



SHOFTIM – DELIVERIES

Deuteronomy 16:18 to 21:9

Isaiah 51:12 to 52:12

Matthew 5:38-42, 18:15-20

Acts 3:13-26; 7:35-53

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

1 Timothy 5:17-22

Hebrews 10:28-31

The Hebrew word *shoftim* is plural for the singular Hebrew word *shapat* (Strong's H8199) meaning *to govern* or *to rule*. This study directly points to Jesus Christ/*Yeshua Ha Mashiach* our Deliverer and Redeemer, and our desire for His indwelling presence to rule and reign in our lives. For *Yeshua* to have Lordship in our lives, we must first understand His moral principles to walk in them.

In earlier lessons, we noticed how Moses began Deuteronomy with the witnesses of *heaven* and *earth*, and when Moses closes Deuteronomy he does so with these same witnesses.

What Is The Witness Of Heaven And Earth?

“This is He who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMashiach; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one” (1 John 5:6-8 KJV/NKJV).

As a believer's testimony rests on these two witnesses, this scripture is important, because if we do not understand what is included in the heavenly witness, we will not be *legal* on the earth. Therefore, Moses carefully went over the details *so it would go well for us*. The very depth of who we are in *Yeshua*, the basis of our trust, belief, and walk in God/*Elohim* rests solely on these two witnesses. If we are missing the heavenly witnesses, we will bear false witness on the earth *thus only have a form of religion, as we have denied the power, which comes from heaven* (Deuteronomy 4:26; 31:28).

📖 **2 Timothy 3:1-5** “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than

lovers of God/Elohim, *having a form of godliness but denying its power.*”

The *heavenly witnesses* are: The Father, The Word, and The Holy Spirit *and the three are One*. The *earthly witnesses* are: The Spirit, The Water, and The Blood – *and these three also agree as One*. Therefore, both witnesses are one and the same. That is referred to as *The Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30).

🏰 **1 John 5:6-8** “This is He who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ/Yeshua *HaMashiach*; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the *Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one*. *And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one*.” (KJV/NKJV)

Verse 7 in 1 John 5:6-8 has been removed from many Modern Greek translations. Thus countless people have innocently fed on a diet of an earthly witness without the witnesses of heaven. Therefore, many of God’s/Elohim sheep have gone astray, and are weak and sick among us (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). Believers need to have the witnesses of *both* (the three witnesses of heaven *and* the three witnesses of earth) to have a strong foundation on which to stand and build their trust. Otherwise, they build on shifting sand.

🏰 **Matthew 7:21-27** “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father **in heaven**. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them **[on earth]**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine **[from heaven]**, and does not do them **[on earth]**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

When a believer enters into Covenant with Yeshua, their commitment to Him initiates the power of His *heavenly* Word to activate in them. Therefore, with heaven as their witness, it is imperative a believer’s walk be in agreement with their confession. If a believer’s walk is not in agreement with the Word, *they* hinder the blessing. That is why Moses made sure God’s/Elohim people understood the Covenant they made in Him (John 5:46-47; Hebrews 11:24-26).

The Word speaks very strongly about a believer’s walk being one in agreement with the heavenly witness on earth, as shown through the prophet Hosea. Hosea’s life literally modeled this understanding for us. In Hosea Chapter 2, the prophet describes the Bride as having a spirit of covetousness: *lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life* that led her into adultery. She had used His gifts in her worship of Baal – *worshiped the host of heaven*. Therefore, she could not see how God/Elohim had given her His grain, new wine, and oil or that He had multiplied her silver and gold, as her heart had been disloyal. Thus God/Elohim said He will

remove His grain *in its time* and His new wine *in its season*, and remove His wool and linen (priestly garments) causing her to cease from her worship of Baal's feasts (Christmas, Easter, Rosh Hashanah, and Simchat Torah), Baal's new moons (worship host of heaven and the high places), Baal's Sabbath (the replacement of the seventh day), and all other Baal appointed feasts. Then God/*Elohim* will bring her into the wilderness where He will speak comfort to her and give her vineyards. There she will sing as in the days of her youth (the Song of Moses). She will call Him Husband and no longer remember the names of Baal (2 Kings 17:16; Hosea 2:1-23).

In that day, He will make a Covenant and say,

*"I will betroth you to Me forever;
Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in loving kindness and mercy;
I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness,
And you shall know the LORD/The Word/Yahweh [in the Flesh].
It shall come to pass in that day that I will answer," says the LORD/Yahweh;
"I will answer **the heavens**, and they shall answer **the earth**.
The earth shall answer [bearing the fruit of the witnesses of the two]
with grain, with new wine, and with oil;
They [the two witness of heaven and earth as One] shall answer Jezreel.
Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth,
And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy;
Then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' "
And they shall say, 'You are my God/*Elohim*!' "
(Hosea 2:19-23; Deuteronomy 17:2-7).*

A believer's commitment is the same as the Israelites' commitment on Mount Sinai. Contained within the DNA of the Israelites at that time were all their future offspring, including believers today, as they are *part of Israel* through the seed of Abraham - the seed of Yeshua (Galatians 3:7; 29). In essence, we also stood before God/*Elohim* and proclaimed in one voice,

*"We will do, and we will obey." Meaning, "Please rule and reign in us."
Exodus 24:3,7*

🔥 **Hebrews 4:2** "For unto us was the gospel preached [*Mosaic Covenant spoken at Mount Sinai*], as well as unto them [*the Children of Israel at Mount Sinai*]; but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith [*obedience to the instruction given*] in them that heard it."

Sanctification – The Redemption Of Our Souls

🔥 **Matthew 6:10** "Your kingdom come. Your will be done **on earth** as it is **in heaven**."

Today, led by the Spirit of the Holy One, many are returning to the prevailing standard of God's/*Elohim* Gospel given to Moses. The purpose and fullness of inheritance after salvation is to walk a sanctified redeemed lifestyle. This is the picture of Yeshua's priesthood in the *Davidic* Covenant. As part of Israel today, believers learning His ways of holiness through the Spirit of

Yeshua, partake in the redemptive blessings. Obedience (*faith in action*) brings the blessings. Disobedience blocks His Blessing and opens the door to curses. That is why Moses very carefully shared the Tabernacle pattern in detail so there would be no misunderstanding or misinterpretation. It was when Israel ignored these instructions that the people became ensnared in compromise and idolatry, which consequently left them scattered throughout the nations and as a result, not able to establish the Land of their inheritance.

Believers, who are returning, desire to take hold of their inheritance, just as the Jewish people are today. However, the instructions of inheritance are eternal, thus remain the same. Therefore, the Words Moses spoke are vital to our very survival in the land – still applicable for all God's/*Elohim's* people today.

📖 **Hebrews 6:1-6** “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ/*Messiah*, let us [*all believers*] go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God/*Elohim*, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God/*Elohim* permits. For it is impossible for those [*believers*] who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God/*Elohim*, and put Him to an open shame.”

📖 **Deuteronomy 18:9** “When you come into the land which the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations.”

Three times in the book of Acts, the Jerusalem Council exhorted and encouraged Paul to preach *the same Gospel Moses shared at Mount Sinai to the remnant returning from the Nations*. That was the Council's prevailing recommendation that still remains in effect as our standard today (Acts 15:20-21, 29; 21:25).

📖 **Revelation 15:3** “They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God/*Elohim*, and the song of the Lamb [*one and the same song*], saying: ‘Great and marvelous *are* Your works, Lord God/*Elohim* Almighty! Just and true *are* Your ways, O King of the saints!’”

Judges

📖 **Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 17:8-13** “You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* is giving you.”

Moses reminds the Israelites of the protocol for settling disputes. He appointed a practice for the judges and officials (one from each of the twelve tribes) to establish good and fair rulings so as not to pervert the Word through partiality or bribes, as “*bribes blind the eyes of the wise and twist the words of the righteous*” (Exodus 18:19-22).

Asherah Worship – The gods of Babylon

🌿 **Deuteronomy 16:21-22** “You shall not plant for yourself any tree, as a wooden image [*an Asherah pole*], near the altar which you build for yourself to the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*. You shall not set up a *sacred* pillar, which the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* hates.”

🌿 **Jeremiah 10: 3-5** “For the customs of the peoples are futile; for one cuts a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple. They are upright, like a palm tree, and they cannot speak; they must be carried.”

Believers are not to have any foreign Asherah worship in their midst. The temple today is dwelling in the hearts of God's/*Elohim* people, as is the altar. To worship God/*Elohim* by any other means or by way of an Asherah symbol would profane His Name thus become an abomination before Him. In *Eikev*, two studies' previously, we learned about totem poles and various forms of occult worship. Wooden carved images, church steeples, the obelisk in Washington DC, and even the Statue of Liberty in New York are all forms of Asherah poles from occult practices originating in Babylon. Asherah, also called *the queen of heaven*, was the supreme goddess of the Canaanites, the female counterpart of the Babylonian sun god Baal. An obelisk was said to be a petrified ray of the sun disk and that the sun god existed within it. That is the background behind why a star was chosen for the top of a Christmas tree (*See the study Eikev in the Deuteronomy section for more information www.sheepfoldgleaning.com*).



After the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, Khedive Ismail, the ruler of Egypt, promised the United States an obelisk. That gift was sent to New York, and in January 1881 the Egyptian obelisk was raised before more than 10,000 jubilant New Yorkers. William Maxwell Evarts, then U.S. Secretary of State prophetically declared,

“Who indeed can tell what our nation will do if any perversity is possible of realization; and yet this obelisk may ask us, ‘Can you expect to flourish forever? Can you expect wealth to accumulate and man not decay? Can you think that the soft folds of luxury are to wrap themselves closer and closer around this nation and the pith and vigor of its manhood know no decay? Can it creep over you and yet the nation know no decrepitude?’ These are questions that may be answered in the time of the obelisk but not in ours.”

Warning Against Syncretism *The Mixing Of Pagan Beliefs With Holiness* Deuteronomy 18:9-14

In the study *Balak* (Numbers 22:1-25:17), we learned how the early Church fathers took the Gospel, given at Mount Sinai, and separated this gift from Yeshua, the embodiment of the Gospel/Word. Blending unclean Babylonian pagan rituals with the Truth/Torah (holiness) is called *syncretism* (John 1:1,14) (*Reference Balak and Devarim www.sheepfoldgleaning.com*).

🌿 **Isaiah 1:10, 14** “Hear the word of LORD/Yahweh, ‘*Your [Babylonian] New Moon festivals and your [man’s/Babylonian] appointed feasts my soul hates. They [Babylonian worship] have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them [pagan worldly idolatry].*”

🌿 **Hosea 2:11** “I will stop all *her [pagan worship] celebrations: her [pagan worldly] yearly festivals, her [pagan] New Moons, her [pagan] Sabbath days - all her [pagan] appointed feasts.*”

🌿 **Ezekiel 8:14-15** “Then he brought me to the entrance to the north gate of the house of LORD/Yahweh, and I saw women sitting there, *mourning for Tammuz.*”

Lent, Ash Wednesday – Easter - *The Weeping for Tammuz*

Approximately 600 to 700 years *after* Christ/Messiah, the Church of Rome instituted Lent, which they adopted from Babylonian pagan rituals. Lent is a forty-day period leading to Easter. “Easter” is another name for *Ishtar* the mythological pagan fertility goddess whom Northern Europe held a festival every spring during the vernal equinox celebrating Ishtar’s resurrection back to life. Other names for Ishtar are - in Assyria: *Semiramis* and *Ninus*; in Babylon: *Ishtar* and *Tammuz*; in Egypt: *Isis* and *Osiris*; in Syria: *Astarte* and *Bel* or *Baal (Marduk)* (later *Venus Urania* and *Adonis*); in Greece: *Aphrodite* and *Adonis* and in Rome: *Kybele* and *Attis* (or *Venus* and *Adonis*). In time, the Sumerian civilization celebrated *Ishtar (Easter)* along with mourning and weeping over the death of the god *Tammuz*. Tammuz was believed to be the only begotten son of the moon goddess and the sun god. The Sumerians then rejoiced at his rebirth or sunrise resurrection also on the vernal equinox at Easter (Reference: Article: *Pagan Origin of Easter*).

Ash Wednesday And The God Of Shiva

At the beginning of the forty days of Lent, Christians in many leading denominations (Catholics, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Anglicans) anoint their foreheads with ash in the form of a cross to mark this season of penance, fasting, and self-denial. Many are innocent in thinking that Lent is for spiritual growth, conversion, and simplicity. They are not familiar with Lent’s pagan roots, which were adopted by Rome from the Hindu religion originating in Babylon called the *weeping of Tammuz*.

In Hinduism, ash is said to be the seed of the fire god *Agni* who had the power to cleanse and purify people. The mark of ash on the forehead is the symbol of the purifying blood of *Shiva*, the Hindu god of mercy and compassion. The mark represented Shiva’s third eye that protects devotees from evil forces.

🌿 **Exodus 20:3** God/Elohim said, “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Ash Wednesday, Mardis Gras, And The God Of Bacchus

New Year’s Eve became a *carnival*, for eating, drinking, and sinning, on the theory that all sins would be wiped out the following day, as the dying god of March (*Mars*) took his worshippers’ sins with him into death. That day was called *dies martis*, the *Day of Mars*, which fell on a

Tuesday. In France, the carnival was called *Mardis Gras*, *Fat Tuesday*, or in England *Shrove Tuesday*.

Mardis Gras developed into a three-day orgy on the Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday immediately before *Ash Wednesday*, the beginning of *Lent*. *Mardi Gras* is a feast bowing down to *Bacchus* the god of the grape harvest, winemaking, wine, of ritual madness, and ecstasy. The term has since come to describe any form of drunken revelry - a time of immoral partying and sexual carousing demonstrated by the extravagant celebrations as seen in New Orleans today. Many churches now observe *Mardi Gras* with a pancake breakfast (or other church meal) on *Ash Wednesday* by eating together as a community before the forty-day fast of Lent begins. Most are unaware of its pagan origins or that it has no Scripture significance in the Bible.

🌿 **Galatians 5:19-21** “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying’s, murders, drunkenness, revelling’s, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you [believers] in time past [at Mount Sinai – through Moses], that they [believers] which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God/Elohim.”

The Journey Of Lent – Via Dolorosa - Weeping For Tammuz

Some churches have a special time of prayer or meditation for one night of each week during Lent. Often Catholic and other high church traditions pray the *Stations of the Cross*. This tradition came into general use by the seventeenth century and is represented today in nearly all Catholic churches. The *Via Dolorosa* and *the Stations of the Cross* are still a popular pilgrim destination in Jerusalem. Each year during Lent and especially on Good Friday thousands of Christians retrace the route of Jesus through the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem, many weeping, carrying small or large wooden crosses repenting or doing penitence, thinking this activity somehow is an act of holiness. What deception they are led into, as the Stations of the Cross have their roots in *the weeping of Tammuz*.

🌿 **Hosea 4:6** “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God/Elohim, I also will forget your children.”

🌿 **Ezekiel 8:13-14** “And He said to me, ‘Turn again, *and* you will see greater abominations that they are doing.’ So He brought me to the door of the north gate of LORD’s/Yahweh house [in Jerusalem – also symbolic of our hearts]; and to my dismay, women [believers who have not know their roots - who are New Testament taught that - the Law/Torah and the prophets have been done away with] were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.”

🌿 **2 Corinthians 6:17** “Therefore [believers] ‘Come out from among them [pagan idolatry – that you once were in] and be separate [from them], says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.’”

Worshipping The Signs Of Heaven Deuteronomy 17:2-6

Moses warns the people about violating God's/*Elohim* Covenant by worshipping other gods, especially bowing down to Baal by worshipping the host of heaven through the sun, moon, and stars. Worshipping the heavens is Babylonian in origin from early times (Genesis 11:4) and is very prevalent in our society today. Many have been attracted to various forms of spiritualism through magic, astrology, horoscopes, and sorcery. Children especially are vulnerable and easily enticed by seemingly innocent sources such as Disney, the leading family entertainers. Witchcraft and sorcery are featured throughout many of their animated films portrayed as fairies, beautiful princesses, and heroines. They are further tempted through souvenirs, clothing, toys, and even party supplies attracting children to the occult world.

Another game that is having a come back is the Ouija board, an occult game that communicates with demonic spirit guides. The Ouija board has now outstripped Monopoly as the leading board game in America. Also, with all the new technological apparatus available, there are now lots of software games involving wizards, witches, spells, violence, killing, and the outright presence of demonic spirits all advertised as entertainment. Have we permitted or actually encouraged a gradual acceptance of these demonic forces upon our children?

Witches have become more presentable through the New Age as channelers, intermediaries, and mediums able to communicate with the spirit realm (called spiritism) predicting the future. This communication is also the roots of Kabbalah that today has seeped into every crevice of our society. Secret societies such as the Masons, the Illuminati, and their front organizations actively practice forms of demonic worship. The New World Order/Government falls into the hands of these agencies. Unfortunately, the dark world has so saturated our society that even believers do not recognize the demonic realm attached to many activities sanctioned by leaders in the Church, Messianic fellowships or Jewish Synagogues today. To study and list them all would make your head spin.

The Calendar, Sol Invictus, And Christmas: The Feast Of Saturnalia And The Worship Of *Tammuz*

Another example of worshipping heaven is the Gregorian calendar. A solar calendar adopted from Babylon and still used today. This Babylonian calendar pays homage to the sun, stars, and planets for each day and month is dedicated to one of the Babylonian gods. God's/*Elohim* biblical calendar is not *solar* based but *lunar* based. Those not aware of the difference between a lunar and solar month will misread their Scripture as every reference to time and season in the Bible rests on the moon's position and phase during the Biblical month.

In 45-46 CE, when the Roman *Julian* Calendar, named after Julius Caesar, was adopted, December 24 was the shortest day of the year, and December 25 was the first day that daylight began to increase. Therefore, December 25 was also known as *the rebirth of the Invincible Sun*. To coincide with this heavenly conjunction of the spring and winter equinox, the early Roman church fathers decided to make their celebration of pagan worship acceptable to God's/*Elohim*

people. So, they moved Yeshua's birth from the Feast of Tabernacles (September/October) to December 25 to coincide with the rebirth of the Invincible Sun (*Tammuz*).

“In accordance with the Roman *Julian* calendar, the Saturnalia (which means ‘sun-stop’) is the week-long pagan festival of the winter solstice which began on December the 17 as the sun was seen to be rising further to the south and thought of as *dying*. By December the 25, the ancient world's solstice, it could be recognized as beginning to turn northwards again and was said to be *re-born* and therefore was proclaimed to be the birthday of the sun-deity.”

“All of the known sun-deities were ‘born’ on December the 25, these include *Mithra*, *Krishna* (Vishnu), Osiris, Horus, Hercules, Dionysus (*Bacchus*), *Tammuz*, *Indra*, *Buddha* as well as all the other reincarnations of the child-god of the Babylonian religious system [as they are one in the same].”

“Nimrod, grandson of Ham, son of Noah, was the real founder of the Babylonian system. He built the tower of Babel, the original Babylon, ancient Nineveh, and many other cities. He organized this world's first kingdom. The name Nimrod, in Hebrew, maybe derived from *Marad* meaning, *he rebelled* (Genesis 10:6,8-12).

“Nimrod was known as the god of the Chaldean Mysteries. In the Chaldean mysteries, the Babylonian dictator Nimrod was deified as *Saturn*. *Satan* and *Saturn* are one in the same: one *Early Latin* and the other *Late Latin*. His birthday was celebrated on December 25 or *the Saturnalia*.”

“Satur is the goat-legged half man half goat *deity* headed by *Pan* (a representation of Satan) also known as *Goat-gods*. Isaiah 13:21 identify the Saturs as belonging to Babylon. A deity with two goat-legs has always been identified as Satan.”

“*The Saturnalia* was named for Saturn, also known as the Greek god *Cronus* (also known as *Tammuz*). *Tammuz* was Nimrod reborn - alias, his son. His wife and mother was Rhea (Semiramis). Egyptian and Babylonian antiquities recognize his mother as Semiramis, and his birthday is celebrated on 25 December. His wife and mother was Rhea (Semiramis) was depicted as a virgin Madonna holding the *Christ* child. The Saturnalia, therefore, was just another observance for *Tammuz*/Nimrod, the Babylonian counterfeit redeemer” (Wikipedia).

The prophet Ezekiel was shown many of the abominations taking place in the temple with the people incorporating the pagan worship of *Tammuz* (sun, moon, and stars) in their worship with God/*Elohim*.

📖 **Ezekiel 8:15-16** “Then He said to me, ‘*Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these.*’ So He brought me into the inner court of LORD's/*Yahweh* house; and there, at the door of the temple of LORD/*Yahweh*, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of LORD/*Yahweh* and their faces toward the east, and they were worshipping the sun toward the east.”

God/*Elohim* says, “Do not learn the way of the pagans/gentiles” (Jeremiah 10:2).

The Encyclopedia Britannica, Volume II (1943-1973), under Christmas, we find:

“In the Roman world, the *Saturnalia* was a time of merrymaking and exchanging of gifts. December 25 was also regarded as the birth date of the Iranian Mystery god, *Mithra*, the Sun of Righteousness.”

“The sun god was also known as *Saturnalia* as well as Nimrod.”

“*Mithra*, according to ancient legend, was born on December 25, of a virgin. His birth was witnessed by shepherds and magicians [*magi*]. *Mithra* raised the dead and healed the sick and cast out demons. He returned to heaven at the spring equinox (northern hemisphere) and before doing so had a last supper with his 12 disciples (representing the 12 signs of the zodiac), eating *mizd*, a piece of bread marked with a cross, an almost universal symbol of the sun (hot cross buns)” (End of quote).

New International Dictionary of the Christian Church, p. 223:

“December 25 was the date of the Roman pagan festival [*Saturnalia*] inaugurated [as a state religion] in 274 [by Emperor Aurelian 214 – 275], as the birthday of the unconquered sun which at the winter solstice begins again to show an increase in light. Sometime before 336 the Church in Rome, unable to stamp out this pagan festival, spiritualized it as the Feast of the Nativity of the Sun of Righteousness” the writer Hislop observes, “That Christmas was originally a pagan festival, is beyond all doubt.”

The Roman *festival of Saturnalia* was preceded by the *festival of Consualia* December 15 and followed by the *festival of Opalia* on December 19. These pagan celebrations typically lasted for a week, ending just before the latter Roman Imperial Festival for *Sol Invictus* (the Invincible Sun) on December 25 the Solstice in the pre-Julian calendar.

Consualia: the festival, which honors *Consus*, an underworld god of mystery and the hidden. He was the protector of seed, grain, and their storage bins/silos.

Opalia: (Also known as Ops or Opus) is *Saturnus*' wife and sister. *Opalia* was the ancient Roman god of plenty and fertility who made the vegetation grow. Her abode was inside the earth and also known today as *Mother Earth*. Eventually, her modern day dress and appearance was that of her husband *Santa Claus* and called *Mrs. Claus*.

Saturnalia was celebrated by what they thought was the sun's return by having orgies, human and animal sacrifices, and eating blood pudding which today is call the Christmas Pudding. Gift giving, feasting, singing, and immoral sexual behavior characterized the festival, as the priests of *Saturn* carried wreaths of evergreen boughs in procession throughout the Roman temples as a sign of fertility. People decorated their homes with green branches, evergreen wreaths, incense, candles, and religious figurines to give as gifts to one another. Families gave their children the little clay dolls representing the child sacrifice made to their gods.

The Asherah Pole And Christmas

The present-day Christmas tree also has ancient pagan origins – in the worship of sacred trees from the ancient Babylonian empire (Jeremiah 10:3-5). Historically the evergreen tree has symbolized fertility and life, in that it was associated with the belief that the sun god *Baal* came to life through the incarnate baby *Tammuz*. The custom of decorating and worshipping trees spread throughout the known world, with the variety of tree used selected according to the natural growth of each area of the world. *The Druids* worshiped the oak tree; *the Egyptians* worshiped the palm tree, while *in Rome* the fir tree was the popular choice.

The Romans trimmed their trees with trinkets and toys during the *feast of Saturnalia* and put candles on them to indicate the sun's return to earth. They also added a star (ray from the sun) or an angel with a halo to represent the Queen of Heaven. Everywhere, people in these cultures stopped work to join in the celebration. The Christmas tree, the holly, the mistletoe, the lights, the gold and silver decorations, and even the color theme of red (for the sun) and green (for new life) are all associated with the *feast of Saturnalia/Sol Invictus* sun-worship – *the worship of Tammuz*.

The Roman Catholic monk Martin Luther (1483-1546) made this ancient pagan ritual acceptable by saying the Christmas tree was a form of *Christian* worship. The tree is a modern-day Asherah pole, a male phallic fertility symbol of Baal worship with decorative balls. Christians who celebrate Christmas would not dream of celebrating it without their sacred tree, cherished star, or Christmas stockings. Worshiping and bowing down this phallic symbol for gifts and then turning to worship God/*Elohim* for His gifts (the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh*) is an abomination before Him.

🌿 **Exodus 20:5** “you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*, am a jealous God/*Elohim*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me”

🌿 **Jeremiah 10:1-5** “Hear the word which *Yahweh* speaks to you, O house of Israel. Thus says the LORD/*Yahweh*: ‘Do not learn the way of the Gentiles [*Nations*]; do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the Gentiles [*Nations*] are dismayed at them. For the customs of the peoples *are* futile; for *one* cuts a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple. They are upright, like a palm tree, and they cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot go *by* themselves.’”

The winter solstice is also a festival called the *nativity of the sun*, a celebration of the birth of the sun god (known as *Tammuz*), which took place on December 24. The word *Yule* (seen in the Christmas tradition of *burning of Yule logs*) is Chaldean for *child*. December 24 was the accepted day of the birth of the incarnate sun *Tammuz*, who appeared as a baby child to be the savior and redeem a world bound in darkness. The Nativity of the sun was practiced by pagans *centuries before* Yeshua was born and has nothing to do with the Bible, Yeshua or His birth.

Sol Invictus – Messiah’s Christian Birth - Christmas

Eventually, the three celebrations in December (December 15 *the festival of Consualia*, December 17 *the festival of Saturnalia*, and December 19 *the festival of Opalia*) were blended into the one celebration called *Sol Invictus* – and celebrated on December 25. This Roman state approved festival, under Constantine’s dictatorship, later changed its name to Christ-mas to please both the new *Hellenized* religion of Christianity and the pagans living within his kingdom.

In 1582 CE the Roman Catholic Pope, Gregory the XIII, caused the current *Gregorian* calendar to be adopted to eliminate an error resulting from the solar time shift in the *Julian* calendar. The problem he solved was that the shortest day of the year had moved 12 days on the Roman *Julian* calendar to Wednesday, December 12, 1582. However, the original December 25 *Birth Date* was retained for all pagan sun gods under the Roman *Saturnalia* and *Sol Invictus* traditions. Consequently, a 12-day period between the respective *shortest days* was created and called the *Twelve Days of Christ Mass*.

The image of the god of *Saturnalia* (St. Nick/Satan) had been around for years. It was not until the *Coca-Cola* Company did a magazine ad in 1931 featuring St. Nick as a kind, jolly man in a red suit that the *Santa Claus* image appeared, with its focus toward children. It soon became popular and continued to mold the minds of people of all ages all over the world.

Feast of Tabernacles / *Sukkot* - Messiah’s Birth

Messiah was not born near or on December 25. December 25 was the established birth date of the pagan sun gods, to which virgins were sacrificed, murder was commonplace, and licentious living was the norm. Yeshua’s birth is recorded in the Book of Luke. You can see this by cross-referencing Zechariah’s priestly Abijah division, as recorded in Luke 1:5-56, with 1 Chronicles 24:10, which contains the historical records of the service for the priesthood. Zechariah’s wife Elizabeth, Mary’s cousin, was six months pregnant when Mary conceived. Mary visited Elizabeth and stayed with her three months until her due date. John was born in the spring, during the Passover season and Yeshua was born six months later, during the Feast of Tabernacles. Thus Yeshua was not born in the winter as taught by man’s traditions but in the fall, according to Scripture.

Most believers are taught God’s/*Elohim* Feasts were abolished. They miss the understanding that God/*Elohim* established His heavenly Kingdom on earth through His Feast Days - as they are designed to restore/renew Yeshua’s Priesthood (Bride) *on earth*. By obedience to God’s/*Elohim* Heavenly pattern, Yeshua establishes His Priesthood. It is through His Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* that He empowers His Priests (the Bride/believers), with His heavenly power and authority *when* they walk in obedience to His teaching and instruction.

“*Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ...*”
(*Matthew 6:10*)

Gregorian Weekdays

As mentioned earlier, the Roman *solar* calendar we have today pays homage to the pagan gods each day of the week. *Monday* honors the moon god, *Tuesday* the god of Mars, *Wednesday* the god of Mercury, *Thursday* the god of Jupiter, *Friday* the god of Venus, *Saturday* the god of Saturn and *Sunday* the sun god. Constantine saw himself as the sun god, therefore, wanted everyone to worship him. Thus *Sunday* worship was instituted as a law and forced upon the people under threat of death, **three hundred years after Yeshua**.

The worship of the host of heaven prevalent in Eastern religions was adopted by religions in the West. Babylonian traditions are very vogue in this modern day, namely through the many faces of the *New Age*. Not only do they seek the sun, moon, and stars for their future but propose and in some cases force the acceptance of a false *love* upon every component of our society that today is growing at an alarming rate, all based on Baal worship of fertility. However, love without morality is an abomination before God/*Elohim*. Those who worship Baal through the signs of heaven and bowing to their rulings on love are worshipping the rebirth of *Tammuz* – *Saturn* - *Satan*.

📖 **1 Kings 9:4-9** “Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’ But if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a proverb and a byword among all peoples. And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and will hiss, and say, ‘*Why has the LORD/Yahweh done thus to this land and to this house?*’ Then they will answer, ‘*Because they forsook the LORD/Yahweh their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore the LORD/Yahweh has brought all this calamity on them.*”

The Witness

Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15-21

*“On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death,
But no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness”
(Deuteronomy 17:6).*

📖 **John 11:49-52** “And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, ‘You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that **one** man should **die** for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.’ Now this he did not say on his own *authority*; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus/*Yeshua* would die for the nation, and not for that nation only, but also *that He would gather together in one the children of God/*Elohim* who were scattered abroad.*”

The witnesses of heaven and the witnesses of earth are the two witnesses. Yeshua is the fulfillment of both witnesses. He died to unify and restore the understanding of Truth in His people, to be *one in Him (heaven on earth)*. Those who walk in His Truth carry His legal witness on the earth, as they walk in Him (Acts 1:6; 26:7; Matthew 6:10; John 10:38).

📖 **1 Thessalonians 5:9-10** “For God/*Elohim* did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.”

📖 **Ephesians 2:14-16** “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God/*Elohim* in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.”

📖 **Matthew 18:22** Yeshua taught them, “I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree [*as it is in heaven*] about anything you ask for [*that agrees with heaven on earth*], it will be done for you by my Father *in heaven*. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 6:9-13; 1John 5:6-8 KJV/NKJV).

The People’s King Deuteronomy 17:14-15

In the wilderness, the focus of the Israelites was on God/*Elohim*, as the cloud guided them by day and the fire by night. Once in the land, this would all change for the Children of Israel. The neighboring people would soon begin to influence them. That too was a test from God/*Elohim* to see if their hearts would stay true to Him. Sadly, their hearts would stray. God/*Elohim* mentions this because He knew their hearts. If they desired a king like the other nations, He would consent to their request. However, it would be conditional. If Israel were no longer satisfied and wanted to look like their neighbors, then only the king whom God/*Elohim* chose from among their own brothers would be their king.

The Lust Of The World In Earthly Kingship Deuteronomy 17:16-20

If the people of Israel desired an earthly king to rule over them, God/*Elohim* put forth certain conditions that if the king overstepped, his reign would end. The king was to write a complete copy of the book of Moses. He was to keep it with him at all times and read it all the days of his life. God’s/*Elohim* instructions were to be in his heart; he was to be humble and focused on walking in the Truth. Then God/*Elohim* would give him the wisdom to serve His people. The blessing upon the king would be to the same degree as his obedience to the Word. God’s/*Elohim* conditions also included an outline on *covetousness* in regards to acquiring an overabundance of material wealth such as horses, wives, gold, and silver.

📖 **Matthew 19:16-22** “Now behold, one came and said to Him, ‘Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?’ So He said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God/*Elohim*. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.’ He said to Him, ‘Which ones?’ Jesus/*Yeshua* said, ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and *your* mother, and, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ The young man said to Him, ‘All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?’ Jesus/*Yeshua* said to him, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’ But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions [*a spirit of covetousness*].”

📖 **1 John 2:15-17** “Do not love [*covet*] the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world [*covets*], the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world - the *lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life* - is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God/*Elohim* abides forever.”

- **Horses:** The king was not to accumulate scores of horses nor return to Egypt for them. Scripture records that “*Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem. Solomon’s horses were imported from Egypt*” (1 Kings 10:26-29).
- **Wives:** The king was not to have multi wives, or his heart would be led astray. “*King Solomon loved many foreign women. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines. His wives led him astray after other gods and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD/Yahweh. He followed Asherah and Molech the detestable gods of the Ammonites. On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods*” (1 Kings 11:1-8).
- **Silver and Gold:** Neither were Israel’s kings to amass an over-abundance of silver or gold. King Solomon “*made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones.*” “*The weight of the gold that Solomon received yearly was 666 talents, not including the revenues from merchants and traders and from all the Arabian kings and the governors of the land*” (1 Kings 10:14-15, 27).
- **The Word:** To help the king govern the people, he was required to write out *the entire* Torah as his personal manuscript. One copy was to be kept in his royal treasury; while the other was to be kept with him at all times to be read all the days of his life. That ensured that the king would safeguard all he was given about the kingdom thereby increase wisdom on how to competently rule. That would ensure his descendants would reign many generations after him (Deuteronomy 17:18).

All of Israel was united as one under the kingships of David and Solomon. However, because of King Solomon's *spirit of covetousness*, upon his death, the kingdom was fractured in two when his son Rehoboam increased his father's yoke of servitude upon the people. The northern tribes then formed their own kingdom making Jeroboam their king, which at that time became home to the tribes of Reuben, Dan, Issachar, Naphtali, Asher, Zebulun, Simeon, Gad, Manasseh, and Ephraim. Together they were called the *Northern Kingdom*. Terms like *the House of Israel*, *the Ephraimites*, *the Israelites*, and *the House of Joseph* all referenced the Northern Kingdom. The remaining tribes of the House of David, consisting of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, continued under Rehoboam's reign. They formed the *Southern Kingdom*, also called *the House of Judah (the Jews)*. Together the two Kingdoms (the Northern Kingdom/the House of Israel and the Southern Kingdom/the House of Judah) are referred to in Scripture as *The House of Israel* or the *Whole House of Israel*. The Nation of Israel that fractured after King Solomon's death is yet to be restored as *one* with their brother to this day. Obedience to the written Word through the Spirit of Truth/*Yeshua HaMashiach* will repair the breach, as Yeshua is the Repairer of the Breach (1 Kings 11:43 – 12:1-33).

The Offerings To The Priests And Levites

“The priests, who are Levites indeed the whole tribe of Levi are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the offerings made to the LORD/Yahweh by fire, for that is their inheritance.” Deuteronomy 18:1-8

✠ **1 Timothy 5:17-18** “The elders who direct the affairs of the assembly/*ekklesia* are well worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,’ and ‘the worker deserves his wages.’”

The Torah's intention of providing for the priests or Levitical allotment in the land was two-fold. Firstly, the Levites represented God's/*Elohim* heavenly position on the earth to the people thus earth was not their home. Also, their service was not associated with a locality per se, but with the entire nation. Secondly, like Yeshua, their inheritance was spiritual. Therefore, the Levites were to be cared for, adopted, and fully supported by the community they served.

✠ **Hebrews 11:13-16** “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God/*Elohim* is not ashamed to be called their God/*Elohim*, for He has prepared a city for them.”

Under God's/*Elohim* protocol, the priests and Levites had no material concerns, as the people faithfully brought their offerings. The priests and Levites could then focus on God's/*Elohim* work caring for the Tabernacle and teaching His Word to the people. Today, the priests and Levites are those who specifically instruct on the difference between the clean and unclean, the holy and unholy ways, and also share how to observe the weekly Sabbath, the New Moon

celebration, and all of God's/Elohim High Holy Feast Day Sabbaths (Ezekiel 44: 23-24; Leviticus 10:10). For many teaching these vital issues today, the community tithe, which is the funding for their care, is their only means of support. We have to remember the tithe was instituted long before Mount Sinai. Today it is still called our *memorial portion*. When we offer our portion, it then comes before our King *Yeshua HaMashiach* in His Heavenly Court. Those who honor God's/Elohim Word in their lives, share in its blessings (See *Re'eh* Torah Commentary www.sheepfoldgleaning.com).

Detestable Practices Deuteronomy 18:9-13

Moses now outlines what God/Elohim considers detestable and what could lead to *eternal* death for those who participate, worship, explore or touch it in any way. Associating with these would contaminate the Covenant they vowed to keep. They may look obvious in Scripture, but how many believers do not realize they are touching or even condoning the detestable and unclean today?

✠ **Isaiah 66:24** “And they [*who have sanctified themselves by vowing to walk in a holy lifestyle*] shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men [*believers*] who have transgressed against Me [*by breaking their vow of obedience*]. For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.”

✠ **Jude 1:20-21** “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ/*Yeshua Ha Mashiach* unto eternal life.”

✠ **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** “Do you [*believers*] not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you [*believer*] may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we [*believers*] for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. There shall not be found among you anyone [*a believer*] who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one [*a believer*] who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one [*a believer*] who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one [*a believer*] who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one [*a believer*] who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to Yahweh, and because of these abominations Yahweh your God drives them [*believers who practice these things*] out from before you. You [*believer*] shall be blameless before Yahweh your God” (Deuteronomy 18:10-13).

Anarchy

We are hearing, “*If you want to change your gender, good for you.*” “*If it feels good, do it.*” Opening doors to perverseness is an attempt to dismantle God's/Elohim *moral laws*. However, it is God's/Elohim moral laws on holiness that created the universe. To attempt to cut the cord on God's/Elohim moral standard, which is impossible, *civilization* would cease to exist. Take

God's/*Elohim* moral laws away and you have anarchy among the people. Anarchy uses terminology to match their ideology to turn a people, who have no laws or moral standards, into murderers. That is why we are seeing such atrocities today. Hitler governed a people who had no morals and it made sense to them to kill six million people. Insanity is understood only in the context of moral laws. When moral laws are removed, then insanity is seen as normal and is institutionalized as the standard. That is why school boards and governments in our lands are going the way they are, as the leaders have no set plumb line, which can only come from God/*Elohim*.

Sacrificing Sons And Daughters Deuteronomy 18:10

Many believers have unknowingly authorized caregivers and teachers to teach their children school curriculum through the teachers' ideologies. It may seem innocent, but upon closer examination, it is a bit disconcerting. For one, schools are secular. While the Canadian and American school boards have taken the worship of the Christian God out of their educational system, they do embrace the teaching of all forms of religion and acknowledge many pagan holidays. In an attempt to modernize, school boards are now pouring millions of dollars towards normalizing homosexuality, transgender or no gender to the extreme through the premise of inclusion and placing this curriculum on a par with the academics.

God/*Elohim* said we are not to talk of perverse ways or wake love before its time (marriage) (Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5, 8:4). Scripture admonishes young men to guard over themselves and be faithful to the Covenant. How important is this? Their seed represents life. To guard over their seed is to keep God's/*Elohim* moral holy ways. Yeshua said that if a man even looks at a woman incorrectly (lustfully), he has already committed adultery with her in his heart (Matthew 5:28). What happens when a five-year-old or a teenager views pornographic material used as a teaching tool on how to practice "safe sex" outside of marriage along with a multi-gender agenda? These educators are telling children abnormal is normal behavior and good for them and that it is OK to commit sexual immorality. To participate in this curriculum will contaminate The Seed. Satan wants our blood. The man's seed represents blood; therefore, Satan is going after the innocent and the weak. That is why secular schools think they have to keep up and embrace social correctness in an attempt to prepare children, the innocent, for what appears to be their publically correct ideologies. This insane thinking exposes children. That is known as the sin of Balaam. God/*Elohim* says we are not to tolerate it among His people and will hold those who do accountable (Numbers 25:1; 2 Peter 2:3,15, 18; Acts 15:29; 1 Corinthians 6:13, 10:8; Jude 1:11).

📖 **Revelation 2:14** "But I have a few things against you [*believer*], because you [*believer*] have [*authorized*] there those [*educators*] who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality" (Jude 1:10-13).

To listen to a teacher, who is placed in authority over children as young as pre-school, teach on perverse immorality will lead to paths of corruption and death for those who teach it, those who listen, and those who authorize it. Perverse terminology upon the innocent is ancient. To coerce a society to be more tolerant, inclusive, and socially acceptant of this form of perverseness is

called *the sin of Balaam*. By not allowing the public an opinion and to hold people under intimidation, making them afraid to speak out for fear of being labeled or bullied is a form of censorship.

Paying homage to a fertility god of perverseness legalizes open doors to unprotected private areas such as washrooms and lockers rooms etc., as any *body* can now utilize them. All in authority are taught to turn a blind eye.

Non-gender emphases lead to wider fields of education, including occultism and witchcraft, all part of the inclusion that is being socially acceptable these days. These subtle anarchist secular curriculum children must cope with. The peer pressure and associations that affect their daily lives are too numerous to list here (Numbers 25:1-9).

We know of a Christian family who declared they were sending their child in the midst of all this to be an influence and a witness in the schools. *God/Elohim* warns us not to be unequally yoked, as this will weaken the stronger person, not cause the weaker to grow stronger. What *child* could cope with consistently opposing influences for six hours a day, five days a week, nine months a year, year after year, which effectively contradicts Biblical family beliefs? We may not agree with many of the things that happen in the school systems, but on the other hand, we cannot turn a blind eye to their hidden agendas and the immorality contained within.

Today there is a strong undercurrent pressuring society to be socially tolerant of others. That sounds good but behind this debate is a heavily disguised LGBT programming to introduce new anarchist laws to our nation that are in direct opposition to *God's/Elohim moral* standard. They use words like *the road to inclusion, progressive thinking, beyond tolerance, sexual equality, anti-bullying* and *safe schools* to push their agenda. These laws are molding young minds. We now have a society saying that abnormal is normal and enforcing changes faster than a grass fire. For those not in agreement, they are label as being homophobic or lacking sensitivity to the issue. And this is only the beginning.

We are not judging a person (outsider) for gender or non-gender decision any more than an individual who chooses to have tattoos or create large holes in their earlobes. However, we must be concerned about what laws are coming into effect that wants to destroy the foundation our nation was founded on – *God's/Elohim moral laws*. If we are not “inclusive” by their definition, then we violate *their anarchist law*. Just because we like milk chocolate and they dark chocolate is that a crime? We believe justice should be fair. We are not to judge our neighbor. We are to *love* them. But does that mean we compromise our moral beliefs and be in their transgender parade? It is OK if our beliefs do not match their expectations.

Actions speak louder than words. We can teach our children what we believe, but if our action does not support our word, it is the action that will override the belief. We need to pay careful attention to what we sanction our children to be part of (Deuteronomy 22:10).



The question believers need to ask is, “*What are we permitting our children to learn and is it in agreement with what God/Elohim says we are to teach our children?*” If we do what is right, it will go well for our children and us. If not, we may be opening the door to future difficulties.

The deductive thought process found predominately in a Christian culture is based on the Greco influence where the emphasis is on what *we believe* as being more important than what we do, while the Scriptural emphasis is on *we do* because that is what we believe.

It has been said that the Christian’s focus 80% on salvation and 20% on redemption, while the Hebrew/Biblical perspective is the opposite: 80% on redemption and 20% on salvation. Hebrew thought looks at the *result* of their belief. Is their walk according to what the Gospel teaches? For the Hebrews understand that if they teach the Gospel, the one received at Mount Sinai, it will build up and guard over *their children*, for they understand that their children are *their inheritance*. Have *our* children been a sacrifice? Does our walk and daily speech match our confession? What will our children inherit? (*For more information or to voice your concerns see American Family Association <http://www.afa.net/>*)

David Wilkerson’s 1973 vision: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFoiz8BvAEU>



Witchcraft

Witchcraft is very subtle. 1 Samuel 15:23 says that *rebellion* is as witchcraft and *stubbornness* is as idolatry. Idolatry is self-will and self-exaltation (Deuteronomy 18:10-13).

Hebrews 6:4-6 says of mature believers that, “*It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God/Elohim and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away [rebelled], to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God/Elohim all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace*” (NIV).

Who is crucifying Yeshua over and over again and putting Him to open shame before the whole world? Is it witches, Satanists, or murderers? No. It is *believers* who have vowed to observe His Word with all their heart but function in a mixture of compromise by allowing many offensive behaviors and unresolved sin issues to influence and govern their lives. Eventually, these will ensnare ungrounded believers. Assimilation is very subtle. That is what re-crucifies Yeshua and grieves His Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh*, as His death gave believers the *power* to overcome temptation and the *victory* to free themselves from the shackles of sin and death.

📖 **Galatians 5:19-20** “Now the works of the *flesh* are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies.”

Fear motivates people into witchcraft/occultism. Fears such as *fear of people*, *fear of rejection*, *fear of failure*, and *fear of abandonment* are all rooted in bitterness, unforgiveness, resentment, and retaliation, etc. These stem from a lack of direction and validation. A bitter heart comes from a broken heart. It is a broken heart that leads to a broken spirit. That is how fear gets a foothold. When a believer has anxiety and does not feel safe, they have fear. Fear is a lack of trust in

God/*Elohim*, self, and others. When believers entertain fear, it opens the door to spirits of control over people, situations, and their environment. Control (passive or aggressive) is another form of rebellion. Rebellion is witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:33) where a person manipulates others to help mask a hurting heart that only Yeshua can heal. In Scripture, resentment, bitterness, control, rebellion, witchcraft, and the occult are all called sin and are on equal level with sorcery, interpreting omens, casting spells, practicing spiritism, and consulting the dead. Oppression and heaviness are effects of occultism. Health conditions such as chronic fatigue, depression, mental illness, chronic infections, and immune dysfunction to name just a few have roots originating from involvement in the occult. To receive healing, believers need to recognize the sin in their lives (or from their generations), take responsibility for it, and repent.

📖 **Mark 1:14-15** “Jesus/*Yeshua* came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God/*Elohim*, and saying, ‘*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God/Elohim is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.*’”

The door to the roots of occultism can also be through religious spirits, as occultism is spiritual and refers to what *appears* to be the real thing (light/spiritual truth) but is counterfeit. Occultism – specifically the realm of divination – is at the heart of false religions. Adding to, subtracting from, or changing Scripture to be more to your liking are all examples of divination. Even prayer can be demonic if it is used to manipulate. You can see divination at work in homes, fellowships and even businesses where mercy and joy are sadly lacking and where meetings are often lifeless. This environment allows the spirits of performance and drivenness to run rampant.

Other forms of occultism/religious spirits are less noticeable. Governing over others through excessive control creates fear, accusation, envy, jealousy, bitterness, and guilt. We see this in some charismatic churches and messianic fellowships. When that happens, the only thing charismatic is the uncontrolled witchcraft that is being tolerated by the congregation. Scripture says believers have dominion over all living things and the earth, but not over people (Genesis 1:26).

Controllers

People who are controllers obsessively dictate how others are to be, think, and feel. They even tell people what they are thinking and control them by invading their emotions. People with low self-esteem, who see themselves as *victims*, attract controllers. Controllers command by passive aggressive measures and make others feel small, guilty, and even responsible for *their* failures. People under a controller are always reminded that *they* are the reason why there is a lack. In a church setting often people are made to feel guilty that there is not enough in the building fund or why the pastor does not have a Lear jet or a million dollar house to live in thus the constant drive for funds under the guise of *tithes* and *offerings*.

Controllers in congregations use power over others driven by a spirit of covetousness in *their* need to dominate and succeed, even admonishing the sheep (seen as inferiors) publically, especially during meetings. A controller is terrified of failure, particularly their own and of being unable to fathom the consequences when things go wrong. There is a core of fearfulness or anxiety about their own limitations, false witness, worry about being exposed as a fraud or not

being accepted. They have no real respect for others and have everyone dance at their command. People feel like repressed children around them, and their efforts are never really good enough no matter how hard they work on behalf of a controller. Thus the people often feel drained, fatigued, sick or completely burned out.

Controllers cannot love as they have never been loved, so they withhold love or speak down to people all in the name of Yeshua. These are forms of control and witchcraft. It is also called a Spirit of Jezebel (*see reference below*). Some manipulate Scripture to gain importance or dominance and always know how to get what they need or want. Controllers are *extortionists*. The fruit from this kind of leadership, pastorship, and friendship, even in a marriage destroys the heart, self-esteem, and identity of the person under their control, as witchcraft has no sustaining life within itself. They are users of other people for *their* gain. What is most galling about these people is that they usually do not see themselves as controlling – as they are always right. Bullies (seen as passive or aggressive) are also in this category.

✚ **1 Corinthians 5:9-13** “I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother [*believer*], who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner - not even to eat with such a person. For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God/*Elohim* judges. Therefore ‘*put away from yourselves the evil person.*’”

✚ **Acts 8:18-24** “And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, ‘Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’ But Peter said to him, ‘Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God/*Elohim* could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God/*Elohim*. Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God/*Elohim* if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.’ Then Simon answered and said, ‘Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me.’ ”

*Extort: To obtain (especially money) by threats, intimidation, persistence, demands, false blame, guilt, force etc. We see this in many churches and messianic congregations where the pastor/rabbi abuses his position to extract funds from the congregation to elevate his image or to fulfill his own need instead of his walk bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* that provides all that is needed for Yeshua’s work, not his.*

✚ **2 Timothy 3:2-5** “For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God/*Elohim*, *having a form of godliness but denying its power.* And from such people turn away!”

📖 **Zechariah 4:6** “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD/*Yahweh* of hosts.”

Why do people go into occultism in the first place? Motivated by fear of insecurity, they look for ways to belong and find acceptance, therefore try to control their future rather than trusting God's/*Elohim* word for direction in their lives. Again, fear comes from a broken heart. So behind all this occultism is a broken heart. Victory over occultic bondage begins with the healing of people's hearts, and you do that by loving them.

(For information on the Jezebel spirit, please refer to Korach Numbers 16 www.sheepfoldgleanings.com).

The Prophet

Deuteronomy 18:14-22 “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account” (Deuteronomy 18:18-19).

📖 **John 5:46-47** Yeshua said, “For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?” (Acts 3:22-26; 7:37-39; Exodus 19:4-6; 1 Peter 1:9-12; 2:8-10; Hosea 2:23).

A False Prophet

📖 **Deuteronomy 18:20** “But the prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.”

A true prophet today is one who studies *Moses and the Prophets*. They then share that wisdom with the people. They never share their own insight but only that of *Moses and the Prophets*. The individual who has difficulty sitting under the authority of a teacher, not able to read and receive instruction from the written Word or do what it says reveals a nature not yet surrendered. Therefore, they tend to seek words or messages from a worldly prophet (frequently a self-proclaimed prophet) more so than God/*Elohim* and His Word. Commentaries and conferences can also act as a prophet for many. If a person is not submitted to the written Word, how will they know the truth as they have built their belief on a message that tickles their fancy and tells their future (fortune)?

A carnal nature tends to be drawn toward false prophecy to the point of trusting their future and very existence on an incorrect word. To the untrained in Torah principles, Scripture says they are “*tossed about by the waves and blown along by every wind of teaching, at the mercy of people clever in devising ways to deceive.*” Eventually, *their sin* distorts the truth so that even the very elect are led astray (Mark 13:22; Ephesians 4:11-14 CJB).

📖 **Luke 16:31** “And he said unto him, ‘If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.’”

Three sources from which we receive words:

- By His Spirit (through His Word, our spirits, and others) (Acts 3:21)
- From Satan’s kingdom (through the sinful nature/Tree of the Knowledge of Good and the realms of sin and death) (Genesis 3:4-5; Matthew 24:24)
- From ourselves (through our own thoughts, preferences, long term memory and inherited iniquities) (Deuteronomy 13:1-18, 1Corinthians14: 29-33).

In Deuteronomy 13:1-3, God/*Elohim* states that He may allow a sign or wonder spoke by a false prophet to come to pass to *test* His people and see if their hearts will cause them to act contrary to His Word. Therefore, the real test is not only to see whether a prophecy comes to pass or not but to see if it is in agreement with The Word of God/*Elohim*.

A false prophet from *outside* one’s own community seems harmless compared to the false prophet from *within* the camp. However, that is our greatest danger. The Scriptures warn us about the Balaam’s, the Korah’s and the Cain’s in our midst (Jude 1:1-25). Remember, the Doctrine of Balaam claims *you can keep your sin and have your blessing also*. That is an anti-Messiah teaching that is rampant in mainstream Christianity today.

The so-called *grace* and *love* that denies the *moral* leadership and authority of the Messiah, and allows an open transgression of God/*Elohim* principles is not *biblical* grace or *biblical* love. If we say we believe in Yeshua and are saved by grace through faith, but deny two-thirds of His teaching, Scripture says we lie, and the truth is not in us; thus confirming that we are poor, blind, and naked. *Good intentions* do not supersede what God/*Elohim* established morally for us to keep in obedience. Therefore, those who practice good intentions do not sincerely believe or have faith in Him. When we lose His *Gospel*, as outlined in the *Mosaic* Covenant, we miss the message of the Cross and are not yet converted (renewed) (Luke 22:32 KJV; John 1:1,14; John 5:46-47; 1John 1:6-8 KJV/NKJV; Revelation 3:17).

📖 **1 John 2:4** “The one who says, ‘I have come to know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

Those who believe and teach others that what God/*Elohim* calls unclean is acceptable, and those who openly call sin acceptable and clean, and teach others to do the same, will be called least in the Kingdom of God/*Elohim* (Matthew 5:19).

Food has traditionally been used in Christian circles as a benchmark example of what has been *restored* under the new covenant. To believe and teach (after salvation), that what was forbidden and unclean is now acceptable, and then pray Yeshua’s blood covering over the ‘food’ to make it acceptable and therefore clean is to deny Yeshua’s message of the Cross. Scripture says that to do this is defiling and profane.

📖 **Matthew 5:19** “Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

📖 **2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1** “Therefore, come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD/*Yahweh* Almighty. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God/*Elohim*.”

To teach that the early rabbis and church fathers had the right to amend, change, reverse or contradict the written Word of God/*Elohim* (through Moses, the Prophets, and Apostles) and re-interpret God's/*Elohim* Word through the generations is wrong. That is called witchcraft.

📖 **2 Timothy 2:19-26** “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God/*Elohim* stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of Christ/*Messiah* depart from iniquity.’ But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God/*Elohim* perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.”

Let us not follow after our ancestors who denied the power and authority of God's/*Elohim* Word. We are all in transition as we leave behind the teachings and doctrines of Balaam, Korah, and Cain that are so prevalent in the theological teachings and traditions of man. We need to be encouraged and uplift one another as we press on toward our calling – the walk of *holiness*. Indeed, live up to the great inheritance gifted to us through Yeshua, that of *a royal priesthood and a holy nation* (Exodus 19:6; 1 Peter 2:8-12; Revelation 1:6).

Cities Of Refuge Deuteronomy 19:1-14

God/*Elohim* set cities of refuge aside for people to flee to if they had unintentionally killed another person either by accident or other traumatic situation. There they found safety from those avenging the blood of their slain relative. The three cities of refuge on the east side of the Jordan River are:

- *Kedesh* (meaning *holy*) now called Kedes, 20 miles from Tyre in Naphtali territory
- *Shechem* (meaning *shoulder*) now called Nablus
- *Hebron* (meaning *fellowship*) now called El-Khalil

If the Children of Israel were honorable in keeping His commandments, then God/*Elohim* would add three more in their expanded territory bringing the total to six cities of refuge; three on each side of the Jordan. These cities were studied earlier in the study *Masei* (Numbers 35). Of all the refuge cities, only one is in Jewish hands today; that city is *Kedesh*.

Today, Israel lives in only a small portion of the original area designated to Israel through the promise given Abraham by Covenant. When the Children of Israel obey and keep God's/*Elohim* Words, He will increase their land and release three more assigned cities of refuge. As yet, that has not happened. God's/*Elohim* Covenant to Israel still stands ready to complete. He is faithful in fulfilling His Word to His people if they return to the Gospel/*Song of Moses*. Our calling is to rebuild David's fallen tent (Covenant). Yeshua fulfilled all the Words spoken to Moses, which guides His people today to walk in His *power* and *authority* (called the *paths of righteousness*) (Amos 9:11).

Do Not Remove Your Neighbor's Landmark

Deuteronomy 19:14

*“You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the LORD/Yahweh your God/*Elohim* is giving you to possess.”*

Today, would we know where the borders of the twelve tribes of Israel are or that there are actually twelve borders for twelve tribes? That tells us how the land has suffered under the hand of those who have not followed God's/*Elohim* Word. Wars have ensued, uprisings, brother against brother, and takeovers from other Nations all because His people have not followed His Word. If we touch our neighbor's landmark, as outlined in Scripture, folly will come upon us. Our neighbor is our brother. The good news is God/*Elohim* gave His prophet Ezekiel a prophetic vision. It was written “*for our day*,” to prove that God/*Elohim* is true and faithful to His Word. Outlined boldly in Ezekiel, is the description of *all the borders for the twelve tribes, ready to be restored to the people who are faithful to follow His Word* (Ezekiel Chapters 40-48).

The Protocol For A False Witness

Deuteronomy 19:15-21

“One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits.”

I do not think we really understand the seriousness of this Scripture. Today, judgmental behavior is rampant in fellowships. It is called *the sin of Balaam, Korah, and Cain*. One witness means a one-sided testimony, which may include not just one person but also several people. *Firstly*, we are not to judge our brother. It is wrong! One side talks about a brother or sister and thinks they have the full story of what happened. Is that right? If both parties do not stand together before God/*Elohim*, then the protocol for handling disputes has been broken and is a false witness. Whichever side broke the protocol will then have to answer to God/*Elohim*.

 **Deuteronomy 19:16-21** “If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, then both men in the controversy shall stand before the LORD/Yahweh, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. And the judges shall make

careful inquiry, and indeed, *if* the witness *is* a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you. And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you. Your eye shall not pity: life *shall be* for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.”

In Matthew 18:20, Yeshua reviewed the Deuteronomy 19 protocol on how to handle disputes with His disciples (*Further information on false witnesses and settling disputes refer to Kedoshim – Leviticus www.sheepfoldgleanings.com*).

War Protocol Deuteronomy 20:1-9

Moses now reiterated on the blessings and curses of going to war. The importance of any successful mission is based on the fact that His people serve in a *heavenly kingdom* first, not an earthly kingdom. Here they were reminded to take courage and remember God/*Elohim* is on their side. Even if the enemy looks physically bigger and stronger they were not to fear; God/*Elohim* would go before them into battle.

📖 **2 Kings 6:15-18** “And when the servant of the man of God/*Elohim* arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, ‘Alas, my master! What shall we do?’ So he answered, ‘Do not fear, for those who *are* with us *are* more than those who *are* with them.’ And Elisha prayed, and said, ‘LORD/*Yahweh*, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ Then the LORD/*Yahweh* opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. So when *the Syrians* came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD/*Yahweh*, and said, ‘Strike this people, I pray, with blindness.’ And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.”

If Scripture says that Yeshua was slain from the foundation of the world, then Satan would have been defeated then also (Revelation 13:8). For it is God/*Elohim* who fights for us and gives us victory over our enemies (physical and spiritual), as Scripture says, “*Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD/Yahweh of hosts*” (Zechariah 4:6).

“It is hard to imagine an ordinary nation’s constitution announcing that in the case of a general mobilization, before the military call-up takes place, all those who do not feel they have the necessary courage to face the enemy will be exempted. It would also seem strange for officers to send back to their homes all those who want to return, all newlywed men and all recently established cultivators of the land. Yet the Torah legislates exactly these measures” (TCT)

Israel depends first and foremost upon its *moral* integrity and bond with God/*Elohim*. Only in trusting completely in Him (and not in “self”) will He go before us and fight on our behalf. If there is any doubt in our hearts about going to war, the enemy could use this against us. The establishment of homes, the good will of its people – these are among the values that must be preserved in all circumstances. Therefore, only those whose hearts who were indeed focused on

God/*Elohim* could enter into battle. It was not only for the safety of the whole army but also the community as a whole.

“Let your heart not be faint; do not be afraid, do not panic.” Rambam declares that whoever feels strong to fight in HaShem’s battle, and commits himself to do so should immediately put all his trust in HaShem and know that he is fighting in His Name. He should be courageous and not be afraid in any way... Whoever loses that focus, and begins to worry about the repercussions, transgresses the commandment of this verse. The lives of his fellow soldiers depend on him. If he does not strive for victory, if he does not fight with all his heart and soul, it is as if he was shedding the blood of his fellows. The prophet Jeremiah declared (48:10): “Cursed be the one who does HaShem’s work in bad faith; cursed be he that keeps back his sword from blood!” (Reproduced from “The Call of the Torah,” by Rabbi Elie Munk, with permission of ArtScroll / Mesorah Publications, Ltd.)

All of us have spiritual enemies and fight spiritual battles. Remember Israel is a great people who are strong in thought and action. Yeshua has given His people the victory, and He is mighty to deliver!

- ✿ **Revelation 2:7** “To him who *overcomes* I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God/*Elohim*.”
- ✿ **Revelation 2:11** “He who *overcomes* shall not be hurt by the second death.”
- ✿ **Revelation 2:17** “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who *overcomes* I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”
- ✿ **Revelation 2:26-28** “And he who *overcomes*, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations - He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’ - as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star.”
- ✿ **Revelation 3:5** “He who *overcomes* shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”
- ✿ **Revelation 3:12** “He who *overcomes*, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God/*Elohim*, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God/*Elohim* and the name of the city of My God/*Elohim*, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God/*Elohim*. And I will write on him My new name.”
- ✿ **Revelation 3:21** “To him who *overcomes* I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”
- ✿ **Revelation 21:7** “He who *overcomes* shall inherit all things, and I will be his God/*Elohim* and he shall be My son.”

Haftarah
Isaiah 51:12 to 52:12

I, even I, am he who comforts you. Who are you that you fear mortal men, that you forget Yahweh your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth? For where is the wrath of the oppressor? I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand - I who set the heavens in place, who laid the foundations of the earth, and who say to Zion, 'You are my people.'

Awake, awake, O Zion, clothe yourself with strength. Put on your garments of splendor, O Jerusalem, the holy city. You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed. At first my people went down to Egypt to live; lately, Assyria has oppressed them and now what do I have here? My people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule them mock, all day long my name is constantly blasphemed.

Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I. How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'"

- 🌿 **Luke 2:10-12** “But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid, because I am here announcing to you Good News [*the living Torah/Gospel – Yeshua*] that will bring great joy to all the people. This very day, in the town of David, there was born for you a Deliverer who is Christ the Lord/*Yeshua HaMashiach*.” (CJB)
- 🌿 **Romans 10:14-17** “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news [*Gospel*]!’ But not all the Israelites accepted the good news [*Gospel*]. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our message [*the Gospel*]?’ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message [*Gospel*] is heard through the word of God [*Yeshua*].”
- 🌿 **Isaiah 52:8-11** “Your watchmen shall lift up *their* voices, with their voices they shall sing together; for they shall see eye to eye when the LORD/*Yahweh* brings back Zion. Break forth into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem! For the LORD/*Yahweh* has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD/*Yahweh* has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God/*Elohim* (*Yeshua* – Strong’s #3444 means: *salvation*; our deliverance, welfare, prosperity, deliverance, victory). Depart! Depart! Go out from there, touch no unclean *thing*; go out from the midst of her, be clean, you who bear the vessels of the LORD/*Yahweh*.”
- 🌿 **2 Corinthians 6:16 -7:1** “For we are the temple of the living God/*Elohim*. As God/*Elohim* has said: I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their

God/*Elohim*, and they will be my people. Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD/*Yahweh* Almighty. Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God/*Elohim*.”

📖 **Isaiah 52:12** “For you shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight; for the LORD/*Yahweh* will go before you, and the God/*Elohim* of Israel *will be* your rear guard.”

To be continued...

Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

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