her head, which he had received from ELOHIM.

The husband failed because, instead of correcting the woman when she offered the forbidden fruit to him, he joined in her sin. Wherever the true church is today, it needs to take a step backwards to discern whether or not it is acting in the same manner as this first church.

Let's understand something very important. Let's revisit something else the Apostle said about the first sin of the first church. It's also important, that whoever and whatever the true church is, its foundation is on solid ground, which is the written WORD of ELOHIM.

- 1Ti 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

When I read this initially, I admit to being somewhat puzzled. I, and perhaps we, have read these words many times. However, it was this last time that caused me to discern what is being said by the Apostle. First, the man was not deceived. Only the woman was deceived. But the question is or should be; if only the woman was deceived and not the man, how was she deceived. Let's remember again that the tree was named the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. What was the lie told to the woman?

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

The serpent first asks the woman a question.

- Gen 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, ELOHIM hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

The woman responds to the serpent's question identifying which of the trees' fruit could be eaten, or touched.

- Gen 3:4 And **the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die**: Gen 3:5 For ELOHIM doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Then, the serpent fed the woman its first fruit, which was a lie. He lied and told her she would not die and shall be as gods. Remember, the word for gods here is also elohim. The lie was not the knowing "good and evil"; it was that she would not die and she would be as ELOHIM.

- Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Next, we find the woman seeing that the fruit of the tree was good and pleasant to her eyes; a tree to be desired to make one wise and she took of the fruit and did eat. She then gave some of the "fruit also unto her husband with her and he did eat". Now remember, we were told by the Apostle that the man was not deceived, which means that whatever the fruit given to him by the woman was in fact some form of truth. The deception was in the woman's belief that this fruit would make her as ELOHIM and live. It is apparent that that wasn't the man's thinking. Whatever she said to him sounded good and he accepted it. The serpent used the woman's curiosity by giving her both a lie and some truth.

- Gen 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Notice that the only thing we are told that they learned from the tree was that they were naked. This was in fact true. So, if we really think about it, we can see why we are told the man was not deceived. Why am I rehashing this story again and again you might ask? Well, the relationship between the man and the woman are metaphorically pictured as a symbol of the relationship between YAHSHUA and HIS church. We know that in YAHSHUA there is only truth. In the Garden of Eden, HE was presented to the man and the woman as the Tree of Life.

Had the woman not allowed herself to be beguiled by the serpent, as she said in verse 13, and not accepted the fruit of the tree, which we know to be the fruit of lies, both man and woman would have had the opportunity to eat of the TREE OF LIFE, and learn far greater things than they learned from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

As we search for the true church, we will see some very sobering, but similar observations. Let's look at something YAHSHUA said.

- Mat 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. Mat 18:16 But if he will not hear *thee*, *then* take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. Mat 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Mat 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Mat 18:19 Again I say unto you, That **if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.** Mat 18:20 For **where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**

The question we must all ask ourselves is what about today? Is the current edition of the church accomplishing its mission or commission? These verses are representative of other verses that describe the true church, in that unity was the prescription. The unity was in true believers gathering together in YAHSHUA's name. When they did this, HE said, HE would be in the midst of them. The serpent has been in the act of creating separation amongst us from the beginning, as with the first church.

As YAHSHUA setup the foundation of the New Covenant church HE warned HIS disciples about the imagery of the serpent.

- Mat 24:3 And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? Mat 24:4 And YAHSHUA answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you.** Mat 24:5 For **many shall come in my name, saying, I am HAMASHIAC; and shall deceive many.**
- Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Wow! There shall be false messiahs and prophets that shall deceive through signs and wonders. Are not signs and wonders the same as miracles? Note that in this discussion between the MESSIAH and the disciples, deception was the first thing they were warned about. Remember how the woman was told she would be as ELOHIM.

YAHSHUA warned that many would come in HIS name deceiving many. So, we first have to distinguish the more obvious signs of a church in the world.

It is interesting that signs are used to deceive.

Let's look at some signs given to the church in the wilderness.

- Exo 31:13 Speak thou also unto the children of Yisrael, saying, Verily **my sabbaths ye shall keep**: for **it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations**; that *ye* may know that I *am* YAHWEH that doth sanctify you. Exo 31:14 Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it *is* holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth *any* work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Exo 31:15 Six days may work be done; but in the seventh *is* the sabbath of rest, holy to YAHWEH: whosoever doeth *any* work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Exo 31:16 Wherefore the children of Yisrael shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, *for* a perpetual covenant. Exo 31:17 **It is a sign between me and the children of Yisrael forever**: for *in* six days YAHWEH made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

The Old Covenant church, the COY, had as a sign the weekly Sabbath. It was to be a perpetual covenant forever. We know how the Sabbath is both the beginning and the ending of ELOHIM' plan of salvation.

- Deu 6:1 Now **these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which YAHWEH your ELOHIM commanded to teach you**, that ye might do *them* in the land whither ye go to possess it: Deu 6:2 That thou mightest fear YAHWEH thy ELOHIM, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Deu 6:3 Hear therefore, O Yisrael, and observe to do *it*; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as YAHWEH ELOHIM of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. Deu 6:4 Hear, O Yisrael: YAHWEH our ELOHIM *is* one LORD:

- 6:5 And thou shalt love YAHWEH thy ELOHIM with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. Deu 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: Deu 6:7 And **thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.** Deu 6:8 And **thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.**

We see also that the commandments, the statutes and the judgements of YAHWEH were a sign to the church in the wilderness. We know that in addition to the weekly Sabbath, these include the annual appointed times. These include the separation of clean and unclean animals. These included a host of other commandments, statutes and judgements designed to make the COY a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

These commandments, the statutes and the judgements, if followed, would have gained the COY access to the TREE OF LIFE. Something went wrong.

What about modernity's true church? Aren't these signs still applicable to us? Shouldn't we teach them diligently unto our children, talk of them when we sit in our houses, when we walk by the way, when we lie down, when we rise up, and bind them for a sign upon our hand, and allow them to be as frontlets between our eyes?

I believe that in order for the true church to stand up, the failures of the Old Covenant church in the wilderness must be clearly understood. We have read and shall read that the church that YAHSHUA built has as a foundation the apostles and the prophets. Who was first, the apostles or the prophets?

It should be obvious that the church in the wilderness, Yisrael, was established on the foundation of the prophets. What happened to the church in the wilderness?

- Hos 4:6 **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge**, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy ELOHIM, I will also forget thy children.

What is the knowledge they rejected? Obviously, that was the bread coming from the TREE OF LIFE. And here is where it gets a little interesting. The Prophet Yeremeyah was led to tell us something significant about the COY's lack of knowledge.

- Jer 2:8 **The priests said not, Where is YAHWEH?** and **they that handle the law knew me not**: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after *things that* do not profit.

Based on this it would appear the priests and pastors of the COY began to prophesy by false gods.

- Jer 5:31 **The prophets prophesy falsely**, and **the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so**: and what will ye do in the end thereof?
- Jer 12:10 **Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.**

We know that Yisrael was the vineyard of the MOST HIGH. And here we learn that Yisrael was destroyed by its pastors.

- Jer 23:1 **Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!** saith YAHWEH.

When ELOHIM raised up Yisrael to be HIS church, HE put pastors as shepherds in charge to steer it in a “righteous” direction. However, there have always been pastors causing destruction of YAHWEH’s church, HIS people. Notice the penalty from ELOHIM upon HIS people who reject HIS knowledge. Notice also the inherent connection between knowledge and the law of ELOHIM.

For this disobedience, the first church, Yisrael, was sent into captivity as punishment. After Solomon, Yisrael became two nations, the northern Kingdom of Yisrael (10 tribes) and the southern Kingdom of Yehudah (2 tribes and some Levites). The northern kingdom was taken into captivity by the Assyrians in 722BC. The southern kingdom of Yehudah was taken into captivity by the first beast, Babylon. However, some beginning in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, were allowed to return to the land. We now know that when the MESSIAH came, a remnant of the Kingdom of Yisrael was there as well, all being classified collectively as Jews, i.e., Yehudans.

As we search for the true church, what should we be looking for? Now that we are living clearly in the age of the New Covenant church, we have to discern the location of the true church. YAHSHUA warned HIS disciples about false signs and wonders. Now we know that YAHSHUA, as YAHWEH, gave these commandments, statutes and judgements to the COY.

When HE came in the flesh as YAHSHUA, did HE change? The first sign was the weekly Sabbath.

- Mar 2:27 And he said unto them, **The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:**

- Mar 2:28 **Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.**

Among many other things, the Sabbath, being made for man, was an identifying sign of the church. YAHWEH, now YAHSHUA in the flesh, was its creator. You know, as we have continually grown these past three years, this statement now takes on a grand new meaning. The Sabbath was made for man, by YAHSHUA. It is at the center of ELOHIM's plan of salvation. It was the first Sabbath, and, the final Sabbath that all of the people of ELOHIM should be seeking to enter in. This is why it was made for man. And yet, the false churches of the world reject it.

- Luk 4:14 And YAHSHUA returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. Luk 4:15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. Luk 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, **as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day,** and stood up for to read.

Here we find that YAHSHUA's custom included the observance of the weekly Sabbath, that sign between YAHWEH and HIS vineyard. HE knew of its importance because HE made it. We all know that YAHSHUA observed all of the commandments, statutes and judgements given to HIS church in the wilderness. This is why HE constantly referred to HIMSELF as the Son of Man.

As we seek the true church that YAHSHUA is building, did HE discontinue the use of pastors? Let's revisit HIS establishment of the New Covenant church's foundation.

- Mat 16:11 How is it that ye do not understand that I spake *it* not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

- Mat 16:12 Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

In our search for the true church, isn't this a warning for us today in modernity? It is the leaven that defines the bread that we choose to eat. The leaven is our beliefs, our actions, our choices. Are we believing in YAHSHUA only? Are we walking in YAHSHUA only? And as it relates to our choices, are we being influenced by those that only desire us to believe in and walk with YAHSHUA, only? Sounds simple, doesn't it?

- Mat 16:13 When YAHSHUA came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? Mat 16:14 And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. Mat 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Mat 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the HAMASHIAC, the Son of the living ELOHIM. Mat 16:17 And YAHSHUA answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

So, Peter, speaking for all of the disciples identified YAHSHUA as the SON of ELOHIM. Earlier in verse 12 YAHSHUA made them aware of the leaven, the doctrines, that they should be on guard against.

- Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and **upon this rock I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Notice how that YAHSHUA said that HE would build HIS church, which shall be literally a holy assembly of called out ones.

After the disciples were asked by HIM who do they think HE was, Simon correctly answered HIM, and because of the strength and conviction of Simon's answer, YAHSHUA makes an interesting statement. Notice, this is when YAHSHUA changed Simon's name to Peter, which in the Greek is "petros", a large rock or stone. HE then says "upon this rock" (petra, a mass of rock), "I will build my church", or called out ones. Notice the different words used here.

As we seek out the true church, there are those who appear to be learned that teach that the church was built upon Peter. The catholic church claims the pope is the successor to Peter, even though Peter never was in Rome, historically or Biblically. But we clearly see that the church is built on the second rock, not upon Peter, but on a mass of rock. What is this mass of rock? Some learned Brethren teach it could be HAMASHIAC, only. Well, I believe in the duality of ELOHIM's WORD.

- Rom 9:33 As it is written, Behold, **I lay in Sion a stumbling stone and rock of offence:** and **whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**
- 1Co 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and **that Rock was HAMASHIAC.**

In each instance of the word rock, the Greek word is "petra". So, first and obviously first, YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC is the rock, this "petra", this mass of rock. We cannot deny this. However, being that HIS church is to be founded on a mass of rock, there also appears to be something greater than just one entity implied here.

As we continue to read, we shall see that HE is simply the beginning of this mass of rock.

- Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

HE is the head of the church, the beginning of it, the firstborn, the FIRST FRUITS. And yet through HIS apostles we are taught why it is a mass of rock rather than simply a massive rock.

- Eph 2:19-20 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of ELOHIM; **And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC himself being the chief corner** *stone*;

Here we see that YAHSHUA is the chief corner of the church. And remember, HE said that upon this “mass of rock” HE would build HIS church. Here we see the disciples and the prophets making up the foundation upon which this church is built upon. As such, they too are a subset of the “mass of rock” upon which HE founded HIS church, phase two. Here we see the Biblical description of HIS church, the saints and the household of ELOHIM, phase three of this “mass of rock”.

Let’s revisit ELOHIM’s process for building this church through YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC.

- 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.

It begins with our being drawn to HIM by the FATHER.

- Mat 9:13 But go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for **I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

It continues with YAHSHUA HIMSELF calling us with an invitation. However, we must remember this little itty-bitty minor detail.

- Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few *are* chosen.

And we know that it is not our judgement as to who has or has not been called. We assume that those that outwardly keep YAHSHUA's sayings are both called and chosen, and thus, members of YAHSHUA's church. These, we judge when it becomes obvious that they have become the form of leaven that can leaven the whole lump improperly. Our only leaven should originate from the TREE OF LIFE. And speaking of the choosing.

- Joh 15:16 **Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:** that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

It is YAHSHUA who chooses the members of HIS church. So, the FATHER draws to YAHSHUA, and YAHSHUA both calls and chooses those that are HIS church. We also know that the choosing is largely based upon whether or not those called accept the invitation.

And once you accept this calling and are chosen by YAHSHUA, your commission is to go and bring forth fruit in such a manner that your fruit should remain. The Apostle Paul was led in spirit to write a most commanding picture of the commission of the New Covenant church.

- Eph 4:1 **I** therefore, the prisoner of YAHWEH, **beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,** Eph 4:2 **With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;** Eph 4:3 **Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.** Eph 4:4 *There is **one body,** and **one Spirit,** even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

- Eph 4:5 **One Lord, one faith, one baptism**, Eph 4:6 **One ELOHIM and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.**

And, once again we notice how often the element of oneness is presented in ELOHIM's WORD. The Apostle continues.

- Eph 4:7 But **unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of HAMASHIAC.**

Each member has his/her measure of grace, their free gift of YAHSHUA, who called each member for the following purposes.

- Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of HAMASHIAC: Eph 4:13 **Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of ELOHIM, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of HAMASHIAC:**

So, YAHSHUA set up the hierarchy of HIS church as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, the work of the ministry and edifying of the body of HAMASHIAC. Verse 13 says it all. This body, the true church, is commissioned to “come in the unity of the faith and the knowledge of YAHSHUA”, developing perfect men and women.

- Eph 4:14 **That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;**

Wherever the true church is, its doctrines should be identical; not carried to and fro with differences expedited by Satan's followers. For, to deceive is to lie. To lie is of Satan.

- Eph 4:15 But **speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even HAMASHIAC:**

Now, in reading that there are apostles and prophets, we know who these are based upon ELOHIM's WORD. They are the foundation upon whom HIS church was and continues to be built. HE then said there were evangelists, pastors and teachers. Does that leave out any member that has been drawn, called and chosen? Well, let's allow the Apostle of YAHSHUA to speak on this.

- Eph 4:16 **From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth,** according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

From YAHSHUA, the entire church, as a whole body fitly joined together and compact, by what every joint supplies according to the measure of the gifts we all have been given to make increase of the body unto the edifying of itself, the whole body, in love. Now, that leaves no one out of the ministry of the church.

These are very powerful identifiers of what we should see when we find the true church. We shouldn't find various denominations all professing to be the church. We certainly know that all those denominations observing the holidays of the world could not possibly be the true church. Why; because they are established on a foundation of lies and not truths.

As we read through the MOST HIGH's WORD, one thing we must understand, ELOHIM does not leave anything to chance that we need to know about the truth. Even as we know the foundation on which the church is established, the church is told to "study to show itself approved". It would appear that based on the evidence of what destroyed the Old Covenant church in the wilderness, through HIS Apostles, YAHSHUA implemented better elements under the New Covenant, to ensure that individually, the called-out ones would not rely solely upon other men, regardless of their titles.

Now, it is evident, based on what little we have read tonight, that the COY lost its way and became a harlot, embracing the gods of the nations it encountered. We know this story well. In this lesson, we will concentrate more on the true church that we seek, the New Covenant church.

Remember, besides the identifying signs like the sabbaths and appointed times; there was written that the true church must endeavor to be of one doctrine. When the early church had disputes, it didn't run from the dispute; it tackled it head on.

- Act 15:1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. Act 15:2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question. Act 15:3 And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren. Act 15:4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and *of* the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that ELOHIM had done with them.

- Act 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses. Act 15:6 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

Here, the apostles and elders came together on the issue of circumcision to settle a major dispute amongst them. We know that the Apostle Paul was led to write further instructions to the New Covenant church on this subject, which some opposed, even as they do until this very day. However, notice what the Apostle Peter said about these things.

- 2Pe 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 2Pe 3:15 And **account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;** 2Pe 3:16 **As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.** 2Pe 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. 2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC. To him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

We should understand that the other apostles never outwardly bashed one another. In fact, as the Apostle Peter writes in verse 16, the “unlearned wrest onto their own destruction”. When we find the true church of today, will we see it coming together to settle doctrinal matters? Will we see it taking steps to ensure its oneness with YAHSHUA, the apostles, the prophets, and its fellow members? Like any well-built organization, this is where true leadership leads. The apostles did their part.

By my observations, we in modernity are lacking. For sure, there are many groups that have the key identifying signs, the sabbaths, some form of the appointed times and most of the other commandments, etc. Yet, there exists such great separations beyond these identifiers, where vast differences exist. Again, based on my observations, instead of coming together to settle these differences, we are led to remain separate in our various places of fellowship.

Some Christian Sabbath keepers believe in the physical circumcision and outwardly express disagreements with the Apostle Paul and the other apostles, knowing that they came to agreement on this. How can this be?

The Apostle Peter's written words should cause those who don't understand to communicate with others who do, and can share their fruit, the seed the MOST HIGH has planted within them. There should be NO disagreement within this true church on this.

Some Christian Sabbaths keepers call HAMASHIAC Jesus; some YAHSUA. If one studies the facts, will we somehow see different facts? Is the fact that the letter J is only 500 years old, according to all the authoritative information, not consistent amongst scholars and historians? Shouldn't this be pertinent information to the true church? Shouldn't spiritual reasonableness be a staple of the true church?

Within the Household of Faith, most continually rename ELOHIM's Feast of Weeks/Harvest as Pentecost, a Greek word meaning the fiftieth day. There are other differences that should be easily settled. Solomon testified to the following:

- **2Ch 6:34 If thy people go out to war against their enemies by the way that thou shalt send them, and they pray unto thee toward this city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name;**

- 2Ch 6:35 Then hear thou from the heavens their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause. 2Ch 6:36 If they sin against thee, (for *there is* no man which sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them over before *their* enemies, and they carry them away captives unto a land far off or near; 2Ch 6:37 Yet if they bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn and pray unto thee in the land of their captivity, saying, We have sinned, we have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly; 2Ch 6:38 If they return to thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, whither they have carried them captives, and pray toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, and toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name: 2Ch 6:39 Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee. 2Ch 6:40 Now, my ELOHIM, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and *let* thine ears *be* attent unto the prayer *that is made* in this place.

This is a powerful prayer Solomon offered after the temple was dedicated. He asked YAHWEH to hear and respond to prayers made towards Yerushalaim by his people when they were in foreign lands.

- 2Ch 7:12 And YAHWEH appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. 2Ch 7:13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; 2Ch 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

This was YAHWEH's answer. I have heard several Sabbath keepers speak negatively against groups who practice this custom. My question is, why wouldn't the true church all collectively keep this custom? We now know how that the original converts after the apostles consisted of individuals of both the Kingdom of Yehudah and Yisrael. They collectively represent the people of ELOHIM Solomon prayed about. Those whom I witnessed criticizing this practice so happen to have been descendants of this exclusive group.

In modernity, if the COY want the violence to stop, YAHWEH's answer gives us what is required. Notice that YAHWEH agreed that HE had chosen that house for HIMSELF. And yet we know that that house no longer exists. Why, because HE sent HIS army, the Romans, to destroy it. And yet, if we notice HIS words in verse 14, it is not about the house. It is about our humbling ourselves, praying, seeking HIM, and turning from our wicked ways. This is what the true church should be expounding, rather than complaining about different practices. Listen up, pastors.

There are many practices, attributable to various groups which unfortunately has caused great separations; even though the Sabbaths and appointed times are kept; even though the dietary laws are maintained.

Some groups truly don't have an understanding of the various forms of holy spirit presented in the MOST HIGH's WORD. Some groups are more knowledgeable on this. And yet, the leadership of those that have this understanding don't accept the primary form of the Spirit that YAHSHUA sent to teach HIS followers all of HIS sayings. Other doctrines, such as the identity of modern day physical Yisrael, whether Enoch is alive, whether Enoch wrote instructions for how we observe the Day of Atonement, whether the wicked will burn forever, whether foot washing is required at Passover, whether women's' heads should be covered, the name of the Father, etc., etc., etc., should be settled by the leaders of these groups, based only on the WORD of ELOHIM.

There should be no such disagreements in the true church.

- 1Co 1:10 Now **I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC**, that **ye all speak the same thing**, and *that* **there be no divisions among you**; but *that* **ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment**. 1Co 1:11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them *which are of the house* of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. 1Co 1:12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of HAMASHIAC. 1Co 1:13 Is HAMASHIAC divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

The Apostle Paul makes it clear. Wherever the true church is, the divisions should be eliminated. Each pastor, each leader, each lay person, indeed each person diligently seeking the true church should be operating in a true spirit of oneness that is acceptable to ELOHIM. Our personal opinions truly matter not. Instead, some have allowed their vain pride and egos to thwart the edification of the church.

One of my favorites, in trying to discredit another pastor through me, once allowed a rebuttal of my comments on the Holy Spirit by endorsing the teachings of trinitarians, which this pastor knew was not Biblical. I should add that we eventually spoke on this and this pastor exhibited regret and remorse about this. Unfortunately, the damage was already done.

Another, in refusing to back down from the Biblical fact that Enoch is dead, now claims Enoch is held “under chains of darkness” with demons. Imagine this fate for a man who “walked with ELOHIM”. And recently, this pastor claimed that Enoch is also god. I cannot use the name ELOHIM here because of the ridiculousness of this claim.

The Apostle Paul was moved to write the following:

- 1Co 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. 1Co 3:19 For **the wisdom of this world is foolishness with ELOHIM**. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. 1Co 3:20 And again, YAHWEH knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. 1Co 3:21 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; 1Co 3:22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; 1Co 3:23 And **ye are HAMASHIAC's; and HAMASHIAC is ELOHIM's**.

For the true church to become one will take courage from leadership, and all other members. This is the calling. The appointed times have been given to the Old and New Covenant churches for guidance in humility, strength, and opportunities for the true church to regroup. These go hand in hand. The selfish egos must go.

- Mat 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Just as faith without works is dead; so is strength without humility dead. Let us pray for our leaders as well as each other and march on until we become, that true church following the ways of YAHSHUA, rather than the ways of man.

- 1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that **ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 1Pe 1:19 But with the precious blood of HAMASHIAC, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**

This is what the entire church body should be focused on.

- 1Pe 1:20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 1Pe 1:21 Who by him do believe in ELOHIM, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in ELOHIM.

The entire body must think like and act like the first fruits that they each are in the hope of our resurrection, just like HAMASHIAC.

- 1Pe 1:22 Seeing **ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:** 1Pe 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

Yes, we are born or begotten again only by the incorruptible seed of the WORD of ELOHIM, which lives and abides forever. This is how the true church should be recognized.

- 2Pe 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 2Pe 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

This is how the true church should be embracing its oneness of spirit so that we each may be found in HAMASHIAC in peace, without spot and blameless.

Let the true church, wherever it may be, stand up and embrace the spirit of agreement, based upon the enduring WORD of ELOHIM, so that together, we are living and abiding until the end in HAMASHIAC, forever.

Shalom!