

## **Lesson No. 150 – The First Fruits, In An Age of Fruitlessness**

Hosted by Donald Crosswell  
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In this Sabbath evening, we will discuss Lesson No. 150 – The First Fruits In An Age of Fruitlessness.

We have just observed the final appointed time of the spring season, which before ELOHIM is the season of firsts. This season represents the beginning of ELOHIM's year. It represents the beginning of ELOHIM's great plan of salvation for the people of ELOHIM. And yet, it also encompasses what will happen in the end of ELOHIM's plan. And this is what we just completed as we observed the Feast of Weeks.

Many focused on the giving of ELOHIM's Holy Spirit to the apostles of YAHSHUA on this great appointed time over 2,000 years ago. And this is major and necessary to understanding the plan. And yet, there is so much more to discern for the people of ELOHIM, the Household of Faith.

I find myself more and more frustrated with the people of ELOHIM, including myself, because we seem to be more and more accepting external inputs that circumvent the original intent of ELOHIM's plan. I ask a fellow Brother the following question. Why do you and others continue to call ELOHIM's appointed time pentecost? He first stated that this is what it was called in the Old Covenant.

Brothers and Sisters, this answer by my Brother in HAMASHIAC, to me, represents what is the first thing wrong with the people of ELOHIM in modernity. This answer is typical of how we answer spiritual questions when we don't know the answer, and yet feel that we must provide some form of answer, even to the extent that we will distort the truth just so that we can maintain a projected mentality of being in the know.

I had to remind my Brother that the word pentecost is a Greek word that I once thought simply means fifty. My brother began to recall other New Covenant verses where the word fifty is included. This was simply a subconscious deferral of the question. As I was completing this study, I discovered that the Greek word for fifty in the New Covenant is “pentekonta”. The Greek word “pentecost” actually means the fiftieth day. The problem is that YAHWEH never called it “the fiftieth day”.

I informed my Brother that this day is ONLY named the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Harvest by YAHWEH. Some groups have even have named it the Feast of First Fruits and the Feast of Sabbaths. I understand the inferences of these. And yet, when will the Household of Faith simply accept what YAHWEH has given us? When will the people of ELOHIM stop being followers? When will we simply accept that ELOHIM, the family of YAHSUA and YAHWEH, knew THEIR plan, and gave THEIR plan just as THEY both desired, without mankind adding to it, or subtracting from it? When will we simply read THEIR words as given about this magnificent plan without our weak inputs?

One of the lessons we should have gleaned from our observance of this appointed time last week was in this scripture we read.

- Lev 23:17 **Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves** of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; **they shall be baked with leaven; they are the first fruits unto YAHWEH.**

Now, there was a very important part of this Feast of Weeks ritual that I’m not sure has received its appropriate attention. We know that the first fruits of each year’s early harvest were presented, or waved, before YAHWEH, to metaphorically represent the presentation of YAHSUA before FATHER ELOHIM to become the FIRST FRUITS from amongst mankind by and following HIS resurrection from the dead. This is absolutely confirmed by the apostle of YAHSUA, Paul (1 Corinthians 15:20 & 23).

Now, please correct me if I am adding to or subtracting from this verse. YAHWEH instructed the Children of Yisrael (COY) to bring out “two wave loaves”, bake them with leaven, the first fruits unto YAHWEH. So, whatever these “wave loaves” are, they ARE first fruits unto YAHWEH.

This fact alone must be looked upon perhaps in a far greater light than we have before. Yes, we look back to the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on this day 2,000 years ago. We know that they were the first converts to the New Covenant church of ELOHIM. However, notice that these two loaves were called “wave loaves”. What does that mean? Well, the sheaf of the first fruits, HAMASHIAC, also had to be waved before YAHWEH. Let’s follow-up on these two wave loaves.

- Lev 23:18 And **ye shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year**, and one young bullock, and two rams: they shall be *for* a burnt offering unto YAHWEH, with their meat offering, and their drink offerings, *even* an offering made by fire, of sweet savour unto YAHWEH. Lev 23:19 Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and **two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings**. Lev 23:20 And **the priest shall wave them with the bread of the first fruits for a wave offering before YAHWEH, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to YAHWEH for the priest.**

Before we seek an understanding of this, let’s first step back for a second.

- Lev 23:11 And **he shall wave the sheaf before YAHWEH, to be accepted for you:** on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

The sheaf of the first fruits was waved before YAHWEH to be accepted for the people of ELOHIM, the COY. We know that, under the New Covenant, we honor YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC’s becoming this FIRST FRUITS for those who have and will become modernity’s people of ELOHIM.

This is the Household of Faith. In verse 20, the two leavened loaves are called “the bread of the first fruits”.

Notice in verse 20 that the offerings of verses 18 and 19 also had to be waved, along with the “bread of the first fruits” and the two lambs. But notice why they were to be waved; to be holy to YAHWEH. So, the sheaf of the first fruits was waved for the people. However, the “bread of the first fruits”, along with the two lambs and the seven lambs without blemish, were to be waved before YAHWEH, to be holy unto HIM. In this package of offerings are included the “bread of the first fruits”, the seven lambs without blemish, and two lambs.

We know that, based on previous studies, the “two wave loaves” represent the binding together of members of the COY and of the nations, called Gentiles, to form the foundation of those drawn, called and chosen by FATHER ELOHIM unto HIS SON YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC, the Household of Faith. This binding together was accomplished through the commissions given to the apostles.

Lambs are generally metaphoric of the righteousness of YAHWEH. The COY, and now, the Household of Faith, were and are expected to walk in righteousness as lambs. Now we see these two lambs, which appear to reflect the spiritual nature applied to and expected of the two wave loaves by YAHWEH, to those two folds that under the New Covenant, have now become one fold.

The number seven consistently appears in scripture as a time of completion. As we remember, the plan of ELOHIM was designed around ELOHIM’s Sabbaths, THEIR completion of creations. As such, the seven lambs without blemish may represent the time period, 7,000 years, during which the two lambs, the “bread of the first fruits”, will be drawn, called and chosen, until the ultimate Sabbath rest, the return of YAHSHUA and the ingathering of HIS saints, represented by these two loaves and two lambs.

Let me explain. Each year as we observe the Feast of Weeks, we remember that this was when ELOHIM's Spirit was given to the apostles. However, we should also understand that this day reminds us of who we are and our responsibility before ELOHIM. The Household of Faith is what was represented by the two loaves. It is the binding together of the two folds unto YAHSHUA. So, this day should remind us that we are now metaphorically waved, on this day, as first fruits to be holy unto ELOHIM.

What does that mean? The two lambs should remind us that we are consecrated and separated unto YAHSHUA HAMSAHIAC as first fruits unto ELOHIM. We know through additional study that the Household of Faith must endure in their physical tabernacles 7,000 years, before the true fulfillment of what is pictured on this wonderful Feast, also a type of "the Year of Yubilee". This, I believe, is why there were seven unblemished lambs. These seven lambs also teach us of the fact that the Household of Faith shall be covered by the precious blood of the LAMB of ELOHIM for those 7,000 years of endurance.

The Apostle Peter wrote this.

- 2Pe 3:12 **Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of ELOHIM**, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 2Pe 3:13 Nevertheless **we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.**

Brethren, isn't this also what we look forward to as we celebrate on this great day. But we have to get there first.

- 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;

The seven lambs were to be unblemished. The two wave loaves were to be holy unto YAHWEH. The Household of Faith is to be diligent, so that it may “be found of HIM in peace, without spot, and blameless”.

In verse 15 the Apostle reminds us how we do this. We account the longsuffering of YAHSHUA as salvation. HIS longsuffering has cleared a 7,000-year path for the Household of Faith to prepare to see YAHSHUA as HE is. As the FIRST FRUITS, HE is now our salvation, who mediates on our behave.

- Rom 8:34 *Who is he that condemneth? It is **HAMASHIAC that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of ELOHIM, who also maketh intercession for us.***

Yes, HE is our salvation, through HIS longsuffering and resurrection. And HE now makes intercession for us, so that we can maintain. Think of this. We read where when we see HIM, we will see HIM as HE is, because we will be like HIM. Well, this process of being “like HIM” is what the protocols of the Feast of Weeks is all about. We have been given the tools we need to be lambs for seven weeks, unblemished lambs. This is why this appointed time is called both the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Harvest. YAHSHUA knew how difficult that task is. HE paid a price through overcoming, so that HE could now help us through HIS intercession, if we maintain our faith.

- 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.***

The Apostle reminds us how important it is to understand what the Feast of Weeks is truly all about. It teaches us to whom we belong. And yet there is a spirit of error in the world that seeks to lead us from our destiny by our falling from our own stedfastness. The Greek word for stedfastness is “sterigmos”, which means firm condition of mind.

This is the only instance of this word in scripture. And as we should discern, it is of vast importance to our understanding of who we truly are. It is our “firm condition of mind” that is the determining factor of whether or not we shall or shall not endure.

This is why we are constantly reminded by the apostles of the fact that we must be diligent in order to endure until the end. If we maintain the proper “firm condition of mind”, we are able, through YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC, to ward off the spirit of error, and to remain the first fruits unto ELOHIM until the end.

We, of the Household of Faith, are of the first fruits of the New Covenant. Another of YAHSHUA’s Apostles further cements this, as the Apostle Yochanan spoke so passionately about our current status.

- 1Jn 3:1 **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of ELOHIM: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.**

This world is fruitless because it knows not ELOHIM. And, the world continues to sow different other forms of tasteless fruit in order to dilute what we have been given in order to maintain our “firm condition of mind”. Now, the Apostle makes our status clear.

- 1Jn 3:2 Beloved, **now are we the sons of ELOHIM, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**

So, first he tells this group that “now are we the sons of ELOHIM”. In Leviticus we read about two wave loaves that are “the first fruits unto YAHWEH”. What are we reading here? These scriptures describing the “first fruits” and “the sons of ELOHIM”, are given in a present tense. This status is not future. And yet, the Apostle teaches us what we are consistently taught throughout ELOHIM’s WORD.

He says, “it doth not yet appear what we shall be”. HE then said “we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is”.

The Apostle admits that there is a future time that he and others shall reap a benefit so awesome, to actually be like HAMASHIAC.

Yes, through additional study we know that the true fulfillment of what is stated is future. And yet, both scriptures present the fact that there are two wave loaves that YAHWEH considers to now be HIS first fruits, and, a people the Apostle Yochanan considers now to be “the sons of ELOHIM”. However, notice the Apostle’s following words.

- 1Jn 3:3 And **every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**

YAHWEH said that the wave loaves are first fruits unto HIM. The two lambs were to be unblemished. This is the essence of the Feast of Weeks. Our state of mind must be that of being unblemished by this fruitless world, so that we endure and appear before ELOHIM at the appointed time unspotted. This is our hope. The Apostle Yochanan said to his recipients, “every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure”. We maintain this through our continued growth in grace and knowledge.

And, as we continue to grow in ELOHIM’s WORD, we continue to recognize the forces and how HIS WORD has defined these forces. Consider this. Metaphorically, we are now the sons and daughters of ELOHIM, the first fruits.

The error of the wicked is represented by something that attempts to infiltrate our minds, our thinking, our spirits. This attempts to interfere with the “firm condition of mind” that is established once we enter into a covenant with YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC. The Apostle Peter told us to beware of this spirit of error. The Apostle Yochanan continues.



- 1Jn 3:4 **Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.** 1Jn 3:5 And ye know that **he was manifested to take away our sins;** and in him is no sin.

Who is this, who “was manifested to take away our sins”? It also says that “in HIM is no sin”. Perhaps some tire of me teaching on this. However, I am amazed at the many ways ELOHIM’s WORD consistently teaches us of THEIR plan of salvation. This is HAMASHIAC, that has no sin. This is HAMASHIAC that takes away our sins. How does HE accomplish this?

- Heb 9:28 So **HAMASHIAC was once offered to bear the sins of many;** and **unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**

Yes, HE is our salvation. Notice how when HE returns, HE will return “without sin unto salvation”. So, if HE is returning without sin, did HE leave with sin? ELOHIM’s WORD always provides us an answer, if we remain diligent.

- 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.**

HAMASHIAC came to take away and bear our sins. Once HE does this, our sins are remembered no more. We know that the word remission means forgiveness. So, by one offering, HE takes away the sins of the faithful by HIS forgiveness of those sins. HE then remembers those sins no more. When HE returns, it will be without those forgotten sins.

However, there is a catch that we must always remind ourselves as we navigate this world of fruitlessness.

- 1Jn 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

Brethren, we have studied enough together to know that this is speaking of willful sin. This is why we have an intercessor, HAMASHIAC.

- 1Jn 3:7 Little children, **let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.** 1Jn 3:8 **He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of ELOHIM was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.**

HAMASHIAC was manifested as the SON of ELOHIM in order to destroy the works of Satan. How did YAHSHUA destroy the works of the devil?

- Heb 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, **he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;** Heb 2:15 **And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

And in so doing, HE has provided us all that we need to continually seek to be like HIM.

- 1Jn 3:23 And **this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.** 1Jn 3:24 And **he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him.** And **hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.**

We must believe on the MESSIAH's name. We must love one another, even though at times this will be "tough love". We must keep HIS commandments. We must allow HIS Spirit to abide in us. This is how we maintain our "firm condition of mind".

Now, there are all sorts of confusion in the Household of Faith about this spirit which HE has given us. And there is duality attached to this statement. First, YAHSHUA plainly told us this about how HE abides in us.

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

HE told us that “it is the spirit that quickeneth”. Well, what does that mean? Quickeneth is translated from the Greek word “zoopoieo”, which means to quicken, make alive, and/or to give life. HE closes this statement by declaring that HIS words spoken to HIS disciples “are spirit, and are life”.

Notice a couple of examples of this word “zoopoieo”.

- Rom 8:9 But **ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of ELOHIM dwell in you.** Now if any man have not the Spirit of HAMASHIAC, he is none of his. Rom 8:10 And if HAMASHIAC *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

The confusion that exists is identifying what this spirit is that dwells in us.

- Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up YAHSHUA from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up HAMASHIAC from the dead **shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.**

ELOHIM the FATHER shall also quicken our mortal bodies by HIS spirit that dwells in us. I.e., HE shall make alive our mortal bodies by YAHSHUA’s words, which are spirit and are life.

- 2Co 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but **the spirit giveth life.**

The letter here is the law. We should now know what is this spirit that giveth life, or that quickeneth. Notice what the Apostle Peter declared unto us.

- Joh 6:64 But there are some of you that believe not. For YAHSHUA knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, **that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.** Joh 6:66 **From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.** Joh 6:67 Then said YAHSHUA unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

Now this is interesting. Right after YAHSHUA declared the power of HIS words, there were many who had followed HIM that believed not and stopped walking with HIM. He then asked the twelve were they also going away. Notice Peter's response.

- Joh 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? **thou hast the words of eternal life.**

Peter and the other disciples believed that HIS words were of eternal life. As we have now clearly understood that we are now the first fruits, these are the words that must dwell in each of us as we navigate this world of fruitlessness. And why do I call this world one of fruitlessness?

In fact, this is an oxymoron. Why, because this world does in fact contain all types of fruit. The problem that exists is in identifying the fruit that seeks to cause our falls from a "firm condition of mind", our steadfastness in the words of YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC. The prophets spoke about this fruit.

- Hos 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for *it is* time to seek YAHWEH, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

The Prophet Hosea pleaded with the House of Yisrael just prior to its captivity by the hand of the Assyrians to sow righteousness, reap in mercy, and break up its fallow ground. It was time to seek YAHWEH so that HE would come and rain righteousness upon them. They needed this desperately because of the following.

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

They had plowed wickedness, reaped iniquity, and eaten “the fruit of lies”. Why? Because they trusted in their own way in the multitude of mighty men. This is the fruit that still permeates this world of modernity. And why is this such a problem? YAHSUA’s words teach us.

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

Satan is the father of lies, in which there is no truth. If we follow a lie, we are technically following Satan. According to the world “he knows when you’ve been good or bad”. This is the biggest lie that most of the world of Christianity allows into their homes and teach to their children during their most festive time of the Roman year. This is the fruit that is in the world. Brethren, this is fruitlessness. This is Satan’s world.

- 2Jn 1:6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. 2Jn 1:7 **For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that YAHSUA HAMASHIAC is come in the flesh.** This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

This sounds to the world of Christianity a simple doctrine.

And yet it walks not in HIS commandments. It has chosen to follow mighty men caught up in themselves, and yet, are led by the father of lies. They are taught, simply believe in YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC, and you shall be saved. However, the Household of Faith, the first fruits unto YAHSHUA, knows that those that accept the teachings of the Roman-based Christianity believe in false messiahs. They do not truly confess YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC. What they believe in is fruitlessness.

I once mentioned how that someone told me that the Egyptians lived for 9,000 years and never needed a jail cell because they were so perfect. Fruitlessness. Everywhere we look, there is fruitlessness. What is fruitlessness? It is the fruit of lies.

We who think we are of the first fruits must be very careful in our walks in the midst of this fruitless world. When HAMASHIAC brought truth into the world, it was not well received.

- Joh 8:45 And **because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.** Joh 8:46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And **if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?** Joh 8:47 **He that is of ELOHIM heareth ELOHIM's words:** ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of ELOHIM.

YAHSHUA has told us the truth in HIS words that are spirit and they are life. They are the words of eternal life. However, this world has not truly believed in HIS words. Thus, HE knew how difficult it would be for those two loaves to maintain as lambs throughout those 7,000 years. Which is why, as HE prepared to leave this world, HE promised HIS disciples another form of spirit, a helper.

- Joh 14:15 **If ye love me, keep my commandments.** Joh 14:16 And **I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;**

- Joh 14:17 *Even* **the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**

HE promised them the Spirit of Truth. Why? So that the FATHER may abide with you forever. Remember, it was the FATHER's words that YAHSHUA brought unto those who would become HIS.

- Joh 14:23 YAHSHUA answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

This is powerful. By keeping YAHSHUA's words, the FATHER loves us, comes unto us, and abides with us; through YAHSHUA's words of life. Sadly, we each have friends who fail to see that all of YAHSHUA's words are to be kept, particularly at the Passover.

- Joh 14:24 **He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings:** and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. Joh 14:25 These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you.

YAHSHUA confirms the source of HIS words. We read earlier and have often read of how the two wave loaves, the first fruits, will believe on HIM through the words of HIS disciples, who later became HIS apostles. Herein was and is this process of giving them HIS words.

- Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Spirit of Truth is a Comforter, sent to the first fruits, the sons and daughters of ELOHIM, to do something very amazing. It shall teach them "all things". It shall "bring all things into your remembrance".

It shall teach you “whatsoever HE has said unto you”. These words were first taught unto HIS disciples/apostles, the last of which was the Apostle Paul. And as we read earlier, HE expects all others drawn and called by the FATHER to be chosen by believing in HAMASHIAC through the words of these apostles.

This is the ultimate protocol for the first fruits. ELOHIM’s WORD consistently provides the first fruits examples of these protocols, such as the following.

- Rev 1:1 **The Revelation of YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC, which ELOHIM gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:**

Remember, the Comforter’s commission is to teach and bring to our remembrance all things. Yochanan was one of the chief apostles. He no doubt had read the prophets words about the coming Day of YAHWEH.

Here, the Spirit of Truth, carrying the words of YAHSHUA, who received them from FATHER ELOHIM, both reminded Yochanan of what he had previously read, and taught him additional facts to further clarify major elements of ELOHIM’s plan of salvation. This is why we are admonished by the Apostle Paul on a very vital protocol for our walks in this world of fruitlessness.

- 2Ti 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto ELOHIM, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

These words become more powerful to us each and every day that we endure this world of fruitlessness. We must study to show ourselves approved. If we do not study for ourselves, the Comforter cannot individually teach us all things, because we have short-circuited the process.



We have limited his teaching. And so, “all things” to us becomes “some things”, because we have limited ourselves by what we have read. The more we study, the more of YAHSHUA’s words we now have in our memory banks. We study to show ourselves approved unto ELOHIM. Notice the following.

- 1Th 2:4 But **as we were allowed of ELOHIM to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but ELOHIM, which trieth our hearts.**

There continue to be so many differences taught within the Household of Faith. It can become difficult to know who to trust and who to follow. You all remember my story about “Croswell, follow the trunk”. I.e., follow YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC. Some might teach that this verse refers only to the apostles. And this is true, but only in part. What is important here is that we understand that ELOHIM must trust us with the gospel. As this trust is developed, we receive additional teaching by HIS Comforter.

And by us, this is collectively the entire body of first fruits, and sons and daughters of ELOHIM. The apostles were the first of these and given the awesome commission to set the tone for all those to follow. They accepted this trust and spoke, not as pleasing men, but ELOHIM, which trieth our hearts. Let’s follow-up on this.

- Mat 5:13 **Ye are the salt of the earth:** but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

We can lose our savor by not diligently studying the WORD of ELOHIM. This is why we are the salt. We are caretakers of this WORD. And as the Comforter brings all things back to our memories, YAHSHUA gives further guidance.

- Mat 5:14 **Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Mat 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Mat 5:16 **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

Are these words of YAHSHUA only for HIS original disciples? Do you not know that all first fruits are the salt of the earth? All of the sons and daughters of ELOHIM must let their light shine.

My wife and I went through our annual air condition checkup earlier this year. The company owner mentioned as we briefly spoke that one of his sons was named Jacob. I asked if this had spiritual significance. He said yes. I mentioned that in the Hebrew, the name was Yacob, not for him to change his sons name, but so that he was informed about the change because of the 15<sup>th</sup> century European creation of the letter J. He was very appreciative of this knowledge. End of story.

This is one way to let our lights shine. We share what we have studied to those who probably have not. We know that this can get complicated, but our commission is bear fruit regardless, but in humility. Note this.

- 1Pe 1:13 Wherefore **gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC;** 1Pe 1:14 **As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance;** 1Pe 1:15 But **as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;** 1Pe 1:16 Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.**

The Apostle Peter is not talking to only the other apostles here, but to the entire Household of Faith. The Household of Faith is under attack by seemingly unseen forces. The wave loaves were presented before YAHWEH to be holy.

Our holiness begins with our repentance and baptism. It continues with our studying to show ourselves approved. It continues with the ongoing trust we have secured by our commitment to the WORD of ELOHIM. We must be sober in our minds.

- 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 ELOHIM,** which liveth and abideth forever. 1Pe 1:24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 1Pe 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

The first fruits are metaphorically born again, or, begotten again, by the WORD of ELOHIM, which endureth forever. In these unsettling times of modernity, this must be the sword by which we lean on. This is why the COY are in captivity in modernity. When tough times came, they forgot that their sword was not in mankind, but YAHWEH.

So, we are the first fruits. We are the sons and daughters of ELOHIM. We are holy unto YAHSHUA. We are taught all things by the Comforter, based on our own individual levels of studying ELOHIM's WORD. And yet, we exist in this world of fruitlessness. And less we forget, whatever the path we walk with the fruit we have been given, there is responsibility.

- 1Pe 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of HAMASHIAC, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of ELOHIM resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 1Pe 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 1Pe 4:16 Yet **if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify ELOHIM on this behalf.**

- 1Pe 4:17 **For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of ELOHIM:** and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of ELOHIM? 1Pe 4:18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 1Pe 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of ELOHIM commit the keeping of their souls *to him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

As it was with the COY of the Old Covenant, we are known by ELOHIM. Even in the midst of the ignorance of this world, and, even in the midst of what we have all witnessed within the Household of Faith, we must commit to keeping our souls in well doing. And so, if judgement begins first with us, we have additional instructions.

- 1Co 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. 1Co 5:12 For **what have I to do to judge them also that are without?** do not ye judge them that are within? 1Co 5:13 But **them that are without ELOHIM judgeth.** Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

Within the Household of Faith, we must judge those things that are contrary to the WORD of ELOHIM. This is not an easy task, nor is it supposed to be. In this world of fruitlessness, this is perhaps the most difficult task as we face others, particularly those fellow Brethren within the Household of Faith. Those outside of the Household of Faith, actually, are not our concern, except to always show love and to allow our light to shine.

- 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.**

No comments needed here except to say we should follow the Apostle's advice.

- 1Co 4:4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. 1Co 4:5 Therefore **judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of ELOHIM.**

We remember how that we have not yet been given that other part that shall lead us to perfection. The all things that we have access to through the Spirit of Truth is ELOHIM's WORD. Remember, YAHSHUA said HIS words are spirit and life. This is what we have. We don't judge those that are outside of the Household of Faith, because we know the future because of what ELOHIM has given this to us in HIS WORD. The Apostle Paul further writes.

- 2Ti 2:24 And **the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,** 2Ti 2:25 **In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if ELOHIM peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;** 2Ti 2:26 And **that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.**

The first fruits are chosen to teach. And yet not with strife. This must be done with gentleness, patience and in meekness. Now, let's understand that as human beings this is not and never will be easy, particularly amongst other members of the Household of Faith.

Amongst those that are without, we are to totally understand that they lack knowledge, and yet, will have their opportunity to come to the knowledge of the truth. So, we must not strive with them. We must be gentle with them. When apt to teach them, we must be patient at all times with them. We must use meekness, recognizing that they are opposing themselves.

And, we must recognize that it is only ELOHIM that can grant them repentance to the acknowledgement of the truth.

Now sadly, the fruitlessness can also be found to an extent within the Household of Faith. Our charge must be to not allow it be our actions that cause this. There is a formula. It was first given to the disciples.

- Luk 8:10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of ELOHIM: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. Luk 8:11 Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of ELOHIM.** Luk 8:12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. Luk 8:13 They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. Luk 8:14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection. Luk 8:15 But **that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.**

I have seen several loved ones that were once a part of the Household of Faith fall away. Perhaps some us know others, and that it was primarily because they began to consistently rely on written sources, outside of what we know to be the WORD of ELOHIM. The seed we must sow is the WORD of ELOHIM. The father of lies is here to choke the WORD of ELOHIM. Our trust must be in what we know to be the WORD of ELOHIM. There are many source documents other than the WORD of ELOHIM in this world. When we are drawn, called and chosen to be the salt of the earth, we have been trusted with something more precious than fine gold. It has been tried. YAHSHUA cautioned us.

- Luk 8:16 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth *it* under a bed; but setteth *it* on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. Luk 8:17 For **nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest**; neither *any thing* hid, that shall not be known and come abroad. Luk 8:18 **Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.**

If our standing is on good ground, we are keeping the WORD of ELOHIM only. This we must treasure, as though our very lives depend upon it. The Apostle Paul makes this declaration.

- Rom 8:35 **Who shall separate us from the love of HAMASHIAC? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?** Rom 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Rom 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. Rom 8:38 For **I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Rom 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of ELOHIM, which is in HAMASHIAC YAHSHUA our Lord.**

These are the facts of life that we must overcome. It is happening right now all about us. And yet, we must never forget the lessons we should have just learned. We are now the first fruits. We already have the atonement. We simply need to be consistently reminded of this and channel this in our spirit (our minds), so that we can, with HIS assistance, continue to learn how to be like HIM.

We are not to simply wait until the last trumpet to be the first fruits.

We have to learn how to be what the appointed time called the Feast of Weeks actually reminds us to be; the first fruits, now. We must maintain a “firm condition of mind”. How do we do this?

- 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 never stop growing in grace and in the knowledge of our MESSIAH, YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC. But notice the order; grace and knowledge. We know that grace is the unmerited favor we have received through the longsuffering of one man, YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC. We receive this grace once we repent and are baptized into YAHSHUA. And then we must grow in our knowledge. And to me, the first most important thing we must learn from HIM is how to be graceful.

- Mat 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, **Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

Knowing that the grace of ELOHIM is our receipt of unmerited favor. YAHSHUA instructs us and commands us that we maintain a “condition of mind” that both ensures that we convert only unto HIM as though we are little children. Once we are converted, HE has expectations of each of us throughout the WORD of ELOHIM.

- Rev 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of ELOHIM; Rev 3:15 I know thy works, **that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.** Rev 3:16 So then **because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.**

This is something we studied a while back.



We have discussed quite a bit about the spirit of “let’s agree to disagree” that has risen amongst the members of the Household of Faith. This is lukewarmness. When the apostles encountered disagreements amongst themselves, ELOHIM’s WORD documents how they resolved them. They immediately came together, prayed, and allowed the Holy Spirit to lead them into all truth.

- Rev 3:20 Behold, **I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**

We know how that YAHSHUA comes and sups with us. HE showed this as HE led HIS disciples in how they must walk in their time of fruitlessness. Let’s allow HIS first instructions to them also be our guide.

- Mat 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Mat 5:4 Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Mat 5:5 Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Mat 5:6 Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Mat 5:7 Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Mat 5:8 Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see ELOHIM. Mat 5:9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of ELOHIM. Mat 5:10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Mat 5:11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Mat 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

These were the first words of guidance YAHSHUA gave unto HIS disciples. Throughout our walk in this world of fruitlessness, these words must be our mindsets as well, if we are to endure unto the end.

And we must do so with great mindfulness of mercy, knowing that those all about us have been deceived and generally have no clue of the words you may speak unto them.

As such, we must revert back to these words of mercy, remembering these words that must guide our mindsets until we get to the next appointed time, Trumpets.

- Eph 2:8 For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that **not of yourselves: it is the gift of ELOHIM**: Eph 2:9 **Not of works, lest any man should boast**. Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, **created in HAMASHIAC YAHSHUA unto good works, which ELOHIM hath before ordained that we should walk in them**.

We don't boast about our gifts. We are saved only by grace. We walk in the good works as given us in HAMASHIAC. And yet, we must remember our surroundings. We know that this world is a world of fruitlessness. And even within the Household of Faith, a level of this fruitlessness has permeated the body. The fruit of friends and family has permeated the body. The fruit of employers has permeated the body. And, just like the COY under the Old Covenant, the fruit of pastors and teachers who rely not fully on the words of YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC, has permeated the body. We close with the Apostle Yochanon' warning to us all.

- 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**.

Now, we must all admit, this is not always so easy. And yet, if we follow the formula, we have been given the spiritual tools to make it easier.

- 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.

Brethren, how do we do the will of ELOHIM? Let's repeat a very familiar teaching by one of YAHSHUA's apostles.

- Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of ELOHIM, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of ELOHIM, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; Eph 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of ELOHIM: Eph 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

We simply must put on the armor of ELOHIM and be led by the Spirit of Truth. By this, we navigate this age of fruitlessness and maintain our "firm condition of mind".

Let us continually strive to do the will of ELOHIM, and ELOHIM alone.

Shalom!!!