

INSIGHT

Volume 9 Number 4

November 2018



Stone of Scone

International Congregation of Yahweh

INSIGHT

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A MAGAZINE OF BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

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Our major doctrines include the name of the Creator, Yahweh, and His Son, Yahshua. Only these names are to be used in worship rather than Jesus, God, Lord, Jehovah, etc. Ample Scriptural and historical evidence support this belief; not the least of which is the commandment against taking the name of Yahweh in vain (Ex. 20:7).

Other major foundational beliefs are the atoning sacrifice of the Messiah Yahshua, and the inspiration of both Old and New Testaments. An ICY hallmark doctrine is the restored truth that the weekly seventh-day Sabbath is from dawn-to-dark; not from sunset-to-sunset as commonly taught. Yahweh's true Holy Days and New Moons are to be observed as well. Insight is sent free of charge to all who subscribe. Since ICY does not teach tithing on money, this is made possible through free-will offerings of ICY members and other contributors. Circulation presently includes over 30 foreign countries and the USA.

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Have You Heard the True Gospel?

From the Editor: *Gary C. Miller*

What really is the *true* gospel; the *authentic original* version? One article in this issue of *Insight*, “What is the True Gospel?”, covers several points of that gospel missing from today’s popular versions, including whose kingdom it is and what was actually nailed to the cross.

These are points you need to know, and here are a couple of other essentials: “And Yahshua came... preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of Yahweh, And saying...the Kingdom of Yahweh is at hand: repent you, and believe the gospel.” (Mark 1:14-15).

Clearly, the *true gospel* demands we first repent, then believe the good news of a coming Kingdom of the Creator Yahweh. Repentance requires knowledge of good and evil [Heb. 5:14]. *Then* we can fully believe and understand the details of the great good news of the Kingdom of Yahweh. In that global-ruling kingdom, its King, Yahshua, and members of that government will have “...power over the nations; And he shall rule them with a rod of iron...even as I received of my Father.” (Rev. 2:26-27; 12:5; Psa. 2:7-9).

Do churches preach *that* message today? Or some other gospel? *This gospel* has been lost through the centuries; the *foundational unadulterated Laws of that coming government* neglected and the knowledge of *good and evil* buried.

This is nothing new. The early churches lost sight of that message too. The apostle Paul saw it, and on one occasion told the churches of Galatia, “I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him [Yahweh: vv. 1, 3-4] that called you into the grace of the Messiah unto another gospel: ... there be some that...would pervert the gospel of the Messiah” (Gal. 1:6-7).

Now we know what this “other gospel” did not include: repentance and believing the truth of a coming government of Yahweh.

A message, also far from the mainstream of modern gospels, involves a law that world government will enforce: the Law of the Land Sabbaths, resting the land in the seventh year. Rarely or never is it mentioned, but truthfully, it is part of the *true gospel* too! Our article on the *sixth-year*, starting October 28, 2018, includes what you probably never knew about that year, and details what to do in the 2019–2020 seventh-year Land Sabbath. Our agricultural industry needs these facts. Laws of this kind are *not religious laws*. They are *natural laws* Yahweh built into the natural order...for our good. How we comply or not to this Law determines the destiny of a nation! Believe it or not.

We also address a widespread trend in modern America claiming, “It Is All About the Kids!” But is it and should it be? Military experts will tell you privately how the “soft underbelly of America is the family.” Manipulate the family, and the hearts and minds of parents, teachers, government, and churches will invariably follow many agendas not in the national interest! This trend has taken over public schools forcing policies in response to public pressure. What is a child’s status in the family? And how should we discipline our children for *their* good and society’s best interest? An article in this issue probes these questions.

Finally, what unusual event occurred centuries ago fulfilling an age-old prophecy? What happened around 700 B.C.? A strange hewn *stone* weighing just over 300 pounds found its way to the British Isles. No, it was not a meteorite from outer space, but definitely one with an intriguing and *unique history*. Called “The Stone of Destiny” and other names, *who brought it*, for *what purpose*, and *from where*? Kings and queens have been coronated while sitting above this stone, literally for centuries! Why? Read this amazing story of the “Stone of Scone.”

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It Is ALL About the Kids

Is it and should it be?

Is it “All About the Kids?” On the surface this theme certainly sounds noble and forward-looking, promising what is in their best interest. But, as with many highly publicized promotions, if we peel back the rhetoric we may find just the opposite is true. Parents often echo this modern “progressive” theme which inevitably lands in our public schools. Proudly and boldly touting the “Kids First” and “It’s All About the Kids” mantras, parents influence schools to add more and more extracurricular sports and other social activities focusing on kids and, ironically, away from parents who become sideline cheerleaders.

No doubt there are many enjoyable short-term benefits gained from these activities. It is important, however, to see if there are also social costs in the longer haul.

For example, what are the effects on the family unit; the nucleus of a nation? Does this contribute to what many consider our present crisis in parenting? Clearly, they de-emphasize family while placing more emphasis on displaying kids in team sports or individual competition and *away from parents*. It is equally clear these activities are nonproductive labor leaving only fleeting glories, injuries, trophies and on rare occasions, scholarships. Each year 14,000 U.S. public-school districts sponsor approximately 1.3 million high school sports competitions. Not counting practice hours which would easily double the total, how much time out of students’, staff, and parents’ lives is that? A staggering 223 years in total hours! You have to wonder “How much is enough?” Why do schools do it? Because the public demands it!

Nowadays, student-centered after-school activities take precedence over most everything including family time which is better when *away from socialization with*

classmates. Time was when “The family meal, at home, says John Rosemond, was regarded as more important than after-school activities. Mom and Dad talked more... with one another than they talked with you. For lack of pedestals, we emancipated earlier and much more successfully than have children since.”²

Mr. Rosemond continues, “The most important thing about children is the need to prepare them properly for responsible citizenship. The primary objective should not be raising a straight-A student who excels at three sports, earns a spot on the Olympic swim team, goes to an A-list university and becomes a prominent brain surgeon. The primary objective is to raise a child such that community and culture are strengthened.”²

THE PRIME FOCUS

Few things in this life are entirely about only one cause, one goal or one effort. Our children are no exception. Making children *THE* prime focus of everything, especially of the family, may sacrifice something more important such as the parents’ relationship! Too often in this “rule from the bottom up”, parental authority becomes the “dog the tail is wagging”, leaving behind many intolerable consequences.

If the children are the center of family focus, guess what? They are likely to think they are the center of everything else. Scientists have yet to find the center of the universe, but this we know, it is not a three-year old nor extracurricular activities having parents dart breathlessly from one event to the next nearly year-round.

The universe of the family, however, does have a center, the parents. They are the center-of-gravity, in a manner of speaking; a fact which should be obvious for several rea-



sons. From a purely genetic point of view, this is beyond controversy. From a **psychological** and **authority** point of view, it should be equally beyond doubt.

WE ARE ALL SELFISH BY NATURE

Of course babies are selfish as they justifiably make demands for our attention. They are totally dependent on the loving care of the family. It is nature's survival mechanism, but how long and to what extent should this self-centeredness, of which we all are richly endowed, be allowed without proper training to the contrary? As one author put it, "Never too old to learn" is truer in reverse. The further it is reversed, the truer it becomes. "Never too young to learn" is the idea parents and nurses should always bear in mind.

"Their kids...thrive
because they have created a
stable family."

The more a behavior pattern is affixed to the primary, simple, unconditioned responses, the easier it is to establish firmly...the sooner habits (good or bad) are inculcated, the more force they will have, the longer they will endure, the harder they will be to change."³

But some experts observing child behavior, logging reams of sage data, may differ in particulars about what it all means, but **are sure** their observed behavior is the natural order of child development. Is it really, or rather the effect of some nonbiological process?

As one author put it:

"By having already carelessly ASSUMED any means of punishment or control over a child to be harmful, the child psychologists have laboriously catalogued the "behavior" patterns of children-by merely OBSERVING them.

They have, instead of TRAINING the children, seeing how positive methods of real *teaching*, *instruction*, and *discipline* will work, merely "observed" the little childrenbusily made notes,... collected ...observations. As a result of these widespread "observations," modern psychologists have documentedPHASES in actions of children.....notice carefully, however, that these *phases* are merely the INEVITABLE reactions of Untrained children, Undisciplined children, who have been OBSERVED instead of trained!"⁴

And who is responsible for this training and discipline? Clearly, parents, who must be the family authorities and primary focus; the captains of the family ship. Does this mean abuse and brutally cutting remarks with penalties greater than misbehavior requires? Not at all! Neither does it mean total childhood freedom.

"Now we are forced to believe from the study of



Child-centered families have become much more prevalent in recent years, but this change in family structure has not necessarily proven to be the most beneficial in the long-term. *stochastic-scientist.blogspot.com*

the facts that all these forms of behavior [anger, rivalry, resentment, sociability, shyness, shame, love, jealousy, etc.] are *built in by the parents and by the environment* which the parent allows the child to grow up in. There are no instincts. We build in at an early age everything that is later to appear."⁵

A CHILD'S STATUS

Is it really in the best interest of the child to be number one in the family; the family revolving around kids' activities, wants and needs...them basically in control? Is it not rather in their best interest that they are trained, disciplined and controlled by the parents; them revolving around the parents? It is clearly the latter, as shown, and we will see as the child's proper status is further clarified.

First, a child is a child. Remember the apostle Paul remarked, "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child..." (I Cor. 13:11). In other words, children will have the status of a child. And what is that status?

John Rosemond asked a married couple with three pre-teen kids, "Who are the most important people in your family?" Like all good moms and dads of this brave new millennium, they answered, "Our kids!" "Why?" I then asked. "What is it about your kids that gives them that status?" And like all good moms and dads of this brave new millennium, they couldn't answer the questions other than to fumble with appeals to emotion. So, I answered the question for them: "There is no reasonable thing that gives your children that status." I went on to point out that many if not most of the problems they're having with their kids-typical stuff these days-are the result of treating their children as if they, their marriage, and their family exist because of the kids when it is, in fact, **the other way around**. Their kids exist because of them and their marriage and thrive because they have created a stable family.²

When the roles of parent and child are reversed, so is



Spanking children as a form of discipline was once the most common punishment for disobedience in the household. *goodhousekeeping.com / Getty Images*

the misguided authority and its undesirable consequences.

Rosemond continued:

“This is really the heart of the matter. People my age know it’s the heart of the matter because when we were kids it was clear to us that our parents were the most important people in our families. And that right there, is why we respected our parents and that, right there, is why we looked up to adults in general. Yes, Virginia, once upon a time in the United States of America, children were second-class citizens, to their advantage.”²

On one occasion little children were brought to Yahshua asking that He put His hands on them, but His disciples objected. “...when Yahshua saw it, He was much displeased, and said to them, Suffer the little children to come to me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of Yahweh...And He took them up in His arms. Put His hands upon, them, and blessed them” (Mark 10:13-14, 16). He blessed them, but did not say, “Never tell them ‘No’ so they can have everything they want.” Really children do not want total freedom, they want security, discipline and knowing the boundaries.

OTHER POINTS HELP ESTABLISH STATUS

In finding their proper place in the family hierarchy, a child’s status is aided by *proper* discipline. Some timeless principles are found in the excellent advice from another advisor: “To discipline a child fairly and successfully, there are two things a child must know: What the rules are and who is going to enforce them. But identify the rules well in advance. When a child chooses to break those rules give him a reason to regret it. Finally, show love, affection,

kindness, and understanding.”⁶

He further explains:

“Spank for (1). Willful disobedience, (2). Temper tantrums, (3). Backtalk, (4). Lying, (5). Rebellion in any form [“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.” I Sam. 15:23], and (6). The same thing-be consistent or it will not work. And do not spank for everything; certainly do not spank for fear.”⁶

Also spanking does not work if it was too gentle-especially for the strong-willed child. The parent must win; not the child. If deserved punishment is delayed, it is far less effective or even totally ineffective: “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.” (Eccl. 8:11). “Chasten your son while there is hope, and let not your soul spare for his crying.” (Prv. 19:18).

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Prv. 22:6).

The apostle Paul, though we have no record he had children, still gave good advice, “And you fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of Yahweh.” (Eph. 6:4). Key words are “*provoke*” (deliberately incite anger), “*nurture*” (care for and encourage the growth or development of), and “*admonition*” (authoritative counsel or warning).

WHAT IF PARENTS MAKE MISTAKES?

There is no “What if...” about it! Even clearly knowing the guidelines for parenting, parents do and will make mistakes; sometimes big mistakes.

Years ago we visited Andrew Jackson’s home, The Hermitage, outside Nashville, Tenn. After touring the two-sto-

ry mansion, we wandered the grounds coming across various plaques posted here and there. One plaque described, Rachel Jackson, Mr. Jackson's wife. I recall two facts on the plaque stood out. One was how wonderfully kind and gentle Rachel was; never raising her voice or showing any emotional extremes or upsets with others, treating them with an angel-like patience. The other fact I thought helped explain that one was ***she never had any kids!***

WALL-EYED PIKE "EXPLAINS" WHAT PARENTS SHOULD DO!

So what happens when the inevitable mistakes are made raising children? What then? Is all lost? Are they irreversible? Fortunately, nature comes to our aid. Dr. James Dobson explains an important *natural law* parents can use just in case. He says, "It is an absolute fact that unreinforced behavior will eventually disappear. This process, called *extinction*...can be very useful to parents... who want to alter the characteristics of children."⁷ He then relates an astonishing example showing the effectiveness of this principle:

"...the wall-eyed pike is a large fish with a big appetite for minnows. If...placed in a tank of water with his small colleagues, he will soon be in the tank alone. However, an interesting thing occurs when a plate of glass is slipped down the middle of the tank, separating the pike from the minnows. The pike cannot see the glass, and he hits it solidly in pursuit of his dinner. Again and again he will swim into the glass... His behavior is *not* being reinforced; it is gradually being extinguished. Eventually the pike gives up... He has learned that it is not possible to get the minnows. [Notice] The glass can then be taken from the tank, allowing the minnows to swim around their mortal enemy in perfect safety. He will not try to eat them. He knows what he knows. They are unreachable. The wall-eyed pike will actually starve to death while his favorite food is bumping him on the gills and mouth."⁷

YAHWEH CHASTENS US TO EXTINGUISH BAD BEHAVIOR

This powerful principle acts when parents withhold reinforcement for undesirable behavior. The lesson is clear. ***If we do not reward children for bad behavior, that behavior will be extinguished.*** Clearly, there is a path for changing behavior.

This same principle applies on the most personal level of development and responsibility. If it did not, repentance of breaking Yahweh's Laws would be pointless and impossible; our fate sealed by our past. We could not extinguish sinful actions. The consequences of the past do not have to be the consequences of our future. Our actions today can bring a brighter future. If we *choose not to be, we are not forever the victim of our past mistakes* or our

parents, or our environment, society, big government, or circumstance. We can break out of that "victimhood and entitlement mentality" so prevalent today. We can choose to stand on our own two feet, "look life in the eye" and say, "As Yahweh is my helper, I can and I will move forward!"

As the famous rock group, The Eagles, echoed over the last decades of the 20th century, "Often times it happens we live our lives in chains and never even know WE have the key!"

Truly, the behavior of children and adults ***can be altered for the better, bringing a longer, happier***

"Clearly, there is a path for
changing behavior."

life. And, sometimes our loving heavenly Father will show us a better way, that way to life, health, and happiness by letting us know He is not all velvet, but steel as well: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore and repent." (Rev. 3:19). "Yahweh has chastened me sore: but he has not given me over to death." (Psa. 118:18). "But when we are judged, we are chastened by Yahweh, that we should not be condemned with the world." (I Cor. 11:32). "And if you will not for all this hearken to me, but walk contrary to me; Then I will walk contrary to you also in fury; and I [Yahweh], even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins." (Lev. 26:28). Yahweh does not reward bad behavior. He extinguishes it; for our good.

FINAL THOUGHTS

"Our child is the most important person in our family' is the first step toward raising a child who feels entitled. You don't want that. Unbeknownst to your child, he doesn't need that. And neither does America."² And neither does any culture!

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Questions & Answers

Who is Jesus?

Interesting question. The name Jesus, in the Greek, in which the NT was written, is “Iesous” and is pronounced “ee-ay-sooce”, as any lexicon will show. In fact, the original 1611 King James spells it “Iesus” [with an “I” not a “J” which is a relative newcomer to the English; Matt. 1:18, etc.]. As you are no doubt aware the Spanish, Jesus, is pronounced “Hay Zoo” or “Hay Zeus” basically meaning “Zeus is savior.” So when we say, “Jesus” as “Gee sus” it is unclear, to me at least, where this pronunciation originated. Certainly not from the Bible. Names are “transliterated” from one language to another. For example, “Martha” has the same basic pronunciation in any other language. So why is Iesous, “ee-ay-sooce” not the name in English? Simply someone decided to change it. Spellings are to convey the sound of names. Why all this stress on the pronunciation of what is written as “Jesus?” Here is why:

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12). Nothing could be more certain than this and more sharply focus on the immense importance of the proper name of the Messiah.

So to your question, my answer would be, “I do not really know for sure who Jesus is as this name is commonly vocalized...not sure who this person is or his origin (I have some suspicions though).” Consequently, I do not believe there is any salvation in that name.

Too, the name “Iesous” (“ee-ay-sooce”) is highly suspect given its Greek form, since the Messiah of the New Testament was Jewish...not Greek. So why would He have a Greek-like name? My research and the Hebrew scriptures indicate the actual name of the Messiah is “Yahshua” meaning “Yah is Saviour.”

I fully understand these views I have expressed will probably be viewed in the Christian community of believers as pedantic and narrowly focused. No matter. For a situation as important as salvation we cannot leave anything to chance or tradition.

Perhaps a long answer, but your questions are probing and deserve, require, a somewhat in-depth answer.

Can we eat the gizzard, liver, heart, etc. (internal organs) of the turkey (any clean animal) to make giblet gravy or as part of some other flavoring mixture?

The Bible clearly shows that **only the flesh** was eaten, using countless examples (Ex. 12:8; Jer. 7:4; Psa. 50:13,

etc.). Scripture makes a clear distinction between the flesh and other parts of a body such as skin, the fat, and internal organs such as liver, kidneys, heart, etc. (Lev. 4:8; Lam. 3:4; Psa. 84:2, etc.).

Too, there is no example in Scripture of eating internal organs, (so translated in the International Standard Version and Holman Version).

The term for “internal organs” [SEC 7130; ISV, HSCB] is translated with various other words as well: “innards”, “inwards”, “purtenance”.

It is clear the inward parts, the internal organs, are not classified Biblically as the flesh.

Only the flesh of the clean animal is allowed to be eaten; not the internal organs, nor the fat or blood.

I am a born again believer but obviously I'm not Jewish or have no Jewish background so how can I observe Passover? That sounds like works to me and the Bible clearly says that salvation through works is not possible.

If you repent of breaking the Law and are baptized in the name of Yahshua, then you can and must observe the Passover to gain eternal life: “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life...” (John 6:54). This is done at Passover (Mark 14:22, 24).

What about works? Recall the Apostle James said, “...faith without works is dead...” (James 2:20). He went on to say, “...I will show you my faith by my works.” (v. 18). He then summarizes, “You see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” (v. 24).

The Apostle Peter tells us, “Repent and be baptized...that your sins may be forgiven; [then] you will receive ...the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38). Notice repentance comes first. Sins are not forgiven nor can we receive the Holy Spirit without repenting of breaking the Law and doing the works of righteousness, i. e. obeying the Law. True, that ANY works we do cannot erase our past sins... Only Yahshua's sacrifice can pay for them: “...for the remission of sins that are past...” (Rom. 3:25). But that sacrifice will not be applied if we do not repent of the sins we have been committing.

What is the TRUE Gospel Message?



What was the original gospel? On every hand we find those professing Biblical gospel. But is the message commonly called “The gospel of Jesus Christ” the *true* gospel? Is it what Yahshua the Messiah proclaimed?

Yahshua, the great prophet from Nazareth, came preaching the gospel (“the good news”). But His message was different in many ways than what is promoted today under the title of “Gospel of Jesus Christ.” What did He preach? What does the Bible say?

WHAT YAHSHUA PREACHED (A). YAHWEH’S NAME

We will cover several points of the true gospel missing from today’s popular versions. For one, Yahshua came proclaiming the *Name of Yahweh*: “I have declared to them your name and will declare it” (John 14:12). What name?

This question is answered in Matthew’s account: “And the multitudes...cried saying,.. “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord...” (Matt. 21:9; *KJV* uses “Lord”; see also Matt. 23:30; Mark 11:9-10; John 12:13). How should this be translated?

This part of the verse is a quote of Psalms 118:26:

יהוה

“Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD.” The word “LORD” here in all capitals is the Hebrew “*Yahweh*” mentioned about 7,000 times in the Old Testament and should be so translated in the New Testament. Clearly, Matthew 21:9 should be “...He who comes in the name of Yahweh...” See, the multitudes *knew He came in Yahweh’s name because they had heard Him proclaim it, preach it, for over three years!*

Those preaching the “gospel of Jesus Christ” never mention Yahweh’s name and never pray to *Him*. They pray to God, the Babylonian deity of good luck. True! They *do not* pray or worship the One Yahshua represented, but a

“Blessed be he...who comes in the name of Yahweh...”

pagan deity! How can one claim to preach the true gospel if they never acknowledge Him, never proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom of *Yahweh*, or never represent the Master of the Universe *by His name, Yahweh?*

(B). THE KINGDOM

The true gospel proclaims the coming Kingdom of Yahweh, the Master of the Universe?

This is another dimension of the true gospel often omitted. The fact is, the core of Yahshua’s message was about a *kingdom*: “And Yahshua came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of Yahweh [“God”, *KJV*; should be

Yahweh as proven earlier]" (Mark 1:14).

Notice the gospel involves a coming government, specifically a kingdom, a righteous kingdom with a benevolent but Law-enforcing **King**. What was the centerpiece of His message? "...saying repent you and believe the gospel..." (v. 15). To believe the gospel, you must first repent. The

"Who...claims they changed
the day of worship...?"

Kingdom of Yahweh is based on Yahweh's Law, and it will rule all nations of the earth! (Rev. 2:26-27).

(C). THE LAW UNCHANGED

Also, Yahshua came preaching Yahweh's commandments must be kept to attain eternal life: "...one came and said to him, Good Master, what good thing *must I do*, that I may have eternal life? And he said to him...if you will enter into life *keep the commandments*" (Matt. 19:16-17).

Neither His coming nor the *founding of His church* changed the validity of the Law *in any way*: "Think not that I am come to destroy the Law or the Prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill" (Matt. 5:17). He did not come to annul or change the Law. Neither would He empower His church to change it. Clearly, He would not give His church authority beyond what He possessed.

He emphatically stated in this verse that He did not come to destroy the Law. Yet many still insist the word "fulfill" (*KJV*) used in this verse does exactly that. If this word means "to annul, negate or destroy, etc.," then Yahshua contradicted himself in the same sentence.

The word translated "fulfill" in this verse is the Gr. *ple-roo* (SEC 4137) which means in this instance: "...to cause God's [Yahweh's] will (as made known in the Law) to be obeyed as it should be..."¹

Note the antonyms (the opposites) of this word: "to invalidate, disannul (SEC 208); to abolish (SEC 2673); to loose, dissolve, destroy (SEC 3089)..."²

So clearly any teaching the disannulling or invalidation of the Law are promoting *just the opposite* of Yahshua's message and the Biblical doctrines.

The context shows Yahshua came to "...do, carry out... the Law."³ This Law includes the weekly Sabbath and annual Holy Days.

THE "SABBATH" GOSPEL

Furthermore, as part of the true gospel message, Yahshua said, "The son of man is Master, ruler, [lord, *KJV*] of the *Sabbath day*." (Matt. 12:8).

There are two commonly taught *false doctrines* about the Sabbath. One claims the seventh-day Sabbath is still

binding but promotes the unscriptural *Babylonian sunset-to-sunset Sabbath* (Read Rev. 18:2, 4).

The other claims Yahweh's seventh-day Sabbath commandment (Ex. 20:8-11) was done away altogether!

This last one basically tells us there is really no Sabbath Law we must actually do, repent of breaking, when we accept the Messiah as our savior (See again Matt. 19:16-17). It also replaces the seventh-day Biblical Sabbath with Sunday; adding that Yahshua is now the Master of the first day of the week, Sunday, not the seventh-day Sabbath of Scripture (See again Matt. 12:8; Ex. 20:8-11).

But there is a *third* more subtle approach than these two. This one actually *comes in the names of Yahweh and Yahshua* but still promotes the non-biblical sunset-to-sunset sabbath! This is the group of which Yahshua said, "For many shall come *in my name*...and shall deceive many....and many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many" (Matt. 24:5, 11). Half-truth half falsehood.

A half-truth is still false. That is why in courts of law a witness is sworn in by promising "To tell to the truth, *the whole truth*, and *nothing but the truth*!" Courts and judges had this one figured out long ago knowing how cleverly a witness can evade the *real truth* by concealing evidence and mixing truth with lies!

Would the three gospels described above *pass this lit-mus test in a common court of law*?

SABBATH TO SUNDAY

What is the original source of the Sunday worship doctrine? Yahshua made clear it is impossible to change Yahweh's great Law (Luke 16:17), but some claim *they can and have done so*. Who claims they "changed" the day of wor-



The seventh-day Sabbath has always been Saturday (Gen. 2:2). *SDA Shirts*

ship from the Scripturally ordained seventh day Sabbath to Sunday? Whose “gospel” is this?

Let history answer the question: “The Catholic Church of its own infallible authority created Sunday a holy day to take the place of the Sabbath of the old law.”⁴

Such beliefs persist, in spite of Yahshua’s emphatic statement, “And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the Law to fail” (Luke 16:17). The Catholic Church’s heretical claim of having the authority to change the Sabbath directly contradicts this decree of the Messiah himself.

A church claiming the authority to replace the seventh-day Sabbath of the Law (Ex. 20:10) with another day, is simply usurping the authority of Yahweh Himself!

WHAT ELSE WAS NAILED TO THE CROSS (STAKE)?

A cornerstone belief of modern gospels claims the Law was nailed to the cross, doing away with it. This is based on Paul’s comment: “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” (Col. 2:14; *KJV*).

“Ordinances” is usually interpreted to mean the Law of Yahweh. Thus, the Law was nailed to the stake, and nullified. Is that really what Paul is saying here? Would Yahshua, who kept the Law perfectly, choose someone to speak for Him who contradicted His teachings (again Luke 16:17)? Hardly.

Notice how this verse is more accurately translated:

“...he has utterly wiped out the *written evidence of broken commandments* which always hung over our heads, and has completely annulled it [the evidence of broken commandments] nailing it to the cross” (*Phillips Translation*).

The Bauer-Ardnt-Gingrich *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (p. 889) says “ordinances” [*KJV*] means “...specifically a certificate of indebtedness, bond... the bond that stood against us Col. 2:14.”

Here we see it was the written evidence of broken commandments, the certificate of the debt of sin we owe, that was nailed to the stake, not the commandments. The *penalty* of sin (the death penalty) hangs over us and can be annulled, taken away by Yahshua’s sacrifice (v. 13; John 1:29). It is the debt of our sins that is taken away and not the Law.

How clear! Our debt of sin, the penalty for breaking Yahweh’s commandments, is forgiven and nailed to the stake! The Law is immovable and unyielding. By Yahweh’s grace and Yahshua’s sacrifice, it is **SIN** that is removed.

The Laws of the first five books of the Old Testament were not nailed to the cross or stake. It is the other way around. *The Law nailed Him to the stake!*

AUTHORITY OVER WHAT?

Exactly what authority did Yahshua grant to His



The goal in life is to receive the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.
benner2.kiddpng.com

church? Another verse used to advocate church authority to change laws in the Scriptures, is Matthew 16:19. This verse supposedly transfers unrestrained authority to the church to change Yahweh’s Law. Part of the fault in this matter is again the King James translation: “And I will give unto thee [Peter, v. 18] the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

A more accurate translation, not contradicting the *entire New Testament*, reads:

“And I give to you the keys to the kingdom of heaven; whatsoever you forbid on earth must be that which is already forbidden in heaven, and whatsoever you shall permit on earth must be that which is already permitted in heaven” (Matt. 16:19; *Williams Translation*).

FINAL THOUGHTS

We must overcome ourselves and the false gospels so prevalent today. The task can be formidable, but we must persist! Who will be in Yahweh’s Kingdom? Those that heed the true gospel message of repentance and overcoming: “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne” (Rev. 3:21).

“And he that overcometh, and keeps my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations” (Rev. 2:26).

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Find us on
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International Congregation of Yahweh is active in today's social media environment. Please visit us and 'Like' us on Facebook to receive weekly updates on various topics and information on Holy Days and events. Below are a few recent posts.

July 14, 2018

SABBATH THOUGHTS: THE BAKER'S DOZEN

You cannot Give without Receiving.

"GIVE and it shall be GIVEN TO YOU, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and RUNNING OVER, shall MEN GIVE into your bosom. For with the same measure that you mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)

THE LAW OF HARVEST:

You always reap what you sow.
You always reap more than you sow.
You always reap later than you sow.

TRUE STORY: GIVING EXTRA MEASURE

There were three roadside venders selling produce (apples, oranges, tomatoes, etc.). Two venders were doing little business. The third vender had many customers crowding around buying eagerly.

A person watching, wondered what was making the difference in how well each vender was doing.

He discovered the vender doing great business ALWAYS GAVE THE BAKER'S DOZEN: 13 with each purchase of twelve.

Those venders doing poorly gave only 12 when customers bought a dozen.

MORE EQUALS MORE:

"...for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."
(Gal. 6:7)

"...He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully." (II Cor. 9:6)



February 15, 2018

SABBATH THOUGHTS: UNSPEAKABLE TRAGEDIES

"Yahweh...He heals the broken in heart, and binds up their wounds." (Psa. 147:3)

"...A broken and contrite heart, O Elohim, Thou will not despise." (Psa. 51: 17)

Our hearts ache and we grieve with families and friends of those 17 who died and others injured in these senseless shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018.

Local, state, and federal governments are searching for solutions to help prevent these tragedies.

It may seem a moot point to many, but we need to be reminded of the remedy given in Scripture:

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chron. 7:14)

This oft quoted verse brings up two points: (1). What is the name of the Creator we are to call upon? (2). What is sin, so we will know what wicked ways to avoid?



June 30, 2018

SABBATH THOUGHTS: DUST ON YOUR BIBLE?

You cannot believe what you do not know:

"Study to show yourself approved to Yahweh, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." (II Tim. 2:15)

"...not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of Yahweh deceitfully... But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them that believe not..." (II Cor. 4:2-4)

A PROPHET GIVES US THE KEY:

"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. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little..." (Isa. 28:9-10)

AN APOSTLE AGREES:

"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." (I Cor. 2:13)

"For we know the Law is spiritual..." (Rom. 7:14).

SPIRITUAL MATURITY: Knowing Good and Evil

"...and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For everyone that uses milk is unskillful in the Word of Righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age ["perfect"], even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern BOTH GOOD AND EVIL." (Heb. 5:12-14)

WANT TO LIVE LONGER?

"See, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your seed may live..." (Deut. 30:15, 19).

"...love Yahweh your Elohim,...walk in His ways, and... keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you MAY LIVE and multiply: and Yahweh your Elohim shall bless you...for He is your life and the LENGTH OF YOUR DAYS..." (Deut. 30:16, 20).

CONCLUSION:

Spiritual maturity comes by comparing the Law with the Law through practice; using it to discern both good and evil.

We cannot grow spiritually while not knowing Yahweh's Law, because it reveals the truth which sets us free from the consequences of sin. (Deut. 30:15-19; John 8:32).

August 25, 2018

SABBATH THOUGHTS: THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE

"LAW OR GRACE?" OR "LAW AND GRACE?" IT IS "LAW AND GRACE": WHAT IS GRACE? Mercy, Clemency, Pardon

WHEN DO WE RECEIVE IT? ONLY WHEN WE QUIT BREAKING THE LAW

"...Repent [quit sinning], and be baptized...in the name of Yahshua, for the remission of sins [pardoned; grace, mercy applied]..." (Acts 2:38).

"Repent you therefore, and be converted [change our ways], that your sins may be blotted out..." [pardoned; mercy, grace applied] (Act. 3:19).

"Being justified freely by His grace [Yahweh's grace], through the redemption that is In Messiah Yahshua [His sacrifice]...to declare His [Yahweh's] righteousness for the remission of sins that are past..." (Rom. 3:25).

HOW DO WE KEEP IT? ONLY WHEN WE CONTINUE KEEPING THE LAW

"Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be!" (Rom 6:1-2).

"As sin has reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness." (Rom. 5:21).

"For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins..." (Heb. 10:26-27, 29).

THERE IS NO GRACE UNLESS SOMEONE PAYS

"...without the shedding of blood there is NO remission... For the Messiah...has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself..." (Heb. 9:22, 24, 26).

This is WHY we have the grace of Yahweh available and applied to our lives when we repent. There is a sacrifice to pay for our past sins.

The application of grace just means someone other than the guilty party pays the penalty! BUT SOMEONE HAS TO PAY!

WHAT IS THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE? DISPENSING GRACE, PARDON, TO THE GENTILES

"For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Yahshua Messiah for you GENTILES, if you have heard of the dispensation (dispensing, spreading) of grace [mercy, pardon] which Yahweh is given [to whom?] TO YOU GENTILES." (Eph. 3:1-2)

It does not mean substituting grace for law or doing away with the law, but now also Gentiles can have the sacrifice applied once they repent.

BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS:

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our Elohim, into lasciviousness (lawlessness, licentiousness)..." (Jude 4)



Sacred Calendar

The true sacred calendar of the Bible is vitally important to salvation. Most professing Christians have been lead to believe all they have to do is “believe” in the Messiah and their eternal life is assured; that all the “Old Testament” observances of holy days have been “done away.” Nothing could be further from the clear teachings of Scripture. “Belief” without obedience to the Law of Yahweh is contrary to the true Gospel Yahshua came preaching (Luke 6:46; Matt. 7:23).

The sacred calendar is a central part of the true Gospel,

because it determines the true Sabbath days which are crucial signs of Yahweh (Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20). By these Sabbath signs Yahweh shows who He has personally sanctified. True, we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Yahshua the Messiah (i.e. His sacrifice; Heb. 10:10), but the evidence that we are in fact sanctified by Yahweh, is that we keep Yahweh’s true Sabbaths (See again Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20). The restoration of Yahweh’s calendar system is, therefore, a top priority of the International Congregation of Yahweh.

2019 Sacred Calendar	
Pocahontas, AR Lat: 36d 14m N / Long: 90d 57m W	
Passover Festival	April 18 - April 24
Passover Sabbaths	April 18 & April 24
Passover Supper	Night of April 18
Feast of Unleavened Bread	April 19 (UB eaten Apr 18-Apr 25)
Wavesheaf Offered	May 5
Feast of Weeks	May 5 - June 22
Feast of Weeks Annual Sabbaths	May 11, 18, 25 June 1, 8, 15, 22
Pentecost	June 23
Shoutings (Trumpets)	September 29
Pre-Atonement Sabbath	October 7 Noon-to-sunset
Atonements	October 8
Feast of Tabernacles	October 13 - October 19
Sabbaths	October 13 & October 20
Last Great Day	October 20

New Moons Month		
January	6	11
February	5	12
March	7	13
April	5	1
May	5	2
June	4	3
July	3	4
August	1	5
August	31	6
September	29	7
October	28	8
November	27	9
December	26	10

Sabbaths and New Moons are observed from Dawn-to-Dark

(Note: New Moons may vary with Longitude and Latitude.)

Head of the Year
Feb. 15
End of the Year
Oct. 27
Seven-Year Cycle
6th year
Jubilee Cycle
41st year

2020 Sacred Calendar	
Pocahontas, AR Lat: 36d 14m N / Long: 90d 57m W	
Passover Festival	April 6 - April 12
Passover Sabbaths	April 6 & April 12
Passover Supper	Night of April 6
Feast of Unleavened Bread	April 7 (UB eaten April 6 - April 13)
Wavesheaf Offered	May 3
Feast of Weeks	May 3 - June 20
Feast of Weeks Annual Sabbaths	May 9, 16, 23, 30 June 6, 13, 20
Pentecost	June 21
Shoutings (Trumpets)	September 18
Pre-Atonement Sabbath	September 26 Noon-to-sunset
Atonements	September 27
Feast of Tabernacles	October 2 - October 8
Sabbaths	October 2 & October 9
Last Great Day	October 9

New Moons Month		
January	25	11
February	24	12
March	24	1
April	23	2
May	23	3
June	21	4
July	21	5
August	19	6
September	18	7
October	17	8
November	15	9
December	15	10

Sabbaths and New Moons are observed from Dawn-to-Dark

(Note: New Moons may vary with Longitude and Latitude.)

Head of the Year
Feb. 15
End of the Year
Oct. 26
Seven-Year Cycle
7th year
Jubilee Cycle
42nd year

The Sixth Year

Prelude to 2019-2020 Seventh-Year Land Sabbath

If you were operating a business, would it not make sense to apply any operating principle you could to your advantage? The whole purpose of advertising, marketing, customer buying trends, cost analysis and the rest, is finding what works for or against business owners. Agriculture is no exception.

In the public interest starting in 1991, our *Insight* magazine has published a “sixth year” *Land Sabbath* alert to aid our farmers in one important area, the land. Few indeed realize how absolutely vital it is *for us all* that we give our utmost support wherever possible, to the men and women and their families who till the land. Truly if *they* do not prosper, *neither do we!* We should take a moment to think about that when we set down at the dinner table.

In ways perhaps most of us never dreamed of, what they do actually determines *the destiny of a nation!* Believe it or not. The Bible leaves no doubt the pivotal causes for national calamities involves *the land*:

“If you spurn my statutes,...my ordinances, so that you will not observe all my commandments...I in turn will do this to you...I will make your sky like iron and your earth like copper [drought]. Your...land will not yield its produce, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit...and I will lay your cities waste [tornadoes, hurricanes, floods]...I will devastate the land...your land shall be a desolation... [notice] ***then the land shall rest and enjoy its Sabbath years...as long as it lies desolate*** [unable to make a living on it; people leave], ***it shall have the rest it did not have on your Sabbaths when you were living on it...***” (Lev. 26:15-16, 19-20, 31-35).

The Land Sabbath years, running from fall-to-fall (October 28 to October 27), occur every seven years for 49 years

followed by the 50th year Jubilee Land Sabbath. Then the sequence repeats. A point often overlooked, is the weekly seventh-day Sabbath is *also a Land Sabbath included* in the pronouncements just quoted from Leviticus chapter 26. Any who garden on the weekly Sabbath also come under those curses and contribute to national calamities.

THE SEVENTH YEAR AND FAITH

The preparatory sixth year of the seven-year cycle which began October 28, 2018 extending through October 27, 2019, is the 41st year of the 50-year Jubilee cycle. The seventh-year land sabbath runs fall October 28, 2019, to fall October 26, 2020 (due to the leap year).

The sixth year is a time to plant and prepare to obey

“...pivotal causes for national calamities involves the land...”

Yahweh’s seventh-year law of resting the land. With no crops to reap for two years, the farmer-and those depending on him, face possible hunger and economic hardship. How do you prepare for this? This is where trusting Yahweh takes on new meaning!

Few think obeying the laws of the Old Testament takes faith. Nothing could be further from the truth. Faith without works is dead faith (James 2:17, 26).

Imagine the faith, the living faith, one must have in Yahweh that He will sustain us when we submit to His

commandment not to sow our fields the seventh year.

Risk starvation and financial ruin over some words written in the “old law?” Who will do it? Few have the faith to “chance” it. It is not an easy decision and a great test of faith. Doubt brings endless excuses, and as the number of excuses goes up, faith to obey goes down. The widespread disregard for the Land Sabbath law is not difficult to understand. Like most acts of faith, they are difficult the first time. But one thing is certain: having no knowledge that such a law exists or its terms makes it an impossibility to do:

“Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its crop, but during the seventh year the land shall have a Sabbath rest, a Sabbath to Yahweh; you shall not sow your field nor prune your vineyard” (Lev. 25:3-4; See also Ex. 23:10-11).

PREPARING FOR THE SEVENTH YEAR THE SIXTH YEAR REQUIREMENTS

Here is how the Bible says we prepare: “But *if you will say*, What shall we eat the seventh year? Behold, we shall not sow, nor gather in our increase” (Lev. 25:20).

This prayer is of one who recognizes his absolute dependence on Yahweh-*as we all should!* In preparation for the Land Sabbath this *prayer must be given prior to sowing or harvesting (fields, gardens, etc.) in the sixth year.*

Yahweh promises He will do the following:

“Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years. And you shall sow the eighth year, and eat yet of the old fruit until the ninth year; until her fruits come in you shall eat of the old store.” (Lev. 25:20-22).

Clearly this refers to those farming the land: “...**your field...your vineyard...**” (Lev. 25:3-4).

These are His conditions. He cannot lie. Faith is *believing Yahweh will do what He says He will do*, and *doing what He says we must do!*

We should keep in mind the sixth year does not automatically yield a three-fold bumper crop. Even if it is the sixth year, Yahweh is under no obligation to bless someone who does not meet those conditions the Law dictates.

Obviously, we must know what to do when the seventh year occurs; sowing and reaping through the sixth year.

WHAT TO DO IN A SABBATICAL YEAR (A). PLANTING AND BUYING FOOD

During the seventh year Land Sabbath of Oct. 28, 2019 through Oct. 26, 2020 (due to the leap year), all land cultivation must cease. This includes gardening of all kinds in which sowing, transplanting, potting flowers, etc. is done. The land (Gen. 1:9, “earth”), is to “...rest and lie still...” (Ex. 23:11), no cover crops, etc. (see also Lev. 25:3-4). Mowing hay for cattle is permissible (Lev. 25:7).

What about food? In today’s societies it is nearly impossible to avoid buying food planted on the Sabbath. Raising our own food could avoid this problem. Without contradiction, however, Scripture allows buying food planted *by another* during the weekly seventh-day and seventh-year Land Sabbaths. Remember it says, “...**your field...your vineyard...**” (Lev. 25:3-4). What if you have neither?

The Bible shows it is permissible to buy food planted by someone else in a Sabbatical year. Here is that record proving this fact: In Genesis 42:2, Jacob instructed his sons to buy food in Egypt during a great famine (Gen. 41:5-6). The food they purchased had been stored during seven years of plenty in Egypt (Gen. 41:34-36, 54, 56-57). One of those seven years was a Land Sabbath. His sons bought food there, and the account gives no hint they made any



Crop production continues in the sixth year in preparation for the seventh-year Land Sabbath. Ott & Murphy Wines / Alamy.com



Loans still outstanding at the seven-year mark are to be forgiven based upon scriptures in Deuteronomy 15:1-3. loansolo.com

effort to find out which year the grain had been planted.

(B). RELEASING LOANS

Deuteronomy 15:1-3 requires a release of loans made in the seven year period by the end of the seventh year. Some borrowers may have seven years to repay; others maybe only two or three years depending when the loan was made. This refers to loans made to or from relatives, and neighbors-except if a neighbor is a foreigner (v. 3).

"The sixth year is historically...
often catastrophic."

Many translations confirm this fact: "At the **end** of seven years...every creditor shall release what he has loaned to his neighbor, he shall not exact it of his neighbor and his brother...from a foreigner you may exact it..."

The word *lend* (SEC 5670) here means "to give a pledge for anything borrowed...to lend [on security of a pledge]."¹ Such loans protect the lender against defaults by the end of the seventh year (See also Deut. 24:6, 10-13).

However, this does not refer to debts in general, such as car payments, mortgages, etc. Buying an item on credit is not a loan but a sale, and clearly does not come under these restrictions of the seventh-year release. In a loan, the lender gets back in kind exactly what he lent. This is not the case in a sale. Business sales go on as usual.

SIXTH-YEAR'S OMINOUS HISTORY

What if those who work the land have no intention of observing the Land Sabbath year, and pay no heed to the sixth year requirements (Lev. 25:20-22)? Will the consequences be immediately obvious? Look at the history of the *sixth year*.

The sixth year, is historically often tumultuous and

catastrophic. For example, the previous *sixth year*, 2012 brought the most intensive and expansive drought in more than a half a century in the U.S. ranking as the 10th largest severe drought since 1895 rivaling the Dust Bowl years (NCDC-National Climatic Data Center). The year's tropical hurricane season was the earliest on record with four hurricanes occurring before July 1 for the first time since record-keeping began in 1851 (NOAA).

Another *sixth year* a hundred years ago brought the great Spanish Influenza of 1918-1919 fall-to-fall killing 675,000 in the United States and an estimated 35-45 million fatalities worldwide. Two of the most amazing facts scientists are still unable to explain, happened that year. The normal influenza count was relatively quiet, about average, and suddenly became a maelstrom in late October, 1918-*as the sixth year began!* No one knew why. An equally amazing thing happened later! It waned toward the fall of the following year and in late October and very early November, 1919 *as the sixth year ended*, the catastrophe of death suddenly vanished as quickly as it started! The unseen, but real laws of Yahweh, act whether we believe them or not! The Bible gives answers science cannot provide.

In another *sixth year*, 1991, *Insight* magazine reported the stunning beginning and end of the Persian Gulf war, the nearly unbelievable reunification of East and West Germany, and the shocking military/KGB coup deposing Mikhail Gorbachev!

On December 26, 2004 *in the sixth year*, a colossal tsunami shocked the world packing the power of 600 million Hiroshima atomic bombs. Slamming the Pacific Rim with *one hundred-thirty-foot walls of water*, it obliterated whole villages killing 220,000! The list goes on!

What will the 2018-2019 sixth year hold?

PROMISE MADE PROMISES KEPT

What is ahead for the sixth year? Resulting blessings and curses from Yahweh depend on how little heed is paid to this natural law regulating land use. Erasing its religious aura and seeing it as *natural law* rather than just a religious tenet of a bygone era, reveals its inexorable power to bless for obedience or curse for disobedience.

Yahweh promises blessings for obedience and penalties for disobedience to this law:

"You shall keep my Sabbaths [weekly, annual, seventh-year-all are *Land Sabbaths*]...I am Yahweh. IF you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments...then I will give you rains in their season, so that the land will yield its produce...You will thus eat your food to the full and live securely in your land." (Lev. 26:2-5).

On the other hand, "...if you do not obey Me...you will sow your seed uselessly...I will break the pride of your power..." (Lev. 26: 16, 19). The choice is ours! (Deut. 30:19)

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The Stone of Destiny

Centuries-old artifact shrouded in mystery!

From the time of Jeremiah the prophet, legends have persisted of a stone block called variously, “Jacob’s Pillow-Pillar Stone”, “*Lia Fail*” [the “Stone of Destiny”; also spelled *Leag Phail*], the “*Coronation Stone*”, the “*Stone of Scone*” (pronounced “*skoon*”). This mysterious stone from remote antiquity has a long and varied history shrouded in a mixture of legend and facts connected to sacred Scripture. What is the origin of this ancient stone? In legend it was used as a pillow by the Patriarch Jacob when he dreamed of a staircase reaching into heaven. Is it the very same stone anointed by the patriarch, Jacob, the son of Isaac?

Read further as we explore the exciting answers to these age-old questions, and see the proof *from your own Bible* that it was with Moses and Israel those forty years in the wilderness!

THE STONE’S SECULAR HISTORY

The Stone of Destiny was kept in Scone, Scotland, near Perth, for almost 500 years upon Moot Hill as a part of the coronations of the Kings of Scots. This powerful and ancient icon of Scottish monarchy, *Lia Fail*, (Irish meaning: ‘*stone of fate*’), accompanied coronations for hundreds of years.¹

Lia Fail was seized as war booty and brought to the Abbey of Westminster by King Edward I in 1296 after he defeated John Baliol, King of Scots. Edward I later remarked of the stone, “It is the one primeval monument which binds together the whole empire.”⁵

We can only wonder how a rough-hewn 11 inches by 16 inches by 26 inches 336-pound **rock**, a block of gray



sandstone, could have such mysterious “power” that it “... was a thing worth dying for in battle.”⁵ Pure symbolism or does its story go deeper, have some connection to a power beyond itself?

It is true that man-made objects, however minimal their original value, increase in value with age and rarity. Archaeology is proof of this fact. If this stone was valued in antiquity-guarded as one of a kind, its value as a precious artifact would be great. Certainly, it bears the marks of human work, hewn with iron rings laced through it on opposite ends. Its lasting mystique shows *someone* in the distant past attached significance to *Lia Fail*!

At least part of its secular history is well documented. An article in the London *Sun* dated June 28, 1837, on the occasion of Queen Victoria’s coronation, stated:

“...this stone was conveyed into Ireland by way of Spain about 700 years before Christ. From there it



A replica of the Stone of Destiny sits outside the Palace in Scone, Scotland. **Westminster Abbey** housed the Stone of Destiny from 1296 (seized by King Edward I) to 1996 (Queen Elizabeth returned to Scotland). happinessandthings.com / historicuk.org



(clockwise from bottom left) In 1996 the Stone of Scone was returned to Scotland after 700 years in Britain. Queen Victoria used the Stone of Scone at her coronation in 1837. The coronation chair used by the British Monarchy held the Stone of Scone. Queen Elizabeth II's coronation June 2, 1953 while seated on St. Edward's Coronation Chair was the last time the Stone of Scone was used where it was resting beneath the regal chair.

was taken into Scotland by King Fergus, about 370 years later; and in the year 350 B.C., it was placed in the abbey of Scone, by King Kenneth [MacAlpin, 36th King of Dalriada]...”⁵

Allegedly a piece of metal with a prophecy inscribed on it was attached to the stone in ancient times, that Sir Walter Scott rendered:

“Unless the fates are faithless grown, And prophet's voice be vain, Where'er is found this sacred stone The Scottish Race shall reign.”⁶

The Stone of Destiny was returned to Scotland in 1996 on the 700th anniversary of its removal in a ceremony attended by Prince Andrew on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II, on the Feast of St. Andrew, Scotland's patron saint.² A future coronation in Westminster Abbey will be the only time the stone will leave Scotland.³

Queen Elizabeth II's coronation on June 2, 1953 while seated on St. Edward's Coronation Chair was the last time the Stone of Scone was used where it was resting beneath the regal chair.¹ She was crowned as monarch of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan and Ceylon.

SACRED CONNECTION

The London *Sun* article (1837) referenced earlier included, “...History relates that it is the stone whereon the patriarch Jacob laid his head in the plains of Luz.” Notice it says, “...History relates...” not legend.

The saga begins with Jacob's dream as he lay on a stone near the city of Luz. In his dream a *staircase*⁷ reached from earth to heaven with angels ascending and descending on

it. Above the staircase stood Yahweh identifying himself as the Elohim of Abraham and Isaac promising the land where he lay to him and his descendants.

Jacob awoke fearful, “Surely Yahweh is in this place... this is none other but the house of Elohim, and this is the gate of heaven.” (Gen. 28:16-17).

Early the following morning he set up his pillow stone for a **pillar anointing it with oil**, naming the place Bethel [*house of El*]. Notice. He then vowed: “And *this stone*, which I have set for a pillar, **shall be Elohim's House**...” (v. 22); including giving the tenth of all to Yahweh (Gen. 28:11-13, 16-18, 20, 22). Significantly the stone too is called “Elohim's House” and where we find it, there Yahweh establishes his government – His House!

SUPERNATURAL INFLUENCE?

Yahweh's covenant made with Jacob, similar to Abraham's and sealed with circumcision (Gen. 17:2-14), was sealed with a vow making the pillar rock Yahweh's house and concluded with tithing of all to Yahweh.

But notice this additional fascinating fact placing a special blessing on the stone. Yahweh says, “*I am the Elohim of Bethel*...” (Gen. 31:13) showing *He was the El of the place and the stone*; what we could call “**The Yahweh Stone**”!

Did Yahweh, by placing His power and *authority* on both somehow empower the location and *the stone* with a special aura or supernatural influence? Is this the solution to the mystery surrounding *Lia Fail's* enduring legacy of Kings reigning where it resides?

TRACKING THE ROCK

The literature is voluminous detailing Israel and Judah's whereabouts. Most include Jeremiah's mission, the three overturns, the scepter and birthright, David's throne today; impossible to cover in a single article. We will therefore concentrate only on the *location of the stone*.

On his deathbed Jacob made a revealing statement to Joseph, "...from thence is the shepherd, *the stone of Israel*." (Gen. 49:24); deeding Joseph *the pillar stone*. Jacob's name was later changed to Israel (Gen. 32:28). He continued, "The blessings of your father...shall be on the head of Joseph..." (Gen. 49:26). This clearly transfers to Joseph, Jacob's covenant blessing Yahweh gave him which included Yahweh being the Elohim of Bethel, the Stone (Gen. 28:13-16 **and Gen. 31:13**)!

BAD TRANSLATION

Was this the last trace of the rock, Lia Fail? Remember it carried a supernatural blessing. Two verses always "spiritualized away" leave the proof in plain sight that it was with Israel in the wilderness 40 years. First for context, "...our fathers were under the cloud and all passed through the sea." (I Cor. 10:1).

Now verses three and four:

"And did all eat the same spiritual meat (v. 3). And [notice now] did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." (v. 4; usual translation "Christ", upper case).

Eating bread and drinking water are not spiritual. The bread, supernaturally supplied from Yahweh's "heavenly bakery," had a spiritual origin, but *it was real bread*, "bread from heaven" (Ex. 16:4). It was the manna given

at Sin (Ex. 16:1, 4, 8, 14) eaten forty years (v. 35), and *real water* flowed from a *real rock*.

Paul continues, "...that **spiritual Rock** that **followed them: and that Rock was Christ**." Following translators' lead, nearly all who read this assume "Christ" translated here is the Messiah Yahshua. Is that the meaning?

Three facts prove otherwise. First, the pillars of cloud and fire did *not* follow but *led* Israel: "...to **lead them the way**..." (Ex. 13:21) and pillar of fire "...to go by night." Both "He took not away...from **before** the people." (v. 22). The pillars **led them**, but Paul said this Rock *followed them*. Second, it was Yahweh, *not Yahshua the Messiah*, who went *before them* as proven by multiple scriptures including: "**Yahweh** looked out of the pillar of fire in the morning watch..." (Ex. 15:24). Beyond doubt *that Rock was not Yahshua the Messiah*. If those translating this verse (I Cor. 10:4) used Yahweh's name, these overlooked facts would surely be well known.

Third, translations of verse 4 *always* use the upper case, Christ. However, the fact is scholars' opinions vary on when to use the lower or upper case of this word, "*christos*" (Thay-

"Did Yahweh,...empower...the stone with a...supernatural influence?"

er's Lexicon, p. 672). All do agree, *christos* simply means *anointed*, and the facts show this part of the verse should be translated with a lower case *christ*: "...**that Rock was christ**" or "...**that Rock was anointed**." It does not at all refer to the Messiah, but some *anointed rock traveling with Israel*.

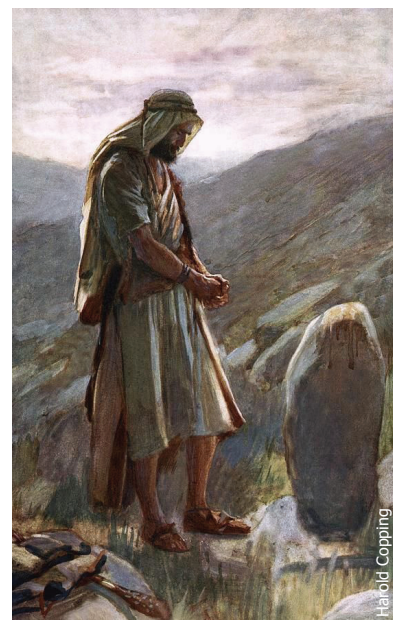
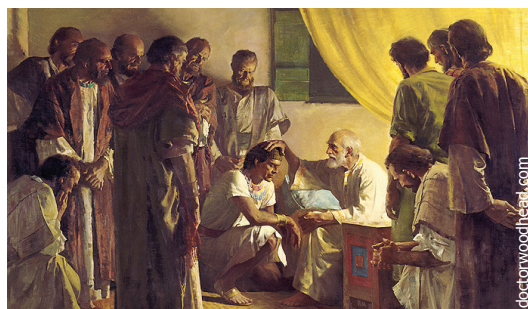


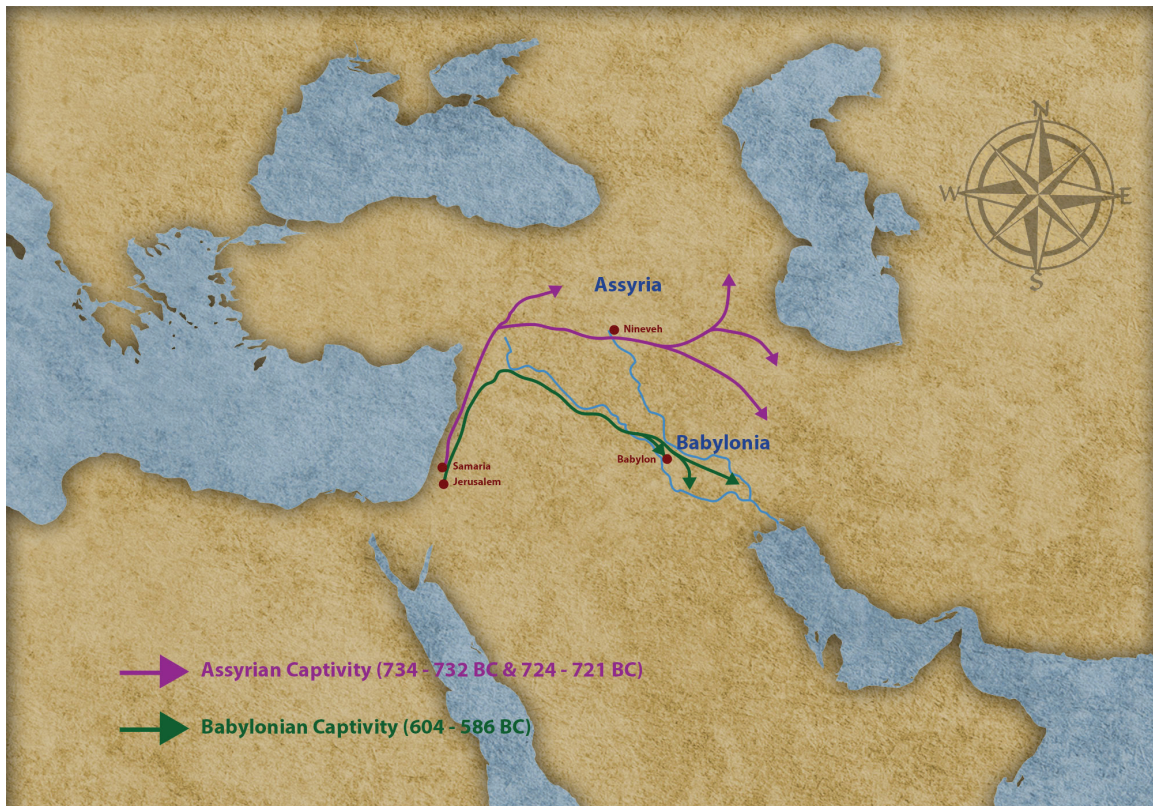
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Jacob's Dream of angels from heaven and Yahweh promising him that land.

Depiction of the Spiritual Rock that Jacob anointed as referred to in Genesis 28:18.

Jacob's deathbed blessing to Joseph deeding him the Pillar Stone.





The Stone of Destiny left Samaria when the King of Assyria exiled Israel. knowwhy.bookofmormoncentral.org

Looking back, what rock was the **only one ever** anointed? **Jacob's pillar stone** (Gen. 28:18). Israel drank from **THE rock**, a real stone, which poured out **real thirst-quenching water** (Ex. 17:6; Num. 20:8, 11). **That Rock followed Israel as Paul related**, and was **spiritual because Yahweh** said He was the Elohim of Bethel the place **and Bethel the Rock**, the Yahweh Rock, as previously proven, **AND it was Anointed**.

The **spiritual Rock** that followed Israel was none other than Jacob's pillar stone, Lia Fail, which Moses carried out of Egypt and struck to give water! Jacob's stone, the **christ stone**, the **anointed stone**, followed them forty years! The significance of Lia Fail was so great that Yahweh would not

34:16), Yahweh split his kingdom leaving one tribe to his son, Rehoboam, and **ten** to Jeroboam (I Ki. 11:1-2, 11, 30-32, 34-35). Jeroboam became king over ten tribes of Israel and Rehoboam was king of Judah only (v. 37; I Ki. 12:20).

To this day Judah and Israel remain separate (I Ki. 12:19), **and Jacob's pillar stone and the birthright promises** (I Chron. 5:2), remained in Israel with Ephraim and Manasseh, Joseph's sons. They continued carrying that covenant blessing which included the pillar stone (Gen. 49:24)! Remember Judah, Jews, is not Israel in Scripture from this point on and to the present time.

THE STONE MOVES NORTHWEST

Now, where we find Ephraim and Manasseh, there too is the location of the pillar stone. Where did it go?

Because Israel sinned, Yahweh sent the king of Assyria who exiled them from Samaria, their capital (Isa. 7:9) **north** to Assyria **with the pillar stone** (II Ki. 17:22-23; I Chron. 5:26; about 721-728 B.C.).

They never returned to Jerusalem, as some suppose, after the Babylonian captivity. How do we know? Recall **Israel sinned first and was taken into exile**, and **130 years later**, "...her treacherous sister, Judah,...played the harlot also" (Jer. 3:8); remaining 70 years in Babylonian captivity (609-539 B.C.)⁸ (II Ki. 18:1; 20:17; 24:12-16). When Judah returned from captivity some few Israelites from the north joined them, but the Bible records only from the tribe of Asher (Luke 2:26) and Benjamin (Phili. 3:5). No record of Ephraim or Manasseh returning to Jerusalem. Remember

"The *spiritual Rock* that followed Israel was...Jacob's pillar stone..."

allow Moses or Aaron to enter the promised land **because Moses struck Jacob's Pillar Rock instead of speaking to it!** (Num. 20: 8, 11-12). This act of disobedience **regarding the rock** cost him the fruits of 40 years of toil!

JOSEPH IS THE KEY

When Israel crossed into the land of Canaan was the stone left behind? Hardly. Its future was assured. When King Solomon turned from Yahweh, breaking His covenant (Ex.



Paul's Journeys through the Mediterranean Sea. Italy and Greece show no evidence he encountered Ephraim or Manasseh, but only Jews (Judah) and Gentiles. Clearly, the islands "afar off" where Israel settled (Jer. 31:9-10), were not the Cyclades or Sporades in the Aegean Sea, Cyprus nor the Ionian Islands.

the Babylonian captivity ended about 200 years after Israel was exiled into Assyria.

A PLACE OF THEIR OWN

Does the trail go cold with Israel exiled in Assyria, they and the pillar stone forever residing in a stranger's land? Cool perhaps but not cold. One prophecy tells of Israel being planted in *a place of their own*: "...I will appoint a place for my people Israel [not Judah], and will plant them, **that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more.**" (I Chron. 17:9).

A place of their own, no longer captives in a stranger's land, there Jacob's pillar stone will have a home! To fulfill this prophecy, *all, or at least some of Israel, had to leave* Assyria during the captivity or possibly avoided captivity altogether, setting out beforehand.^{10, 11} And

"...the stone had to remain with Joseph's descendants..."

went where?

The prophet Hosea gives a revealing clue: "**Ephraim...** followeth...the east wind" (Hos. 12:1).

Recall Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, were co-heirs of the birthright and the *pillar stone* (I Chron. 5:2). Here we learn Ephraim [the chief tribe in Israel] goes where the east wind blows, *toward the west* from Assyria.

The prophet Jeremiah gives another clue: "Go, and proclaim these words *toward the north...*, Return, faithless Israel..." (3:12). A few verses further he says, "...the house of Israel...shall come...out of the *land of the north...*" (v. 18). "...I will bring them [Israel, v. 7] from the *north country...*" (Jer. 31:8). And Isaiah, "...these shall come:...from the north and from the west..." (Isa. 49:12; Israel: vv. 5, 7).

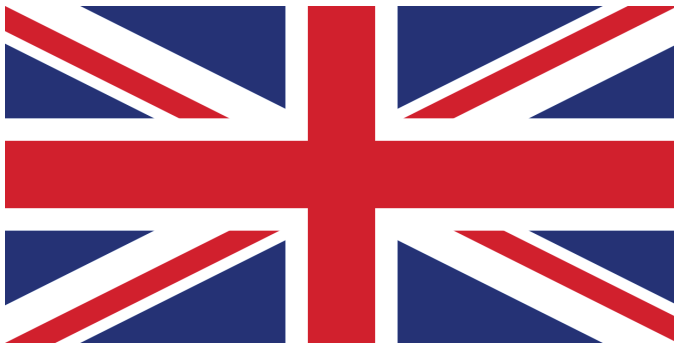
PILLAR STONE'S FINAL HOME: THE BRITISH ISLES

Where in the north country? Jeremiah records: "...I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim...hear...Yahweh, O ye nations [must be Israel, Ephraim], ...declare it in **the isles afar off...**He that scattered *Israel...*" (Jer. 31:9-10).

The isles in the north country and west "**afar off**"-**a great distance** from Palestine leads us **northwest** where at **least some Israelites, including Ephraim and Manasseh, settled after leaving Assyria.**

Was the pillar stone left behind or carried by Jeremiah to Ireland, as Irish legend claims?⁹ This part of the legend does not hold up in the light of Scripture. Jeremiah was the son of Hilkiah of the priests that were dwelling in the land of Benjamin (Jer. 1:1); not Ephraim or Manasseh. Jacob's decree *that the stone be with Joseph*, Ephraim and Manasseh *only* (Gen. 49:24), could not be broken and given to Jeremiah, Levi, Judah, Benjamin or members of any other tribe. *To fulfill this decree, the stone had to remain with Joseph's descendants* (Gen. 49:24, 26).

Now what group of islands northwest of Palestine became their new home? Were they the Cyclades or Sporades in the Aegean Sea; or perhaps the Ionian Islands off the



Union Jack is the commonly known name for the British nation flag. Biblical facts and history show the British Isles as the location of the Stone of Destiny. wikipedia.org



CONCLUSION

Is it mere coincidence scripture leads to a location northwest of Palestine where Jacob's pillar stone, "the Yahweh Stone", was to reside and where we find a group of islands in the sea with a unique tradition about a *stone*? There, in the *British Isles* dating back hundreds of years, kings and queens of Scotland and England were coronated while seated on a throne with a *revered stone* beneath them. This unique tradition is the national heritage of those nations possessing **The Stone of Scone, Lia Fail, Jacob's Pillar Stone, the House of Yahweh!** Yahweh's divine hand and His power to fulfill prophecies given over a thousand years earlier are living proof it is He who rules in the affairs of man (Psa. 83:18)!

west coast of Greece all of which lie northwest of Palestine?

The apostle Paul traveled in the vicinity of these areas and Greece proper, and never once are the tribes of Ephraim or Manasseh alluded to at any time. He preached to **Jews** [not Israel] at Thessalonica [Acts 17:1], and Athens [Acts 17:16-17]. At one point at Antioch in Pisidia (Turkey) far distant from these islands, he said, "...men of Israel..hear..." never specifying *what part of Israel* he meant [Acts 13:16]. Finally, at Corinth [Acts 18:1, 4], due to the hardness of many **Jews**, he no longer preached to the **Jews** but to the Gentiles from that time on [Acts 18:6] *as the apostle to the Gentiles* (Rom. 11:13; 15:16; Eph. 4:8; II Tim 1:11). The total lack of any evidence of Ephraim or Manasseh, but **Jews**, on his journeys strongly suggests neither the Cyclades or Sporades in the Aegean Sea, nor the Ionian Islands, *were the islands "afar off" where Israelites-not Gentiles and Jews (Judah), were located.* Keep in mind Paul's mission was 300 years, three centuries, after the Assyrian captivity and the historical account of the pillar stone arriving in Ireland around 700 B.C.¹⁵ The British monarchy had been established *centuries before Paul's ministry!*

Moving on to the north and west from Palestine leads to the **British Isles**. The Biblical facts and the vast amount of literature on the subject favor this location. Innumerable records dating well before the twentieth century-including the national identity of the British people as Ephraim and Manasseh, with the present culture and ancient histories of England, Ireland and Scotland overwhelmingly prove the British Isles were the new home of Joseph and Jacob's pillar stone!

Notice this record, "For he [Paul] heard in Phoenicia that certain of the children of Israel, about the time of the Assyrian captivity, had escaped by sea to "The Isles afar off", as spoken by the Prophet [Esdra],...called by the Romans-**Britain**."¹⁰ Reference to Esdra(s) is most likely II Esdras 13:40-45 which discusses their escape.¹¹

Finally, Medieval Jewish Historian Eldad records in his memoirs of the ten tribes:

"...many of the people [Israelites] did not go into [Assyrian] captivity, but evaded the calamity...they could muster 120,000 horse and 100,000 foot."¹¹

"...this body of Israelites...included...Manasseh, ...most of Ephraim, Asher, Zebulon, Issachar,... and Dan..."¹¹

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- Image page 18: scotlandcorrespondent.com/HES
Image page 23: mapsasart.com

★★★★★★



Christmas: The Untold Story

What are professing Christians really celebrating during Christmas? Just whose birth are they really commemorating on December 25? They say it is the birth of Jesus Christ, but the Messiah's name is not Jesus; but Yahshua, meaning "Yahweh is Savior."

Yahshua was not born on December 25, and the Bible nowhere commands, nor allows, a celebration of his birthday. Church authority cannot override the Bible's firm directives.

So why THIS celebration? Why a worldwide religious birthday extravaganza memorializing a Messiah, an Anointed One? Who is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4), the one being adored?

Many the world over aggrandize and reverence Christmas as the birth of someone who cannot be the Messiah of the Bible. Who? Whose birthday is it? Write today for the booklet Christmas: The Untold Story. Read the surprising story of Christmas—a story that goes back to the dawn of angelic history—to the birth of a great winged Cherub (Ezk. 28:14).

Christmas: The Untold Story



International Congregation of Yahweh

Visit ICY online (www.icyahweh.org), and order a copy of this revealing booklet.