

EDITORIAL

By Pete Vacca

There seems to be a growing interest in an old idea that has been told and retold in the Sacred Name movement for many years. It will surface ever so often and we are obliged to confront it because of the new brethren that have joined us since the last time it was discussed. The subject I am speaking about is “the Lunar Sabbath.”

Just what is the doctrine of the Lunar Sabbath? My understanding is that the new moon that begins a new month also begins a new seven-day cycle, which would change the Sabbath every new moon day. There are many things to take into consideration when we look at the Sabbath Day. The commandment does not end with “keep the Sabbath holy.” Let’s take a closer look at that Sabbath commandment.

It begins in Exodus 20: 8, Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of Yahweh thy Elohim; in it you shalt not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your manservant or maidservant nor your cattle or the stranger that is within your gates. For in six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that is in them and rested the seventh day; therefore Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Notice the instructions in that commandment are to work for six days and get your work done and then rest on the seventh day. Let’s say that the new moon falls on the 4th day of the week, the day that we call Wednesday. That means we would only have four days to get our work done and then have another Sabbath. We would be breaking that commandment by only keeping part of it. Working for six days is just as important as keeping the Sabbath holy. If it weren’t, Yahweh would not have put it in there. Yahweh does not write words just to take up space. He writes the words for us to follow. By keeping a lunar Sabbath, we automatically break the Sabbath command.

What were the lights supposed to do that Yahweh created? Let’s go back to the Book of Genesis and see if we can determine their use. **Genesis 1:14** says they were made for signs and seasons, days and years. Then **Genesis 1:16** says the greater light would rule the day and the lesser light

would rule the night, and He also made the stars. So it sounds like although the moon would tell us when the new month began, it had nothing to do with which day it was. Plus, **Psalms 104:19** says that He appointed the moon for seasons.

We can find no mention in Scripture where the moon has any authority in determining which day it is. I cannot find one Scripture that says the Sabbath is any other day than the seventh day. If we believe in a lunar Sabbath, then the Sabbath could fall on any day of the week. The seventh day would change every new moon. Maybe I should say the Sabbath would change every new moon.

Yahweh says that His laws are not a burden to us; that they are for our good. What good is that? Is it that every seven days we are worn out from work and need a day of rest? Scripture says that Yahweh rested after He finished His six days of work. And do you think it would be a burden to try and hold down a job and have to take a different day off for Sabbath every month? Do you think that would be fair to your employer? Would Yahweh expect your employer to have to be burdened in that manner? I think Yahweh tries to make our lives simple. We are the ones that complicate things.

We have already looked at **Genesis 1** when the lights were created. Did the days of creation begin with the first day of the new moon? Certainly not! The moon was not visible on the first day of creation. But Yahweh counted seven consecutive days to get to the Sabbath. Yahweh created a seven-day weekly cycle in the very beginning, even though the moon was not visible until the fourth day. A second witness to the seven-day weekly cycle can be found in **Exodus 16** when Yahweh provided manna for six days, but did not provide any on the seventh day. We must never forget the information provided for us in **Isaiah 28:9, Whom shall He teach knowledge and whom shall He make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breast.**

Then in **Isaiah 28:10**, we are given the instructions to activate the information. **For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.**

That is how doctrine and Scriptures are understood. If those instructions are not followed, then what you end up with is doctrine made with Scriptures taken out of context. You must search diligently and find everything to do with the subject. Then you must make sure you do not change the context that is being carried out by those Scriptures. If you maintain that understanding, then the truth will shine through.

Let's take the Feast of Weeks, for example. We believe the Scriptures teach us to count fifty days from the weekly Sabbath within the week of Unleavened Bread. This year, we would count from Sabbath, April 7th, seven Sabbaths complete to Sabbath May 26th, which would be not only 49 days, but it would be 7 Sabbaths complete, from Sabbath to Sabbath. Then Sunday (the first day of the week) May 27th would be day number 50 and we would celebrate Pentecost.

Now let's see what would happen if we were keeping a Lunar Sabbath. From April 7th to May 12th would be 5 Sabbaths complete. That is from Sabbath to Sabbath. But we would run into a problem during the 6th week. Just 4 days into the week, Thursday, May 17th, we would have a new moon and a Sabbath. How do we get the other 3 days to finish that last week? And where and when do we begin counting for the next week so we end up with 7 Sabbaths complete?

Some people say, "I get confused using a secular calendar. Our Sabbaths are determined by a civil calendar, and our Holy Days by a lunar calendar." You think that is confusing? I think the above scenario of trying to figure out when to keep Feast of Weeks is what is really confusing. I have to keep the civil calendar because that's the one that governs the whole world. And this world belongs to the secular, doesn't it? I just keep track of the new moons and work Yahweh's feast days in where ever they fit. Not a problem at all.

"Well wasn't the calendar changed at one time? How do we know the days are the same?" Yes, the calendar was changed. The Julian calendar originated in 46 B.C.E., named for Julius Caesar. By 1528, it was 10 full days off. The spring equinox was March 11th instead of March 21st. The reason was that they had miscalculated leap year. When Pope Gregory XIII reformed the calendar from the Julian to the Gregorian in October 1582, the order of days of the week were never interrupted. Thursday, October 4th was followed by Friday, October 15th. This put the calendar back in order. England changed in 1752. (These facts can be found in the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, 1910 Edition, Vol. 3, Page 740.)

The days of the week have never been changed because their order would be very difficult to change. In the beginning, the days of the week were not named, they were numbered. It would be difficult to change the order of 1234567. If it, all of a sudden, were changed to 1647235, everyone would take notice. Even the secular world realizes that Sunday is the first day of the week.

Names for the days came from the Romans. The 1st day; Sunday, came from (Dies-Solis) day of the sun, so-called because it was dedicated to the worship of the sun. The 2nd day, Monday, came from (Monandaeg) which means the

moon's day. Monday was sacred to the goddess of the moon. The 3rd day, Tuesday (Tiu), was named for Norse, god of war. The 4th day, Wednesday, (wenzdih), is from Wodan or Odin, the chief god in Teutonic mythology. At first, the Christians called it Woden's Day. Then they changed it to Wednesday. The 5th day, Thursday, was named for the ancient Norseman, Thor. This day was sacred to the Teutonic god of thunder, the mighty Thor. The 6th day, Friday, was for Frigedaeg. This was dedicated to the goddess of love, Frigg. The 7th day, Saturday (Saeter-daeg), was named for the Roman god, Saturn.

So you see, even though the calendar had changes in it, even though the days were first numbered, then later named, the order was never changed. The world at large knows this. They call Sunday the first day of the week. They have unsuccessfully tried to change the calendar as of late and make Sunday the seventh day so that the weekend would be Friday, Saturday and Sunday and then they could return to work on the first day of the week, which would be Monday. Too many people complained about it, so they have abandoned the idea for the present. Europe said they would go ahead and do it anyway, but later changed their minds.

The 23rd chapter of **Leviticus** is dedicated to the feasts of Yahweh. Notice the very first one in **verse 3, Six days shall you work, but the seventh is a Sabbath to Yahweh; no work shall be done on the Sabbath.** Once again, we see that if we do not work for six days and rest the seventh, we are breaking the Sabbath commandment.

It's really quite simple if we do things the way Yahweh has prescribed them. Life can be rewarding and easy. When man tries to incorporate his ideas into the equation, things get very complicated. More times than not, things start to go wrong and disunity begins to be the dominating factor. When that happens, it's like the domino effect. Everything will start to fall apart and even solid doctrine will go by the wayside.

Remember when man does what he thinks is right, it leads to death. When man does what Yahweh has commanded him to do, he prospers and is like a tree planted by the waters. And everything he puts his hand to turns out good. Turn from the false doctrines of those who are trying to cause confusion in the assemblies. Keep strong and follow the Scripture to remain in the truth of Yahweh.

If you have any questions concerning this doctrine or any other doctrine taught by this assembly, please feel free to drop us a note or e-mail. We will try to help you in any way that we can. We don't claim to know all the answers, but we can look them up and study them with you. May Yahweh bless you and yours abundantly.



US & THEM:

Our Calling of Distinction

Many religious people today—both those who call upon the name of Yahweh and those who don't—believe that the spirit of the Supreme Creator is manifest by a spirit of cooperation between differing religious beliefs. They believe that the most important sign of true spirituality is to demonstrate an attitude of peace that seeks to find and emphasize points in common, rather than differences, to resolve conflicts with compromise, and to demonstrate similarities of belief in an atmosphere of love. Yes, we know from Scripture that Yahweh is an Elohim of peace. He is, in fact, called an **Elohim of peace** 5 times in the New Covenant Scriptures—**Romans 15:33, 16:20; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; and Hebrews 13:20**. We also know that Yahweh is calling those not of Israel to be part of Israel—note **Romans 11:11-24**, the analogy of the olive trees, and **Isaiah 56:6-7**, where foreigners are invited to serve Yahweh and worship Him on His holy (kodesh) mountain. We recognize where believers in the Gentile city of Ephesus were declared **no longer strangers** by the Apostle Paul in **Ephesians 2:11-22**. Yet we also know that the calling of Yahweh in both the original and New Covenants is a calling to purity (**2 Corinthians 7:1; Philippians 4:8**), a calling to perfection (**Matthew 5:48; Deuteronomy 18:13**), a calling to separation (**2 Corinthians 6:17; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 18:4**) and spiritual dedication (**Romans 12:1, 15:16; 1 Corinthians 3:17; Ephesians 1:4; Colossians 1:22**). It is a calling that makes us a special, spiritually-dedicated people, a people who **are in the world (John 17:11) but not of the world (John 15:19)**. We are commanded quite unambiguously in the Book of Revelation by a Voice direct from heaven itself to **come out of her My people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues. (Revelation 18:4)**. So we see that, 1) Yahweh is an Elohim of love and inclusion for all peoples; yet, 2) Yahweh demands that we be a separate, kodesh, and perfect people to Him. Is there a contradiction here?

Yahweh is **not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33)**. Yahweh wants His people to know and be sure of what they believe and why (**Luke 1:4**). That is why He commands us to assemble and keep His seven annual

appointed days of assembly (**Exodus 23:14; Leviticus 23; Deuteronomy 16:16**). On these days, we are expected to study and learn from His word (**Deuteronomy 31:10-13**), **call upon His name and worship Him exclusively (Matthew 4:10; Deuteronomy 6:13-15; Exodus 22:20, 23:24-25; Joshua 23:7-8; 1 Samuel 7:3; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 71:16, 83:18; Isaiah 26:13; 2 Kings 19:19)**, and discuss among ourselves the truths with which He has gifted us (**Malachi 3:16**). He warns us to **make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10)**, to **not be blown about by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14)**, to know what we believe (**1 Timothy 4:3, 2 Timothy 1:12-14**), to **hold fast to those things we have been taught (Titus 1:9)**, and to **contend for the faith [Strong's 4102: religious truth] once delivered to the saints [spiritually dedicated people of Yahweh] (Jude 3)**. Yahweh does not accept compromise between His people and the people of other religious understandings (**Deuteronomy 4:2, 7:1-6, 18:9; 1 Kings 18:21; Jeremiah 10:2 with Acts 17:23; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21, 12:2; Galatians 2:15; Ephesians 2:11-12, 4:17-20**). We know from Scripture that there is good, sound, and true doctrine (**Proverbs 4:2; Matthew 7:28; 1 Timothy 4:6, 6:3; 2 Timothy 4:3, Titus 1:9, 2:1,)** and false, lying, and corrupt doctrine (**Matthew 15:9; Colossians 2:22**)--the doctrine of Yahweh, and the doctrine of Satan (**1 Timothy 4:1**). The apostle Paul even asked in **2 Corinthians 6:14-15: What partnership can righteousness have with lawlessness? What fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony exists between Messiah and Belial [Satan], or what do a believer and an unbeliever have in common? What agreement can a temple of Elohim make with idols?** The answer to his rhetorical questions is clearly, "None!" This being true then, it is incumbent on the people of Yahweh to examine and publicize the truth of Yahweh's Scriptures that He has so wondrously gifted to us. That truth, that special knowledge, is summarized, is codified, in the doctrines we profess, and in the lives we lead. Our lives should reflect our doctrine—what we believe—just as our doctrines define how we live. James Strong defines "doctrine" or the Greek word "did-as-kal-ee'-ah" (1319) as "instruction"—something taught to us by our Master. We are not to put that instruction, that gift of wisdom

which has been gained by the guidance of His spirit, working collectively through the assembly, **under a bushel basket, but on a lampstand**, so the light of the **good news of the Messiah shines throughout the house (2 Corinthians 4:4; Matthew 5:15)**. We should proclaim it to the world, just as we should demonstrate it in our lives. Doctrine is not something to hide, be ashamed of, or water down for fear of offending someone. It is the codification of what we believe. It is the definition of who we are!

We, the people of Yahweh, need to decide once and for all whether we are just a socio-evolutionary derivative of historical Christian belief or whether Yahweh has continuously preserved His true assembly and His true worship down through the ages. Is Yahweh's assembly today just a more purified descendant of the Roman Catholic Church, the root of **all** of what is called Christianity today, or are we of a different root altogether? Does the name of our Elohim really matter, or are the Christian churches of this world just sincerely wrong worshipers of the same Elohim—with a little less knowledge perhaps, but with the same intent? These are questions we need to be sure we have the answers to, and Yahweh's people must be absolutely sure of those answers. Those answers are something we must fix firmly in our mind and in our doctrine. Uncertainty in our minds as to who and what we are, equivocation in our beliefs and confusion as to whether or how we differ from Christianity or Judaism will surely lead to compromise, syncretism, and finally, the death of this incarnation of the Body of Messiah today! It has happened before. The apostle Paul explains to us in **1 Corinthians, chapter 10** that the record of the wandering of the children of Israel in the desert of Sinai is an example to us, a warning from Yahweh Himself, of how He deals with rebellion and religious compromise. We are told that they repeatedly longed to return to Egypt (**Exodus 16:3; Numbers 14:1-4**), where their food (their doctrine) would be provided for them, where they would not have to think or fight for themselves, where their masters could be seen, heard, and felt and where they wouldn't have to trust in the One who is unseen (**Exodus 33:20 & 23; Deuteronomy 4:12 & 15; John 5:37**). Once they were given their space in the land of Israel with Yahweh as their King, they again longed to return to Egypt--this time in their minds. They told Samuel who was Yahweh's appointed judge and servant in that day: **Appoint for us a king to judge us, like all the nations (1 Samuel 8:5)**. Samuel was hurt, and displeased, but Yahweh told him: **Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you: for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them (1 Samuel 8:7)**. They wanted to be

like all the pagan nations around them. They thought it would be easier to not be different. In the same way today, some in Yahweh's assemblies want to be more like the religions around them. They don't want to be different than their Christian friends and neighbors.

But remember, there is a day coming, probably in the not too distant future, when the people of the western world will once again be persecuted, tortured, and brutally murdered for the religious beliefs they hold. We, Yahweh's little flock, will not be excepted. His Word predicts it: **But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake ... And you shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And you shall be hated of all men for My name's sake (Luke 21:12-17)**. **They shall put you out of the synagogues: yes, the time will come, that whoever kills you will think that he is doing service to Elohim (John 16:2)**.

If we don't know what we really believe, if we don't recognize how different we are supposed to be, we won't be different for long. No one will die for a difference of which they are not firmly convinced. However, if we know how we differ, if we know who we are, that we are the called-out, chosen, spiritually-dedicated people of the one true Elohim (**Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 14:2, 26:18; Psalm 135:4; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9**), we will be able to stand against all opposition without compromise. We will be able to resist, if necessary, **even unto death (Revelation 2:10)**!

So, what is it that makes the people of Yahweh different? What doctrines, and what insight has Yahweh given to His people in these **last days (Daniel 12:4; Isaiah 8:16; Acts 2:17; Hebrews 1:2; 1 Peter 1:20; 1 John 2:18)** that need to be emphasized? We detailed earlier that Yahweh is an Elohim of love, but what is that love if not to **do the works** of the One Who sent [us] (**Luke 2:49; John 9:4; Ephesians 2:10**), to **keep the commandments (Matthew 19:17; John 14:15; 1 John 2:5, 5:2)**, to not find that commandment-keeping is a burden (**Jeremiah 23:33-40; 1 John 5:3**), but a blessing (**Deuteronomy 11:26-27**)--a great and loving gift given to us through the wisdom of the Spirit of our great Rabbi (teacher) (**John 1:49**) and El (**Titus 2:10**) Yahshua? A chart would be of use here, highlighting the differences between the beliefs, understandings, doctrines, and actions of the people of Yahweh on the one hand, and those of Christianity—the dominant religion of the western world on the other.

Us: The People of Yahweh Throughout the World:	Them: The People of the Prominent Religions of the Western World:
We worship Yahweh, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel: Ex 3:15; Jn 4:23; Mt 4:10; Phil 3:3; Gal 3:7, 29.	They worship “The Lord God” Jesus, Mary, saints, and sometimes statues representing them.
We call upon the name of Yahweh, and our Master and Savior, Yahshua His Son, for deliverance from evil: Mt 1:21; Acts 2:21, 4:12; 1Cor 10:4; and Deu 32:4.	They call upon some or all of the above when “times get tough.”
We acknowledge Yahshua as our rescuer, our offering for sin: Mt 1:21; Jn 1:29; Zec 9:9; 1 Tim 1:10; Heb 10:12.	They say “Jesus saves!”
We repent (turn away) from sin, the breaking of Yahweh’s just and righteous laws as detailed in the Torah, His written Word: Ex 20:1-18; Mt 19:17-19; Lk 24:47; Acts 2:38, 11:18; 1 Jn 3:4.	They show sorrow over their previous separation from their personal concept of God and from alienation from their fellow man.
We acknowledge that Yahweh’s laws are perfect, just, good, a blessing, and eternal: Ps 19:7-8; Rom 7:12; Ps 33:11, 111:7-8, 119:44, 89, 111 and 152.	They believe that the law was a burden, nailed to the cross and done away with.
We understand that the Scriptures speak only of Father Yahweh and His Son, Yahshua, as Elohim or Supreme Spirit beings: Deu 6:4; Mt 4:10; Ex 3:14-15; Gen 19:24; Pv 30:4; Jn 1:1-4, 8:58, 10:28-30; 1 Tim 3:16, 6:14-16; Col 1:14-19; Phil 2:6-8; Rev 1:1, 8; Titus 2.10.	They philosophize that the “Godhead” is a “trinity” of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the three are one.
In imitation of our Savior and His apostles, and by the command of our Elohim, we desist from work, and assemble together to worship Yahweh, on the Sabbath, the 7th day of the week: Mk 1:21, 6:2; Lk 4:16, 4:31, 13:10, 23:56; Acts 13:14, 44, 15:21, 16:13, 17:2, 18:4; Ex 20:8-11, 31:13-17, 35:2-3; Is 56:2-7.	They say that the Sabbath was changed to Sunday, or was done away with all together, in obedience to their earlier king, Constantine, and the Pontificus Maximus, the leader of their ancient Roman mystery religions.
We also assemble together three times each year to worship on Yahweh’s seven commanded days of assembly, as did the apostles: Lev 23; Ez 17:17-25; Nah 1:15; Zac 14:16-18; Acts 2:1, 18:21, 27:9; 1 Cor 5:8; Col 2:16-17.	They assemble for worship on Christmas and Easter, and pay tribute to Halloween and Valentine’s Day, days derived from a slightly more primitive form of paganism.
We memorialize the death of our perfect Passover Lamb sin-offering, Yahshua, on the “night before He suffered” by ingesting the symbols of His broken body and shed blood on the evening (the beginning) of the 14th day of the scriptural first month of the year: Ex 12:2, 5-6; Lev 23:5; Num 9:2-5; Deu 16:1; Lk 22:7, 19-20; Jn 6:54, 63; 1 Cor 5:7, 10:16-17, 11:23-26; Acts 20:6.	They believe that they (or at least their black-robe-covered priests of Baal) are able to convert sun-shaped flour wafers into the flesh of Jesus, which they eat on an occasional or even frequent basis.
We fast, afflicting our bodies as a sign of remorse and repentance, and to honor the work of our appointed High Priest, Yahshua, on the Day of Atonement, the 10th day of the scriptural 7th month of the year: Lev 16, 23:26-32; Mt 9:15; Mk 2:20; Acts 27:8.	They sometimes give up “something special” for Lent--a special candy, or maybe CSI. Some eat only fish on Friday (in honor, perhaps, of Dagon?).
We are completely immersed in water as willing, comprehending, repentant adults, as a sign of the death of our “old man of sin” and our past rebellion: Mt 3:16; Jn 3:23; Acts 2:38, 8:38; Rom 6:3-11; 1 Cor 12:13.	They sprinkle “holy water” on babies, and declare them “saved” for “Mystery Babylon” and believe in the magic of “the seven sacred mysteries” including the “mystery” of baptism.
We avoid the ingesting or use of those animal products declared unfit for human use by the Scriptures: Gen 7:2, 8; Lev 10:10, 11, 20:25-26; Deu 12:23-25, 14:1-21; Ez 22:26, 44:23; Acts 10:14; 2 Cor 6:17, 7:1.	They say that Jesus “declared all foods clean” and celebrate their religious holidays with a dinner of roasted pig flesh.

The Scriptures tell us that man is a mortal creature, and that only Yahweh has natural immortality: Gen 2:7; Eccl 3:19; 9:5; Ez 13:19, 18:4, 20; Rom 2:7; 1 Tim 6:16.	They believe that they have an indestructible, non-material “soul” that consciously survives death.
We understand from Scripture that Yahweh promises eternal life to us, one of purpose with His Son, actualized by a future resurrection from death: Job 14:14-16; Ps 17:15; Is 26:19-20; Dn 12:2; Mk 12:18-27; Lk 14:14; Jn 5:29, 11:23-26; Acts 4:2, 17:18, 23:6, 24:15; Rom 6:5; 1 Cor 15; Phil 3:11; Heb 6:2; Rev 20:5.	They believe that the immortal, disembodied souls of the “righteous” dead are now already doing “something” (or nothing) in their heavenly reward.
We recognize that Yahshua, the only-born Son of Yahweh, truly died on an execution stake, and had to be resurrected by the power of His Father, Yahweh, exactly three days and three nights later, toward the end of the Sabbath: Mt 12:40, 27:63; Jn 19:42; Mk 16:1-6; 1 Cor 15:1-8; Acts 5:30, 10:38-41, 2:24, 32, 3:15, 4:10.	They conjecture that the body of Jesus, the son of God, died on a cross, the historical symbol of Tammuz, on “Good Friday” afternoon, visited spirits in the underworld, and finally raised Himself up from the grave 1-1/2 days later on Easter Sunday morning.
We believe that Yahshua is now our only High Priest and advocate with the Father, applying His atoning offering before Yahweh for the forgiveness of our sins: Ps 110:4; Heb 5:6, 9:24; 1 Cor 5:7; Eph 5:2; Jn 1:29.	They see either no need or use for a high priest, or acknowledge a human on earth as their priest.
Yahweh has appointed physical markers of the times and seasons through the sighting of green grain-heads of barley in Israel, and the local sighting of new moon crescents. Gen 1:14; Ex 12:2, 23:14-17; Lv 23:4; Num 28:11; Deu 16:1; Sam 20:5.	They accept the secularly-adjusted calendar of the Roman Catholic Pope, Gregory XIII, to determine the times of their religious festivals or football games.

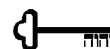
Since we are so different, let's make clear where we differ. Let's not gloss over the crystal-clear evangel and pure doctrine with which we have been entrusted in this last day. Yahshua commanded His followers to **disciple all the nations ... teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you** (Matthew 28:19-20). Let us make those differences clear, not in a spirit of hatred, arrogance or pride, but in the spirit of love of the truths given to us in the spirit of love toward those for whom **“the glorious light of the evangel” (2 Corinthians 4:4)** has not yet shined. If we, the end-time worshipers and heralds of the truths of Yahweh, don't stand for something—something known, precise, sure—we will stand for nothing. If we stand for nothing, we will have nothing to offer this confused and hopeless world around us. We, Yahweh's assemblies, will have no right or reason to exist.

There is a special spirit of understanding among the people of Yahweh today, an understanding not shared with Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity or any of the other religions of the “Mystery Babylon” of this world. That spirit is described in **Isaiah 11:2** as the **spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Yahweh**. But we are told by Paul in **Romans 8:9** and **1 Corinthians 2.16** that that same spirit is made available to us as a guarantee, a down payment of the future full-measure of the promised inheritance gift. That spirit is promised to us when we acknowledge our sins (**Romans 7:12**), and repent (turn away from our past law breaking, **Acts 26:20**), and call upon the name of our substitutionary offering for sin, Yahshua the

righteous (**Acts 2:38**). Just as no other offering for sin will be accepted (**Hebrews 9:26, 10:5-14**), no other name guarantees that spirit (**Acts 4:12**). We are commanded to let that light shine, or we fail in our mission. Let us beam-out the truths we have been given with boldness and certainty, with a spirit of meekness, compassion, thanksgiving, and love. Truly, we need to remember the words of the apostle Paul, **What do you have, that you did not [first] receive ... (1 Corinthians 4:7)?** Knowing that we, in these weak and frail **jars of clay (2 Corinthians 4:7)** have been given this **pearl of great price (Matthew 13:46)**, our knowledge of the Kingdom (**Matthew 25:15**), and that this message is not our own contrivance, should not only engender an attitude of great humility in us, but also one of great assurance: **for [we] know whom [we] have believed (2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 6:19)**. The fact that we have been given the command to teach all people of the world the wonderful news of the soon-coming restoration of the law of Yahweh throughout this created universe, and the return of its administrator, King Yahshua (**Go ye therefore, and teach all nations—Matthew 28:19**), should embolden us to announce those truths without compromise or hesitation. **Brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10).**

How long will you limp between two opinions (1 Kings 18:21)?

Choose this day whom you will serve (Joshua 24:15). Our Elohim is truly an Elohim who has given us a calling of distinction! HalleluYah!



DUST TO DUST

By Ed Burgett

The evolutionist teaches that life began with a single-celled entity, which eventually evolved into a more complex entity through mutation and growth. This was achieved by a process of differentiation, meaning to change from a common origin to a specialized one having distinctive character or quality. Life supposedly began from an amoeba or one cell made up of protoplasm, which is in a constant state of change as it moves about, thereby changing over time into a multiple cell entity. Millions of years later, according to the evolution theory, life began from the one celled amoeba found in water to man and animals walking upright on land. To the evolutionist, there is no creator or creation, just an evolving of matter. But from a Book, which the evolutionist hates and denies as having any validity, comes a different perspective (**Matthew 11:25; Romans 8:7**). Yahweh created man for His good pleasure. From the dust, He formed man: **For dust you are and to dust shall you return (Genesis 2:7, 3:19; Colossians 1:15; Revelation 4:11)**. According to the wisdom of Elohim, man, woman and beast were formed. How did woman evolve from man? Yahweh took a rib from the man and made woman, both having the same basic physical characteristics except for sexual organs. Then began ... **a time to be born and a time to die (Ecclesiastes 3:2)**.

Life is but a journey, from childhood to adulthood. We must all make the trip home—from dirt to dirt—whether we're buried in it or inherit it (**Genesis 3:19; Psalm 115:16; Matthew 5:5**). The question that is too complex for even the evolutionist is this: What kind of journey is given to man so that life has meaning, purpose, joy, happiness and fulfillment? If man has evolved over millions of years, why has he digressed mentally, emotionally, and physiologically to the point of becoming an endangered species? Why hasn't his behavior kept up with his physical "evolution?" Why isn't man's highly-developed cerebral cortex any different today in terms of moral issues than when he first came on land? If man has journeyed from the water to the caves of Europe, the plains of Africa, the sands of the Middle East and the forests of North America, why hasn't his behavior evolved into something other than base, with little foundation?

Into the dirt, life was breathed. But Yahweh also put choice within man. Choice was *put* within—it did not *evolve* within. It is something man can either accept, acknowledge and build upon, or reject (**Deuteronomy 30:11-15**). Only by the power of the Spirit that has made us can

we make the right choice (**Luke 1:35**).

Man's journey has been arduous at best. David writes, **Arise O Yahweh, and do not let men prevail; let the nations be judged in Your sight. Put them in fear, O Yahweh, that the nations may know themselves to be man (Psalm 9:19-20)**.

Man is 'just man'—a physical entity. But if man would address the great Eloah, man could become a much more complete entity (**1 John 4:16; Mark 12:30**). But man's heart is toward man. It is man who seeks the pre-eminence. This is a result of great strides in his intellectual endeavors, yet man still has a base nature. Why then, many question, would a Creator create something having such a dark side to it? Choices! Yahweh made a man, not a machine. And His Messiah says, **Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. Choices!**

Man is of a dark nature and darkness cannot comprehend the light. Man must choose to do so by the Spirit Who made him (**John 1:1-5, 4:23-24; Jeremiah 17:9**). The Spirit gives life; therefore, choose life. For life is a journey and the path one chooses determines the quality of life.

Hear the words of David, **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light unto my path (Psalm 119:105). You will show me the path of life. In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11). Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it (Psalm 119:35)**.

Evolutionists state that man has traveled millions and millions of miles down through the corridors of time, over millions of years to get to Sinai and Calvary. Why then hasn't man been able to comprehend this purpose? Sinai brought to him the right choices (**Nehemiah 13:1-4**). Calvary gave him the understanding of poor choices.

It is not within man's ability to establish a Sinai or a Calvary, neither of which is a quantitative leap in inductive reasoning on the part of man. The complex organism called man cannot even deduce the properties of the two concepts. **Unless a man is born of the water and the Spirit, he can in no wise enter into the Kingdom of Elohim.** Kingdom here means to have the dominion of Yahweh within—a power which comes only from Eloah. It is not something that will magically be there in the next several million years. It is there by choice, not evolution.

In order to have and maintain a moral fiber, man must accept the teachings of Paul, **Or do you despise the**

riches of His goodness, forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of Yahweh leads you to repentance? But Yahweh, who is rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loves us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with the Anointed One (Romans 2:4; Ephesians 2:4-5).

The first step, the first choice one can make, is found in the letter written to those of the Diaspora, which teaches man: **Without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to Eloah must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).**

Man diligently seeks to dispel creation and its Creator by teaching that man began as a single cell originating in the water. Yet, his journey these past few thousand years has been an exercise in futility in reference to any sound moral ground being taken. Yet, the argument ensues that man's religions have been as much of a failure as any of the other of man's social organizations. Man chooses to build religions that worship idols and deities, which are, by definition, gods; and they forsake the commandment that says, **You shall not make for yourself carved images; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them (Exodus 20:3-4).** Man is exhorted: **Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3).** Faith comes by hearing the word (Romans 10:17). The living Word from the Heavens teaches man that Yahweh is Spirit and desires that man should ... **worship the Father in Spirit and Truth (John 1:1-5; 4:22-24).** The psalmist teaches that Yahweh's law is truth (Psalm 119:142). It is what teaches man right choices. **How shall a young man cleanse his way? Psalm 119:9, Matthew 5, 6, & 7. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of Eloah (Deuteronomy 8:3, Luke 4:4).** The entirety of Your word is truth and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever (Psalm 119:160).

Man and his religions hate the Torah **for the carnal mind is enmity against the Mighty One and is not subject to His law nor can it be (Romans 8:7).** These two hate His name and that of His Son (Proverbs 30:4, Psalm 68:4). They have been replaced in His living word by the generic terms that mean idol or deity (Jeremiah 15:17-21, Deuteronomy 32:4).

Man's love of the tangible has caused him to stumble. He seeks his own way and not the way of the true Spirit, (2 Corinthians 3:17). Man is a prisoner of his own mind, and he will determine how he came into existence and what his final distinction will be, (Genesis 11:4). **The sons of Yahweh saw the daughters of men that they were beautiful and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. Then Yahweh saw that the wick-**

edness of man was great in the earth and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Genesis 6:1-6; Isaiah 14:12-15).

Religion cannot give an answer to the evolutionist because he does not desire the true Mighty One, Yahweh. Religions cannot give a correct answer because they do not understand Sinai or Calvary. **Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father, there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. 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 (John 5:42-47).** **Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill (Matthew 5:17-48).** Wickedness or lawlessness abounds in the heart of those who put religious beliefs over the Torah or the instructions of the Bible, which is found in both the Old and New Testaments, in both the old and new covenants (Deuteronomy 5, Hebrews 8 and Hebrews 10).

All too well you reject the commandments of Eloah, that you may keep your traditions (Mark 7:1-23). It is within the Scriptures that man discovers who he is and where he comes from and where he is going. Torah holds the answers for man. Torah couldn't have been written or submitted by man, let alone, understood by man. Torah was and is given to the saints (Deuteronomy 33:1-5; Ephesians 2:19; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2). And a saint understands this, **Do we make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law (Romans 3:31, Romans 2:13).** James 1:22-27 teaches, **But be doers of the word, and not hearer only, deceiving yourselves.**

Life is a journey and what path a person follows is his or her choice. Torah will and can lead a person down a fulfilling path because it points to Yahshua, who, in turn, administers the Holy Spirit (John 14:26-27). The preacher gives this teaching; **For dust you are, and to dust shall you return (Genesis 3:19).** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **fear Elohim and keep His commandments for this is man's all. For Elohim will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).** The fear or reverence of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom. **And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding (Proverbs 9:10, Revelation 15:1-4).** **Repent of your sins, lawlessness, and go be baptized in the name of Yahshua so your sins can be forgiven and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; John 3:4).** **I am the way, the truth and the life. Your law is truth (John 14:6; Psalm 119:142).**

There is no instruction in the Scriptures of evolutionists having any truth.



The Appointed Times for Prayer!

By Hector Castillo



Have you ever felt guilty about praying to Yahweh—like when you are lying down in bed trying to pray and you cannot concentrate? How about when you just don't make time to pray like you know you should or maybe you really do not know how to pray; or, you *do* know how to pray, but you only pray when you are in need of something? If you have answered any of the questions with "yes," you are not alone. In fact, out of all the tenants of our faith, prayer is probably the most complex, so much so that, even though all religions have it as part of their faith, all of them teach it differently. For example, many of the eastern religions offer repeated and chanted prayers to their gods. Islam teaches that one must pray five times a day. Even the modern-day Jews have many Hebrew prayers which they repeat at certain festivals. We are all familiar with the Wailing Wall where we see many men standing in front of the wall while bouncing their heads back and forth in prayer. Many of us parents teach our kids to pray when they are just babies and we continue to teach them through adolescence.

So how does one pray? Is there a way to pray which pleases Yahweh and is there an appointed time for prayer? This study hopes to answer some of the questions that you might have. The goal of this study is to help you improve your relationship and your communication with the Father Yahweh. Yahweh has definitely set an appointed time for prayer. Much like a judge sets a time to hear a case, Yahweh has arranged a time for which we are to come before Him. This is not to say that the times that we will be studying in this article are the only times for prayer. In fact, Yahweh is happy to hear our petitions during any time of the day and/or night; however, He has set aside a time in which He has asked us to come before Him (daily); to stand/kneel before Him and to give attention to His presence.

Before we begin our study, let us review two pivotal words. They are *boqer* (morning-sunrise) and *ereb* (evening-sunset), *Strong's numbers 1242 and 6153* respectively. These two words are critical for our study because they are the appointed times which Yahweh established as times for our daily prayers.

Morning (Sunrise)

OT:1242 boqer (bo'-ker); from OT:1239; properly, dawn (as the break of day); generally, morning: KJV—(+)day, early, morning, morrow.

OT:1239 baqar (baw-kar); a primitive root; properly, to plough, or (generally) break forth, i.e. (figuratively) to inspect, admire, care for, consider: KJV—(make) inquire (-ry), (make) search, seek out.

Evening (Sunset)

OT:6153 `ereb (eh'-reb); from OT:6150; dusk: KJV—+day, even (-ing, tide), night.

OT:6150 `arab (aw-rab'); a primitive root [identical with OT: 6148 through the idea of covering with a texture]; to grow dusky at sundown: KJV—be darkened, (toward) evening.

Appointed Time for Sacrifices Mentioned at Creation

The times for the appointed sacrifices, that would later be mentioned in the Second Book of Moshe (Moses—Exodus), were established at creation. Notice what we are told in the First Book of Moshe: *Genesis 1:5 Elohim called the light "day," and the darkness He called "night." And there was evening⁶¹⁵³, and there was morning¹²⁴²--the first day.*

A pattern of praises was established through the daily ritual sacrifices which were to occur in the morning (sunrise) and the evening (sunset). Amongst the many rules, laws and precepts that Yahweh gave Moshe (Moses) regarding the animal sacrifices, He made it perfectly clear that on two occasions, sunrise and sunset, the priests were to make mandated offerings.

Exodus 29:38-41, This is what you are to offer on the altar regularly each day: two lambs a year old. Offer one in the morning¹²⁴² and the other at twilight⁶¹⁵³. With the first lamb, offer a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with a quarter of a hin of oil from pressed olives, and a quarter of a hin of wine as a drink offering. Sacrifice the other lamb at twilight with the same grain offering and its drink offering as in the morning—a pleasing aroma, an offering made to Yahweh by fire.

Leviticus 6:19-20, Yahweh also said to Moshe, "This is the offering Aaron and his sons are to bring to Yahweh on the day he is anointed: a tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a regular grain offering, half of it in the morning¹²⁴² and half in the evening⁶¹⁵³.

1 Chronicles 16:40, to present burnt offerings to Yahweh on the altar of burnt offering regularly, morning¹²⁴² and evening⁶¹⁵³, in accordance with everything written in the Law of Yahweh, which He had given Yisrael.

2 Chronicles 2:4, Now I am about to build a temple for the Name of Yahweh my Elohim and to dedicate it to

Him for burning fragrant incense before Him, for setting out the consecrated bread regularly, and for making burnt offerings every morning¹²⁴² and evening⁶¹⁵³ and on Sabbaths and New Moons and at the appointed feasts of Yahweh our Elohim. This is a lasting ordinance for Yisrael.

2 Chronicles 13:11-12, Every morning¹²⁴² and evening⁶¹⁵³ they present burnt offerings and fragrant incense to Yahweh. They set out the bread on the ceremonially clean table and light the lamps on the gold lampstand every evening. We are observing the requirements of Yahweh our Elohim. But you have forsaken Him.

Ezra 3:3, Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to Yahweh, both the morning¹²⁴² and evening⁶¹⁵³ sacrifices.

The Appointed Time for Sacrifices

The next verse makes it perfectly clear that these sacrifices were appointed times. The word used here is #4150, *mowed*, which is the same word describing the Set-Apart Days of Yahweh.

Numbers 28:1-4, Yahweh said to Moshe, "Give this command to the Yisraelites and say to them: 'See that you present to Me at the appointed time^{4150 mowed} the food for My offerings made by fire, as an aroma pleasing to Me.' Say to them: 'This is the offering made by fire that you are to present to Yahweh: two lambs a year old without defect, as a regular burnt offering each day. Prepare one lamb in the morning¹²⁴² and the other at twilight⁶¹⁵³.'" "

Leviticus 23:2, Speak unto the children of Yisrael, and say unto them, "Concerning the feasts^{4150 mowed} of Yahweh, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are My feasts^{4150 mowed}."

Prayer Test Proposed by Elijah at the Time of the Evening Sacrifice

We see an example of how Elijah understood the importance of this appointed time (sunset) in that he allowed the priests of Baal to make fools of themselves until the time that Yahweh appointed. Then, precisely at Yahweh's appointed time, Elijah called out to Him and He answered by performing His miracle.

1 Kings 18:26-38, So they took the bull given them ... and called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar ... they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice ... At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O YHWH, Elohim of Abraham, Yisaac and Yisrael, let it be known today that you are Elohim in Yisrael and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command" ... Then the fire of Yahweh fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

Prayer Offered in the Morning (#1242 Sunrise)

There are many verses in the Scriptures that point to the morning (sunrise) as an important time for prayer. In all of these verses, the word 'morning' refers to #1242 which means sunrise:

Psalm 5:1-3, Give ear to my words, O YHWH, consider my sighing. Listen to my cry for help, My King and my Elohim, for to you I pray. In the morning¹²⁴², O YHWH, You hear my voice; in the morning¹²⁴² I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

Psalm 88:13-14, But I cry to You for help, O YHWH; in the morning¹²⁴² my prayer comes before You. Why, O YHWH, do you reject me and hide Your face from me?

Psalm 143:8, Let the morning¹²⁴² bring me word of Your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in You. Show me the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul.

Isaiah 33:2, O YHWH, be gracious to us; we long for You. Be our strength every morning¹²⁴², our salvation in time of distress.

Evening (#6153 Sunset)

It is possible that the patriarchs were aware of the appointed times of prayer. Notice that Yisaac (Isaac) was on his way to pray during the time of the evening sacrifice. We are well aware that this occurred long before Yahweh spoke to Moshe.

Genesis 24:63, And Yisaac went out to meditate [pray] in the field at the eventide⁶¹⁵³.

When Ezra was told that the priests had sinned, he waited until the time of the evening sacrifice. Upon that time, he then began to pray and to call out to Yahweh.

Ezra 9:4-5, Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the Elohim of Yisrael, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening⁶¹⁵³ sacrifice. And at the evening sacrifice, I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto YHWH my Elohim.

David understood the importance of prayer during this time. Since he could not perform the required sacrifice, he requested that Yahweh accept his prayer as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2-3, Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening⁶¹⁵³ sacrifice. Set a watch, O YHWH, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

We see in the next reference that the hand of Yahweh was upon Ezekiel in the evening—the set-apart time for prayer.

Ezekiel 33:22, Now the hand of YHWH was upon me in the evening⁶¹⁵³, afore he that was escaped came; and had opened my mouth, until he came to me in the morning; and my mouth was opened, and I was no more dumb.

David Prayed Three Times a Day—Morning, Noon and Evening

Notice that David added the noontime as a time to pray; however, he kept in line with the *appointed times* (sunrise and sunset).

Psalm 55:17, Evening⁶¹⁵³, morning¹²⁴² and noon I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.

Daniel's Example of Prayer

In Daniel 6, we are told that he prayed three times a day. It is very likely that he prayed during the times that are mentioned in Psalm 55:17. The interesting point about Daniel is that he was in exile. In other words, he could not perform the prescribed sacrifices that Yahweh had commanded Moshe. But in obedience to those times, Daniel instead gave attention to Yahweh in prayer. We see many examples throughout his writings that Yahweh heard his prayers. Notice the next verse which makes clear that Daniel was in obedience to the appointed times of prayer.

Daniel 9:21, Yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening⁶¹⁵³ oblation.

Our Bodies Have Replaced the Animal Sacrifices and Drink Offerings

Both in the Old and New Testaments, the assertion is made that our bodies are to be offered as spiritual sacrifices. The New Testament, however, clarifies this because we no longer have to offer animal sacrifices.

Romans 12:1-2, Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of Elohim's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to Elohim. This is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what Elohim's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Philippians 2:17-18, But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Prayer from the Lips Is Likened to an Offering

Hosea 14:2, Take words with you and return to Yahweh. Say to Him, "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips."

What About the New Testament?

One of the difficulties about this teaching is that it does not appear to be taught in the New Testament. On the surface, we find the same dilemma with this teaching that we do with the Sabbath and the Feast Days. However, if we do a deep search and think like a Yisraelite instead of a Grecian; and if we take into account the Scriptures already mentioned in the Old Testament, we can find har-

monious continuity within the Scriptures. Take, for example, the story of Cornelius. We are told that he prayed to Elohim always. If we read his story very carefully, we get the idea that he thought like a Yisraelite would have. We also notice that he pleased Yahweh with his prayers. Since Yahweh had commanded the hour of sacrifice/prayer, one can confidently assume that Cornelius prayed daily during those times and, therefore, Yahweh was pleased. In addition, we see that Yahweh was pleased with the fact that Cornelius had a good heart

Acts 10:1-5, There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared Elohim with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to Elohim always. About the ninth hour of the day, he saw clearly in a vision an angel of Elohim coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!" And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, master?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before Elohim. Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter.

The following Scriptures do not give us a time in which Paul was praying; however, it is probable that, being an Yisraelite, he would have been aware of the times that Yahweh had established. We know, for example, that he kept all of the commanded Feast days, even though the New Testament doesn't necessarily tell us so. Still one can strongly assume that he prayed continuously during the times allocated, and probably at other times. Paul's comment of "pray without ceasing" could very well be a reference to the fact that praying every day, twice a day, would be a form of "praying without ceasing."

Romans 1:9-10, For Elohim is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the good news of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of Elohim to come to you.

Romans 12:9-12, Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving Yahweh; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer ...

Ephesians 1:15-17, Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in Yahshua and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the Elohim of our Master Yahshua Ha Mashiach, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him ...

Colossians 1:9-10, For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding ...

1 Thessalonians 3:6-10, But now that Timothy has

come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you—therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith. For now we live, if you stand fast in Yahweh. For what thanks can we render to Elohim for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our Elohim, night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22, And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in Yahweh and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good, both for yourselves and for all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of Elohim in Mashiach Yahshua for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

1 Timothy 5:3-5, Honor widows who are really widows. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before Elohim. Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in Elohim and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.

2 Timothy 1:3, I thank Elohim, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing, I remember you in my prayers night and day.

What About Yahshua?

We see many instances in which Yahshua prayed. In fact, He even taught the disciples how to pray properly (Matthew 6:9). A safe assumption with regard to Yahshua and prayer is that He would have also been aware of what Yahweh required. Yahshua would have also been aware of the morning and evening sacrifices and of the practices of those men that prayed during these times. It is possible that Yahshua was referring to the allocated times when He gave His advice for prayer in the following verses. Notice also He advises us not to babble and to watch what we say as these allotted times are very serious.

Matthew 6:6-8, But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, Who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

The following verse also makes it clear that prayer during these allotted times is very serious.

Ecclesiastes 5:2-3, Do not be quick with your mouth;

do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before Elohim. Elohim is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. As a dream comes when there are many cares, so the speech of a fool when there are many words.

Looking At Some Loose Scriptures

I identify loose scriptures as scriptures that make more sense when you put them in perspective with the allotted times of prayer. Take, for instance, the verse that warns against letting the sun go down on your anger. When one comes before Yahweh during the evening prayer, one must be right in his/her heart. Therefore, one must deal with their problems before they stand/kneel before Him. It turns into a win-win situation. When we deal with our anger, we are happier and we can experience more peace in our lives, relationships and marriages.

Ephesians 4:26, In your anger do not sin: do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.

One of the other loose scriptures that makes more sense is when Yahweh gave the laws of purity. He certainly declared that a person would be unclean until sunset. This is because sunset is the end and start of the day, but also because a sacrificial sin offering would be offered at that time. Being in presence and prayer with Yahweh is a step in the right direction towards being purified.

Leviticus 11:24-25, You will make yourselves unclean by these; whoever touches their carcasses will be unclean till evening⁶¹⁵³. Whoever picks up one of their carcasses must wash his clothes, and he will be unclean till evening⁶¹⁵³.

Similarly, we see that Yahweh commanded that no one would be hung on a tree after sunset. It is obvious that these allotted times for sacrifice/prayer are important to Yahweh.

Joshua 8:29, And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until eventide: and as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his carcass down from the tree, and cast it at the entering of the gate of the city, and raise thereon a great heap of stones, that remaineth unto this day.

Another one of our loose scriptures is the one that I find most intriguing. It has been a custom for many people that keep Atonement to call the people that they have offended and apologize so that they can fast with a clear conscience. Although this practice is a good one, it is evident to me that the verse which people use to support this practice has a better application when used with the appointed times of prayer.

Matthew 5:23-24, Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

When we apply the above scripture to the appointed times for prayer, one of the things that we must do is to sort out any unresolved issues that we have with our

brethren. The result is that we address our issues immediately, instead of just before Atonement. Many studies have proven that resolving conflict early on is much healthier for us, not to mention the fact that practicing conflict resolution with the brethren is one of the pathways to unity. If you have two brethren that keep the appointed times of prayer, and they understand the significance of standing before Yahweh with a clear conscience, then we can see they will ensure that they stand before Yahweh with a clear conscience. In other words, they will address whatever issues they have before them and then go before Yahweh in prayer.

1 Peter 3:12, For the eyes of YHWH are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of YHWH is against those who do evil.

Some Possible Arguments

One of the arguments that people have against this tenet is that these times could be restricting and binding. The truth, however, is that we must look at them as we do the Sabbath. Yahweh established the Sabbath as a day of rest and a time for reflection on His word. To some people, the Sabbath is binding and restricting, but to those who understand the purpose for the Sabbath, they see it as a time of freedom and blessing. The appointed times of prayer that Yahweh established are not restricting. They are a time in which we have the freedom to stand/kneel before Him and commune with Him.

Another argument that we might hear regarding these times of prayer is that Yahshua did away with them because He did away with the sacrifices. We know and understand that Yahshua *did* do away with the sacrifices for sin; however, He did not do away with the “appointed times” that Yahweh established. What about the argument that praying twice a day is too ritualistic and that it might take away from faith in Yahweh? The reality is that having rituals in which Yahweh is the cornerstone cannot be bad. On the contrary, as we establish and practice the times of prayer, we are united by the fact that there would be many like-minded people speaking to Yahweh with one voice and, in many instances, at the same time.

What about the argument that this tenet is not supported in the New Testament, and, therefore, we don't have to do it? It is true that this tenet is not clearly spelled out in the New Testament. However, we know that the New Testament brethren did not use the New Testament writings to establish doctrines. During their time, there was no such thing as the New Testament. It did not come to be known as such until almost four hundred years later. The fact is that these brethren would have exclusively used the Old Testament; thus, they would have been aware of the fact that Yahweh appointed two times for sacrifices. Furthermore, they

would have also seen the examples of prayer offered by the individuals that we have noted in this study.

The argument that I would agree with is that this tenet, just like all the rest, requires a change of heart and a change of lifestyle. Instead of sleeping in, one would have to make time to pray in the morning. They would also have to make time in the evening. And, of course, just like all of the tenets, this would be a life-long commitment. I must admit that when I first started doing this, it took some time to get into the habit. On many occasions, I would be so busy doing other things during the sunset prayer that I would forget to pray. I know that Yahweh is forgiving and full of grace and I am sure that He overlooks these times of adjustment. Even now, I am having to rearrange my life so that I can meet the morning time for prayer. I make arrangements to pull over and pray if I am on the road during either of these two times. The adjustment has been positive for my family and I have found myself being more in tune with prayer as I reach out to Yahweh and Yahshua on a daily basis.

Summary

It is obvious by the aforementioned scriptures that the daily prayer times should be added to the tenets of our faith. Not only do we see the command from Yahweh to offer sacrifices at sunrise and sunset, but we also have examples of men that were not sacrificing, but were spending those times in prayer. Yahshua did not come to do away with the appointed times. He only came to fulfill the animal sacrifices for sin and to establish a new and more spiritual roadway to Yahweh. We need to honor these times during our lives and stand/kneel before Yahweh under His (Yahshua's) authority. Imagine the benefits to having both our day and evening start with our being in commune with Yahweh. Already I have seen many blessings, and you will, too!

It is commonly understood that when the Yisraelites were in the desert, they would step outside of their tents and face the tabernacle during the times of the evening and morning sacrifice. Twice a day they would come in His presence. Similarly, we as believers should stand/kneel before Him twice a day and attend to Him in prayer. Practicing this tenet, along with the many other ones, adds to our intent to live our lives as Yahweh and Yahshua-centered. As mentioned earlier, this is not to say that we should not pray to Yahweh at any other time of the day or night. We have examples where both David and Daniel prayed at noon and it seems that the disciples also prayed at other times. The important thing, however, is to recognize the fact that Yahweh, our Father, established His appointed times for prayer! All we can do, as humble servants, is to obey and to trust that He established them for a greater purpose.

Halleluyah!



YAHSHUA BEFORE & AFTER HE WAS SAVIOR

DID HE PRE-EXIST?

By Pete Vacca

Some people do not want to go back any further than two thousand years when it comes to talking about Yahshua. I think it's important to establish what Yahshua was *before* He became the Savior of the world. It is important to know Jewish law in order to establish the steps that were taken to get us to where we are today.

We must agree on one important thing as we begin our search. The Holy Scripture will tell the story. All we need to do is follow what we have been instructed to do in **Isaiah 28:9-10**. We will put **line upon line and precept upon precept**. And we will gather truth from the written Word, **here a little, there a little**. With that in mind, let us proceed to search.

Colossians 1:15 says that Yahshua was the image of the invisible EL, the firstborn of every creature. So that's not hard to understand. Yahshua was made in Yahweh's image and He was created before anything else. So we have established that, at one time, in the very beginning, there were only two Beings in the entire universe.

Do we have a second witness to that? Yes, we do. The **8th chapter of Proverbs** is speaking of wisdom. **Verse one** says that wisdom can cry, and **verse 11** says that wisdom is better than rubies and all other things that can be desired. **Verse 22** says, **Yahweh possessed Me in the very beginning of His ways before His works of old**. That word "possessed" is *Strong's* #7069, a prime root and it means to acquire. Surely no one believes that Almighty Yahweh was without wisdom at some point in time and needed to acquire it.

1 Corinthians 1:24 says that Yahshua the Messiah is both the power and the wisdom of Yahweh. **Proverbs 8:23** continues to **verse 30-31** to say that He was there from the beginning. **When there were no depths, I was brought forth. Before mountains and fountains and hills, I was brought forth. I was brought forth before the fields and the earth. I was there before the dust. I was there when He prepared the heavens, the sea and the clouds.**

Now look at **verse 30**, **Then I was by Him as one brought up with Him; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him**. If you have had the blessings of a son, as I have, you can visualize that scene without any trouble at all. If you need more proof, look at **verse 35**, **... for whoso findeth Me findeth life, and shall ob-**

tain favor of Yahweh. That sounds just like **John 14:6**, **Yahshua said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me."**

So if He was the first of creation, then according to the law that Yahweh Himself established—Yahshua being the firstborn—He is the inheritor of His Father's estate. That is important to remember because it will be brought up again later in this study. It has to do with His coming to earth as a man.

We read in **Colossians 1:16-17** that He created everything, that is, under His Father's supervision, of course. He says He can do nothing unless the Father shows Him. **For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions or principalities or powers, all things were created by Him and for Him, and He is before all things and by Him all things consist**. It goes on to say that He has pre-eminence in all things. And it also says something that a lot of people have a problem with. **Verse 19** says, **FOR IT PLEASED THE FATHER THAT IN HIM SHOULD ALL FULLNESS DWELL**.

So the question now is: What or who was Yahshua before He became a man on earth and saved His people from their sins?

I will begin by quoting and explaining a scripture in Hebrews and then I will go to other scriptures to prove the explanation. Once again, we will be taking **here a little and there a little, line upon line and precept upon precept**. That is how Yahweh said He would teach us to understand doctrine.

In the Book of Hebrews, Yahweh asks a very important question. **Hebrews 1:5** says, **For unto which of the angels has He said at any time, "Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee?"** Some will say He never said that to any angel at any time. But I contend that the scripture proves that, in Yahshua's pre-existence, there was a spirit-being (*malak*--an angel, a supernatural messenger of Yahweh). Look at **verse 9** of the same chapter, **Elohim, even Thy Elohim, has anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows**. That word "fellows" is #2270, from #2266, a prime root, and means a sharer, an associate, a partner, companion, league, couple, fellow, knit together. It is the same word as in **Psalms 45:7** be-

cause it is quoted from there.

Hebrews 1:4 says, **So He became as much superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is superior to theirs.** It is so hard to believe that, at one time, He was made better than the angels when we know, according to **Hebrews 2:9**, that at one time, He was made lower than the angels. So Yahweh made Him better than the angels in **Hebrews 1:4**, then when He came to earth as a man, He was made lower than the angels.

If we are able to accept that Yahshua was an angel (a messenger), then we can understand whom it was that was able to speak in the first person in the Book of Exodus. **Exodus 3:2**, **The Angel of Yahweh appeared to Moses in the burning bush.** Then in **Exodus 3:14**, the angel told Moses to say, **I Am hath sent me to you.** He goes on to say, **Tell them the El of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob hath sent you.** Again, in **Exodus 6:3**, the angel in the burning bush says, **I appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as El Shaddai, but by My name Yahweh did they not know Me.**

But they did know the name Yahweh, because **Genesis 4:25-26** says that Seth replaced Abel and Seth had a son named Enos, and then did men begin to call upon the name of Yahweh. Understanding these scriptures makes it easy to accept that Yahshua, in His pre-existing state, would be the only One who had the authority to speak in the first person as Yahweh Himself.

Exodus 13:21 says, **As the Israelites went out of Egypt, Yahweh went before them as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.** **Exodus 23:20-23** says, **Behold I send My angel before you to keep you in the way (John 14:6 says that Yahshua is the way).**

And **Exodus 23:21** says, **Beware of Him, obey Him, and provoke Him not for He will not pardon you, for My name is in Him.** Notice the next few words, **Obey His voice and do all that I speak.**

Yahshua said He and the Father are one. He said, **If you see Me, you see the Father.** He said, **I am in the Father and the Father is in Me.** He said, **The things I do, I do not on My own but the Father Who is in Me does them.**

He is telling us that He and His Father are one in word, thought and deed, and that He has the power to do anything because Yahweh has given that power and authority to Him. While Yahshua was on earth, He represented Yahweh. Why would He not be able to do the same when He pre-existed?

Look at what **1 Corinthians 10:4** says about the Israelites in the desert, **They did all drink of the same spiritual drink, for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them and that Rock was Messiah.** **Exodus 14:19** says that the Angel of Yahweh went before them

moved and went behind them and followed them and stayed between them and the Egyptians. Then in **Exodus 15:2-3**, they sang about Yahweh being strong, a man of war, and Yahweh is His name. It makes no difference who the person was or what the situation was. Each of them recognized and referred to that Angel as Yahweh.

Without a doubt, we know that this Angel is a very special Angel. He referred to Himself as Yahweh many times. He had men remove their shoes in His presence, and He called Himself Elohim. Now notice **Revelation 22:8**; John fell down to worship the angel that was his guide, and was told to stand up. The angel told him not to bow down to him: **I am a fellow servant like you.** That is a big contrast to the angel that confronted Joshua in **Joshua 5:13-15**. That Angel said He was the Captain of the Host of Yahweh, and Joshua fell on his face to worship Him. He didn't tell Joshua to get up. He told Him to take off his shoes for he was on holy ground—the very same thing Moses was told by the Angel in the burning bush on Mt. Sinai.

We see the same thing in **Genesis 32**. Jacob wrestled with the Angel of Yahweh in **verses 24** through **30** and His name was changed to Israel. **Hosea 12:2-4** also records, **Yahweh has a charge to bring against Judah. He will punish Jacob according to his ways and repay him according to his deeds. In the womb, he grasped his brother's heel; and as a man, he struggled with Yahweh. He struggled with the Angel and overcame Him.**

In **Genesis 48:15-16**, while blessing Ephraim and Manasseh, Israel (Jacob) said, **May the Elohim before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the El who has been my Shepherd all my life to this day, the Angel that redeemed me from evil, bless the lads.** So it is very evident that Jacob, now called Israel, knew who that Angel was. He called the place in **chapter 32**, Peniel (the face of Elohim), **For he said, "I have seen the face of Elohim."** And he referred to Him as Shepherd, and Redeemer. We know that Yahweh is our Shepherd and Redeemer. But how does He shepherd and redeem us? He does it through His beloved Son Yahshua, Who is Yahweh's Salvation. We can see by this that Yahshua is our Savior, no matter where He is or in what form He is.

Compare the above with what the prophet Isaiah said in **Isaiah 63:8-12**, **For He said, "Surely they are My people, sons who will not be false to Me;" and so He became their Savior. In all their distress, He too was distressed, and the Angel of His presence saved them. In His love and mercy He redeemed them; He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. Yet they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit. So He turned and became their enemy and He Himself fought**

against them. Then His people recalled the days of old, the days of Moses and His people saying, “Where is He who brought them through the sea with the shepherd of His flock? Where is He who set His Holy Spirit among them, who set His glorious arm of power to be at Moses’ right hand, which divided the waters before them to gain for Himself everlasting renown, Who led them through the depths?” Do you see those same words used here? Redeemer, Shepherd, and Savior are all referring to the Angel that was with them during their exodus from Egypt. That Rock was Messiah (**1 Corinthians 10:4**).

How about when Yahshua said He saw Satan cast out of heaven? Satan was in the Garden of Eden, so he must have been thrown down before that, and Yahshua saw it happen! In **John chapter 8**, He was saying that Abraham saw His day, but they all mocked Him and said that He was not even fifty years old. They didn’t understand how He could have seen Abraham. And He answered in **verse 58**, He said, “Before Abraham was, I am,” and they picked up stones to throw at Him.

Yahshua was most likely the one that spoke to Abraham on his way to Sodom and Gomorrah. Look at **Genesis 18:1**. It says that Yahweh appeared to him in the plains of Mamre. It says that, as he sat in the door of his tent, he looked up and three men stood there. In **verse 3**, he calls one of them Yahweh. Notice **verse 16** says that the men turned and went towards Sodom, but Abraham stayed there and spoke yet to Yahweh. We know that Abraham bargained with Yahweh and got Him to say He would spare the cities for the sake of ten righteous men. Now look at **verse 1 of chapter 19**. Two angels came to Sodom, and in **verse 2**, Lot referred to them as masters, not Yahweh.

If you listen to all the people that say they have seen or spoken to Yahweh at one time or another throughout the Scriptures, then what do you do with **John 5:37** where Yahshua said no one has ever heard Yahweh’s voice or seen His shape? Again, in **John 6:46**, He says no one has seen the Father except Him.

There is a lot we do not know about the spirit world, but we do know this—it does exist. We pray that Yahweh has His angels about us to protect us at all times in everything we do and everywhere we go. We ask Him to let His angels protect our little children. We want His angels to protect us as we travel, and they do.

I call your attention to **Job, chapter one**. Yahweh asked Satan if he noticed His servant Job, a perfect and upright man. Here is Satan’s answer in **vs. 10**, **You have made a hedge about him and his house and everything he has, and it protects him on every side**. What do you think that hedge was made out of? I am sure it was the same thing that the young servant saw in **2 Kings**

6:17 when the Aramaeans were going to attack Dothan. Elisha prayed for Yahweh to open his eyes and make him see, so Yahweh opened his eyes and he saw the mountain covered with horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha. **Psalms 68:17** says the chariots of Yahweh are twenty thousand, and the angels of Yahweh are thousands. **Job 25:3** asks, **Can anyone number His army, and who can boast of escaping it?** It is difficult to accept some things that we cannot see, but we know, because of the Scriptures, that they are there.

The **15th chapter of 1 Corinthians** is called the resurrection chapter. The end of the chapter speaks about the natural and the spiritual. Adam is referred to as the natural man that came first from the earth, and Yahshua is referred to as the spiritual Man that came next and He came from heaven.

Also notice Yahshua’s own words in **John 17:4** when He proclaimed, **I have glorified You on earth: I have finished the work which You gave Me to do**. In **verse 5**, He asked Yahweh to glorify Him with the glory that He had with Yahweh before the world was. I don’t see how you could spin that in any way to make it say anything different.

Remember, back in the beginning, we established that Yahshua was the firstborn of creation. As the firstborn, He will inherit His Father’s possessions. Notice **Matthew 1:21** says, **And you shall call His name Yahshua, for He shall save His people from their sins**. How is it that they are called His people if He is not the one who will inherit them? Notice also that it says, **His name shall be called Immanuel, which being interpreted is, El with us**.

In the **6th chapter of John**, Yahshua is telling them that they must eat His flesh and drink His blood if they want everlasting life. They could not understand what He was trying to tell them. In **verse 60**, they murmured and said, **This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?** Yahshua knew what they were grumbling about and asks in the next verse, **Does this offend you? Then what are you going to think when you see the Son of Man ascend up where He was before?** How many different ways is there to interpret that? It means what it says.

No one will argue the point that Yahshua was Yahweh’s Spokesman here on earth, with all power and authority from on high. Why is it so difficult to believe that He was the Spokesman and had the same position and power and authority *before* He came to earth? Do we believe that Yahweh would give that kind of authority and power to just anyone? Look at what happened when Lucifer had some power. He corrupted a third of the angels. But Yahweh knew He could trust the One He called His Son. In **Psalms 2**, Yahweh says that the nations rebel

against Him and His Anointed. Yahweh proclaims that His Son will rule with a rod of iron. And in **Revelation 2:26-27** He says that He will give the authority to those who overcome to rule with Him, those that He received from His Father. So some of us will help Him rule over His inheritance.

Yahweh told Moses to tell the Israelites in **Exodus 19:5-6**, “**Now therefore, if you will obey My voice and keep My covenant then you shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine: and you shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**” **These are the words, which you shall speak unto the children of Israel.**

From Exodus to Isaiah, they are called a separated people, a people of inheritance, a special people, a purchased people, a holy people, a redeemed people, and a sanctified people. So from the beginning, there was a group of people that was chosen to help Yahshua rule over His inheritance. We can be among those chosen people. We can be those referred to in **Revelation 14:12**, **Here is the patience of the saints, here are they that keep the commandments of Yahweh and the faith of Yahshua.**

We all know what keeping the commandments means. Keeping the faith of Yahshua means believing that, from His very beginning with Yahweh, to His death and resurrection, we know that He is alive, sitting on the right hand of the Power until His second coming.

I'll finish this article by addressing one last thing. Some people have a problem with Yahshua in His pre-existing state being Yahweh's Spokesman, or as some say, Yahweh of the Old Testament. They don't think it's correct to have two Yahwehs. I contend that Yahweh is a family name and there is nothing wrong with the Son having the same name as the Father. As a matter of fact, that is the only proper way it should be. **Ephesians 3:14-15** says, **For this cause I bow my knee to the Father of our Master Yahshua the Messiah, of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.**

If the whole family in heaven and earth are named after the Father, what is wrong with the Son having His Father's name in the beginning? He was the only begotten Son of the Father at that time. Someday, we will become heirs with Yahshua and members of that same family!

