

Yom Teruah/Feast of Trumpets 2009 Special Issue – “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Ya’acov/Jacob their sins” (Isaiah 58:1)

ARE YOU GOING TO HELL? NO??.....ARE YOU SURE???

Better read on to MAKE SURE you’re not involved with a practice which our Creator considers so vile, repugnant, despicable, dishonourable, gross, defiling, depraved, obnoxious, offensive, base, repulsive, evil, contemptible, shameful, idolatrous, and downright disgusting that He calls it an ABOMINATION (i.e. the lowest of the low forms of wickedness), and PERSONALLY promises to cut off from Israel those guilty of this practice, AND to cast them into the Lake of Hellfire and Brimstone, which is the Second Death!

“Again the word of Yahuah came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: if when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman’s hand. So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.” (Ezekiel 33:1-9)

Sadly, even casual observation reveals that all is not well amongst professed followers of Yahuahshua, the Messiah of Israel. Immoral behaviour of all types, physical illnesses, lack of spiritual power, domination and control by secular authorities, and massive assault by many commercial “media/mediums” are facts of life throughout the community of believers. Much debate is taking place regarding the cause and cure of these many problems, but regrettably very little of this debate is grounded on the TORAH of the Hebrews/Israel, Heaven’s foundational revelation of truth to mankind. Since we know that “the curse causeless shall not come” (Proverbs 26:2) and that “man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word which procedeth from the mouth of Yahuah” (Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3), it would behoove us to search very carefully through the words of Yahuah in order to ascertain what is causing the curse, and what must be done so that the curse will be lifted from ourselves and our congregations at least, if not from society as a whole. It is the purpose of this study to assist the reader in that search, and in particular to assist the reader in gaining

wisdom and understanding regarding one extremely important teaching which is almost completely overlooked, ignored, and forgotten in the modern so-called “church” and in the world at large.

Thus saith Yahuah, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith Yahuah: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.” (Isaiah 66:1,2)

Please BEGIN TO TREMBLE NOW as you ponder the following words - IT IS WRITTEN:

- “But flesh with the life thereof, which is the BLOOD thereof, shall ye not eat” (Genesis 9:4). (Note: this commandment was given to mankind by the Maker of blood long before the nation of Israel was formed, and thus clearly applies to ALL the descendents of Noah, which includes everyone alive today!)
- “It shall be a perpetual statute (an order forever) for your generations throughout all your dwellings, that ye eat neither fat nor BLOOD” (Leviticus 3:17).
- “Moreover ye shall eat no manner of BLOOD, whether it be of fowl or beast, in any of your dwellings. Whatsoever soul it be that eateth any manner of BLOOD, even that soul shall be cut off from his people” (Leviticus 7:26,27).
- “And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of BLOOD; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth BLOOD, and will cut him off from among his people. For the life of the flesh is in the BLOOD: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the BLOOD that maketh an atonement for the soul. Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat BLOOD, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat BLOOD. And whatsoever man there be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth or catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the BLOOD thereof, and cover it with dust. For it is the life of all flesh; the BLOOD of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the BLOOD of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the BLOOD thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off” (Leviticus 17:10-14).
- “Ye shall not eat anything with the BLOOD” (Leviticus 19:26).
- “Only ye shall not eat the BLOOD; ye shall pour it upon the earth as water Only be sure that thou eat not the BLOOD: for the BLOOD is the life; and thou mayest not eat the life with the flesh. Thou shalt not eat it; thou shalt pour it upon the earth as water. Thou shalt not eat it; that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, when thou shalt do that which is right in the sight of Yahuah” (Deuteronomy 12:16, 23-25).
- “Only thou shalt not eat the BLOOD thereof; thou shalt pour it upon the ground as water” (Deuteronomy 15:23).

Incredible! Mind boggling! Unbelievable! More than a dozen times in His holy Torah or teachings, our omnipotent and omniscient Maker categorically and explicitly forbids the consumption of any animal or bird meat with blood, or any manner of blood whatsoever. He goes on to declare that if any Israelite, or any stranger abiding with Israel, would ignore this command, He would set His face against that individual - the ultimate curse! (more on that later), and would cut that soul off from Israel – the ultimate punishment! Very clearly, He is not offering a suggestion or joking about this matter, nor is He staking out an initial negotiating position – His requirement is clear, permanent, unequivocal, and deadly serious. When Yoseph was giving Pharaoh the interpretation of his two dreams, he explained that because “the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice, it is because the thing is established by Elohim/God” (Genesis 41:32), and from this statement of principle it is safe to conclude that when our Maker and Redeemer, with Whom is no

variableness or shadow of turning, repeats a command more than a dozen times, He surely does mean what He says, and no one is going to change His mind about it!

“Spiritual” Consequences of Eating Meat With Blood

Further confirmation of the extreme importance of the command we are discussing is provided by an examination of the punishments for and consequences of non-compliance as explained in the Torah and the prophets. Specifically:

- Yahuah will set His face against you, and cut you off from among His people, whether you are an Israelite born or a stranger who lives with Israel (Leviticus 17:10). This is a truly dire judgment, portraying total and final ruin! As you read David in the Psalms (13:1; 27:9; 30:7; 44:24; 69:17; 88:14; 102:2; 104:29; 143:7), you will see that his ultimate fear was that Yahuah would hide His face or turn His face away from him, which symbolically portrayed the removal of Yahuah’s presence, favour, blessing, guidance, and protection a truly dreadful fate! It is an even worse fate, however, which is promised to those who eat meat with blood – the Almighty Yahuah will SET HIS FACE AGAINST those souls who eat meat with blood, indicating a posture of aggressive opposition and antagonism directed at those who disobey His command not to eat meat with blood. And not only does He promise to set His face against those involved with this wickedness, but He also promises to cut them off from Israel! If you consider yourself a “non-Israelite”, this punishment may not seem like anything to worry about until you study the Holy Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation and find out that the Almighty has only ever made salvation covenants with Israel, and that all who are finally saved are a part of Israel, either natural born original olive branches or wild grafted in olive branches. At this point the awful truth becomes clear – to be cut off from Israel is to be ETERNALLY LOST! It is useful to note, in conjunction with the foregoing, that being cut off from Israel is the precise theological, moral, and practical equivalent of being expelled from the Garden of Eden at the beginning so, we can now see that meat with blood is the precise theological, moral, and practical equivalent of fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil! Food for thought, indeed and for action, in case there’s something in your fridge or diet which shouldn’t be there!
- Things will not go well for you or your children (Deuteronomy 12:25). From Leviticus we have already learned that things will most certainly not go well for you if you consume blood, but from this passage in Deuteronomy we learn in addition that your rebellion will result in trouble and suffering for your children as well. At this point you might be thinking, “How could a fair and just Elohim/God punish children because of the wickedness of their parents?” – “Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?” (Genesis 18:25) and “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son” (Ezekiel 18:20). Hold that thought, please, until we discuss the reasons why we are forbidden to consume blood in any form. Suffice it to say for now, however, that the Judge of all the earth has only done right and will only do right. As we will see, the children are not punished for the sins of the parents, but rather they suffer because, of necessity, they participate in the lifestyle and diet of their parents since they all live in the same home.

The Prophetic Warnings of Ezekiel and Yochanan/John the Revelator

Everyone seems to be familiar with the first part of Ezekiel 33 quoted at the beginning of this study, where Almighty Yahuah called Ezekiel to be a watchman to the house of Israel, responsible to proclaim messages of warning regarding transgressions and sins in the camp and declared what would happen to him if he

didn't deliver the messages, or to Israel if they didn't heed the messages and repent and turn away from their transgressions.

BUT, virtually no one seems to be aware of the specific transgressions mentioned in the same chapter which Ezekiel is required to warn Israel about: "Then the word of Yahuah came unto me, saying, Son of man, they that inhabit those wastes of the land of Israel speak, saying, Abraham was one, and he inherited the land: but we are many; the land is given us for inheritance. Wherefore say unto them, Thus saith Yahuah Elohim; YE EAT MEAT WITH THE BLOOD, and lift up your eyes toward your idols, and shed blood: and shall ye possess the land? Ye stand upon your sword, ye work abomination, and ye defile every one his neighbour's wife: and shall ye possess the land? Say thou thus unto them, Thus saith Yahuah Elohim; As I live, surely they that are in the wastes shall fall by the sword, and him that is in the open field will I give to the beasts to devoured, and they that be in the forts and in the caves shall die of the pestilence. For I will lay the land most desolate, and the pomp of her strength shall cease; and the mountains of Israel shall be desolate, that none shall pass through. Then shall they know that I am Yahuah, when I have laid the land most desolate because of ALL THEIR ABOMINATIONS which they have committed" (Ezekiel 33:23-29). In this passage Yahuah first notes Israel's claim to the Land of Israel based on descent from Abraham, but then goes on to list many transgressions, explicitly called ABOMINATIONS, which Israel was guilty of defiling Yahuah's Land of Israel with and astoundingly, EATING MEAT WITH BLOOD is the HEADLINE ABOMINATION on that list of abominations! Because of their wicked behaviour, Yahuah solemnly promises – "As I live" – to plague Israel in the Land with the sword, with wild beasts, and with pestilence, until the Land is "most desolate" so that "none shall pass through".

With this dire a punishment in consequence, it is obvious that Yahuah finds eating meat with blood to be particularly abhorrent, and very possibly a contributing factor towards some or all of the other abominations mentioned under it on the Almighty's list. Certainly the take home message of this chapter is clear – don't eat meat with blood or things will not go well for you or your children if you have or wish to have anything to do with the Land of Israel/ the Holy Land/ Beulah Land (which means the "married land", married to its King Yahuahshua, our Messiah).

Just how "un-well" things will go (for you), however, becomes crystal clear only when our Creator, the Alpha and Omega, pronounces judgment at the end of the age as observed and recorded for us by Yochanan/ John the Revelator: "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his Elohim, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the ABOMINABLE, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. ... And there shall in no wise enter into (the New Yahrusalem/Jerusalem) any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh ABOMINATION, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21: 5-8,27).

With our eyes opened with divine help, we can now see that all non-kosher store-bought meat and all foods containing non-kosher meat bought at "fast food" restaurants are not merely so-called "junk food" THEY ARE SIN FOOD!!! perfectly calculated by the enemy of our souls to prevent the outpouring and infilling of the Ruach ha Kodesh/ Holy Spirit, which is the thing he most fears! If, then, you are a professed follower of the Messiah of Israel, the King of the Jews, and you continue to buy and eat burgers or other non-kosher meat products from McDonald's, Wendy's, Burger King, Swiss Chalet, Western Sizzlin', Ryan's, Harvey's, etc, or from your local supermarket don't forget that each purchase includes a one-way ticket to the Lake of Hellfire and Brimstone, which is the Second Death! If you have been involved with the transgression discussed in this study, you need to thoroughly repent of your wickedness, forsake it, and

give all your accumulated one-way tickets to hell to Yahuahshua, Who is the only One Who can take them off your hands. Hallelu-Yah!

The Doctrine of Balaam

Scripture and the Jewish historian Josephus (Antiquities of the Jews, Book 4, Chapter 6) record for us the sad experience of the children of Israel just before they crossed over the Jordan River and entered the Promised Land. To make a long story short, the prophet/mercenary Balaam instructed the Midianite king Balak to use the daughters of Midian as bait to catch the young men of Israel and after they were caught, to induce them to worship the gods of the Midianites, and to EAT THE FOOD OF THE MIDIANITES, WHICH INCLUDED MEAT WITH BLOOD (Leviticus 18:24-30). By so doing, Balaam explained, they would cause the Israelites to lose the protection and blessings of Yahuah their Elohim, which would then leave them vulnerable to conquest. Balaam's plan of action worked like a charm, and would have completely succeeded had it not been derailed by the righteous valour of Phinehas, who thrust his spear through Zimri, one of the ringleaders in rebellion, and also through Cozbi, his Midianitish "wife"/mistress.

Though this experience happened long ago, the lesson which it teaches remains completely relevant for us today – "now all these things happened unto them for ensamples/types: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (I Corinthians 10:11). We must realize that as much as we may want to receive the outpouring of the Ruach ha Kodesh/Holy Spirit, there are "principalities powers rulers of the darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12) which want to PREVENT the outpouring of the Ruach ha Kodesh and they will stoop to any means to accomplish their end! And what better means could they find than seducing the end-time candidates for the Kingdom with the same food which the daughters of Midian used to debase the young men of Israel, namely MEAT WITH BLOOD, thus vaccinating all who partake against the outpouring of the Ruach ha Kodesh, Who will be given to those who OBEY (Acts 5:32), and particularly to those who obey the command to abstain from eating meat with blood, or blood in any form!

But now the diabolical plot of evil principalities and powers thickens even more. During one of my research sessions at a Jewish book store here in Toronto, I came across the fact that the demonic and occultic powers used in witchcraft and sorcery are obtained by consciously and intentionally DISOBEYING the statutes of Yahuah. This explains why vampire/blood eating behaviour is a regular part of the witchcraft/demonism scene – not only does it block the outpouring of the Ruach ha Kodesh, but it opens the spirit gates of the soul temple to evil spirits, leading to outright demon possession, or, if you please, the outpouring of the EVIL spirit/Lucifer/Satan. In light of the baleful effects of eating meat with blood, it would be hard to imagine a practice better calculated to advance the interests of the kingdom of darkness or a practice more important to avoid if you wish to have a place in the Kingdom of Heaven! (Please note: the foregoing is not to suggest that everyone eating meat with blood is demon-possessed. Thankfully our Heavenly Father makes a difference with those who violate Torah commands through genuine ignorance, and in mercy He provides protection for the ignorantly violating soul which He does not provide for the soul which consciously disobeys His teachings and instructions. Even ignorant violation creates guilt and confusion, brings on "natural" consequences, and blocks Heaven's best blessings, however, which is why Yahuah now commands all men everywhere to repent [Acts 17:30].)

Why the Consumption of Animal and Bird Blood is Forbidden

Even a basic understanding of the Torah comprehends that all the statutes and judgements it contains expand on the basic principles of truth we refer to as the Ten Commandments, which raises the question – which commandment does the statute forbidding the eating of meat with blood expand upon? We obtain guidance

to answer this question from the Torah's repeated statements cited earlier telling us that we are not to consume meat with blood because **THE LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD**, and from the Messiah's statements on the need to drink His blood in order to have His life: "He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: for I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of Elohim shall come This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you" (Luke 22:17,18,20) and "Yahuahshua said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me Many therefore of his disciples, when they heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Yahuahshua knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Yahuahshua knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Yahuahshua unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Master, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Messiah, the Son of the living Elohim" (John 6:53-57;60-69).

As we ponder the concepts behind these statements, a shocking and horrifying truth becomes clear. To consume blood other than the Messiah's blood is in effect and in fact to partake of life other than the Messiah's life, which constitutes violation of the first commandment – "Thou shalt have no other Elohim/gods before me" (Exodus 20:3 KJV) or better translated "Never have any other Elohim/gods" (God's Word translation) which in turn constitutes violation of the first and great commandment – "Thou shalt love Yahuah thy Elohim with ALL thy heart, and with ALL thy soul, and with ALL thy mind" (Matthew 22:37). Finally we can see why our Creator has attached such severe punishments to the violation of this statute! A huge issue is at stake around this matter of consuming blood, and we can now understand that this issue involves **WORSHIP**, because the consumption of blood or **LIFE** is a de facto **ACT OF WORSHIP** as defined by our Messiah Himself in His directions for New Covenant Passover observance! No wonder our omniscient and omnipotent Creator and Redeemer promises to cut off from Israel and cast into the Lake of Hellfire and Brimstone those who consume the blood of animals and birds because by their actions they have chosen to worship something/someone other than Himself, they have chosen life other than His life, and there is no place for them in the eternal Kingdom of Heaven, where only the life of the King holds sway. Our Creator is a jealous Elohim (Exodus 20:5; 34:14; Numbers 25:11; Deuteronomy 4:24; 5:9; 6:15; 29:20; 32:16,21; Joshua 24:19; I Kings 14:22; Joel 2:18; Nahum 1:2), and if we do what we have been categorically and explicitly forbidden to do, and partake of life/blood other than the life/blood of Yahuahshua (which is the only life fit to sustain beings made in His image, the image of Elohim/God), then **WE WILL BE CERTAIN** to arouse the fury of His jealousy, and to suffer the consequences for doing so as recorded in the Torah and reviewed earlier in this study!

That this remains critical present truth now in the Messianic era is made very clear for us when the Ruach ha Kodesh/Holy Spirit Herself outlines four basic requirements which it would be **NECESSARY** for all Gentiles to comply with as they approached the Messiah and the people of Israel, and began to learn the principles of True Worship and proper living as explained in Yahuah's Torah/ teachings & instructions/ "the Law of Moses": "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, **AND FROM BLOOD, AND FROM THINGS STRANGLED**, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well" (Acts 15:28,29). Two of the four requirements – abstaining from blood and abstaining from things strangled

– have the net effect of eliminating all blood from the diet, which we can thus clearly see is a prerequisite for the outpouring and infilling of the Ruach ha Kodesh/Holy Spirit. Yahuah changes NOT (Malachi 3:6), so the way He felt in the past about consuming animal and bird blood is EXACTLY the way He feels today about this practice, which the passage from Acts 15 quoted above confirms. Clearly, NOTHING WHATSOEVER changed with reference to this matter between the so-called “Old” and “New” Testaments!

We should also learn from the four requirements laid down in Acts 15 that abstaining from meat with blood is more foundational to a Messianic believer’s lifestyle than any of the rest of the Torah precepts (including the feast days) which were not mentioned in this chapter, and which were to be learned and implemented later as the new believer was taught the Torah while attending synagogue worship services every Shabbat/Sabbath (Acts 15:21).

Basic Facts Regarding the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

- The Early Rain of the Holy Spirit was poured out on Shavuot/Pentecost, one of the spring appointed times/feast days of Yahuah given to Israel (as recorded in Leviticus 23) to portray or foreshadow events connected with the Messiah’s first advent. Shavuot was also the appointed time chosen by Yahuah to give the Ten Words/Ten Commandments to Israel at Sinai, which makes sense, because the Holy Spirit is given to those who obey (Acts 5:32).
- The Holy Spirit was given to provide power for witnessing, to nurture new children in the family of Elohim and to restore the lost image of Elohim/God in these children.
- The Latter Rain of the Holy Spirit is given to prepare the way for the Messiah’s second advent, and thus is associated with the seventh month fall festivals of Israel which portray or foreshadow final judgment and the coming of the Kingdom of Elohim.
- The prophecies of Isaiah and the Messiah (Isaiah 58:8-14; John 7:37-39) clearly indicate that the outpouring of the Latter Rain will occur during Succot/the Feast of Tabernacles.
- This conclusion is underscored by the Torah command to read the Torah before all Israel during Succot/the Feast of Tabernacles in the Sabbatical Year/7th year (Deuteronomy 31:10-13), which parallels the giving of the Ten Words/Ten Commandments at Sinai on Shavuot, the appointed time which later became the occasion for the Early Rain outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- Hebrew slaves were to be released from bondage during the seventh year which came after six years of their service (Jeremiah 34:13,14).
- The harvest at the end of the age begins with the 144,000 Hebrew firstfruits – 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel (Revelation 7:3-8; Romans 11:16).
- The preceding points locate the outpouring of the Latter Rain during a Succot/Feast of Tabernacles celebration occurring in a Sabbatical Year, when 144,000 delivered Hebrew slaves will be empowered for witnessing.
- The Latter Rain will first be poured out on the 144,000 at Yahrusalem/Jerusalem (Revelation 14:1; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4), and from there it will extend throughout the earth as the firstfruits use their Heaven-provided power for witnessing to prepare the way for the Jubilee deliverance of Gentile slaves during the year of Jubilee, which will bring in the rest of the harvest of all nations, kindreds, people, and tongues (Revelation 7:9).
- Further confirmation of the preceding points is provided by observing the dedication of Solomon’s temple at Succot/the Feast of Tabernacles, when the literal visible glory of Yahuah filled the temple (II Chronicles 5:13,14), which is a prophetic foreshadowing of the return of heavenly glory to the body and soul temples of True Worshipers who receive the Latter Rain of the Holy Spirit at Succot/the Feast of Tabernacles.

“Natural” Consequences of Eating Blood/Meat with Blood

So far in this study we have discussed the judgments and death which the Almighty Yahuah PERSONALLY inflicts upon the transgressors of the statute forbidding the consumption of blood and it is vital that we acknowledge His DIRECT role in these punishments, and also that the punishments are righteous and justified, or He will continue to let us pine away in our enemies' lands/the lands of our exile (Leviticus 26:38-46). There are other consequences resulting from the transgression of this statute, however, which go above and beyond the punishments directly inflicted by our Creator. These consequences might be referred to as the “natural” results of consuming meat with blood, and they also need to be noted because the evil they create is filling the world in which we live.

The Torah does not use technical or scientific terms, nor does it need to use them, when it provides the reason why we should not consume meat with blood, namely because “the life is in the blood”. However, we now know, from scientific research, that the processes and emotions of life such as sexuality, fear, and anger originate in the brain of a creature, which sends signals through the nervous system to various glands or organs located in different places throughout the body. These glands or organs then produce chemical substances known as hormones, which are RELEASED INTO THE BLOOD which then carries them to target tissues in every part of the body. If you eat meat with blood, the hormones flowing in the animal's bloodstream enter your body and affect your tissues, producing baleful effects of various kinds. When an animal is slaughtered, fear and rage are predictable emotional responses, and the hormones mediating these responses rise to high levels in the blood. Needless to say, when this blood is consumed it will produce irrational fear and anger in the eater, which could lead to emotional problems, panic attacks, and violent behaviour. The animal's sex hormones may also be present in high levels in the blood, which when eaten could ramp up your sexuality to difficult or impossible to control levels, leading to adultery and illicit affairs, incest, porn addiction, child molestation, homosexuality, bestiality, etc. No wonder the Holy Spirit is so adamant with reference to the statute forbidding the eating of meat with blood because this practice can cause Her still small voice to be drowned out by the passions and chemistry of animals!

This understanding of the physiochemical consequences of blood consumption also explains why things will not go well for the children of those who consume meat with blood. The children's troubles are not punishment for the sins of their fathers, but rather are the physiochemical consequences of eating the same depraved animal blood diet as their parents, which they cannot avoid because they are only children in their parents' homes.

In light of the foregoing explanation we can now also understand why no strangers in Israel were permitted to consume meat with blood. Since the life of the animal is in the blood, your nature will become animalized if you consume that blood and the Almighty Yahuah simply WILL NOT TOLERATE haughty, vain, wild, hyper-sexed, arrogant, conceited, rash, proud, belligerent, argumentative, hot-tempered, impudent, animalized SCHMUCKS running around among His chosen people of Israel and wreaking social and spiritual havoc in their communities and worship assemblies. PERIOD! So, if you (either Israelite or stranger) insisted on consuming meat with blood in ancient Israel, you were CUT OFF, i.e. you got the left foot of disfellowshippment, and could find yourself homesteading with the Moabites, the Ammonites, the Edomites, etc.

It is critical that we understand both phases of operation required by Torah precepts dealing with the issue under discussion. The first phase – forbidding the consumption of meat with blood – was for the spiritual and physical good of every individual in Israel; the second phase – cutting off from Israel those who insisted on eating meat with blood – was for the good of the entire nation of Israel, to protect them from the deranged thinking and behaviour of those who violated this statute. This second phase demonstrates clearly that

merely sounding the warning with reference to this issue is not sufficient; those with responsibility for the welfare of Israel are also REQUIRED to take action in order to protect the rest of the nation!

A Hard Saying + Grasping the Sword

The renegade prophet Balaam, on his way to curse the blessed children of Israel, had his eyes opened by Yahuah, “and he saw the angel of Yahuah standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. And the angel of Yahuah said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me. And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive” (Numbers 22:31-33).

King David “sinned greatly” by his own admission, when he commissioned a census in Israel during a time of peace, in violation of Torah directions. In consequence, he was given his choice of three options overseen by the Heavenly Ministry of Correctional Services: three years of famine, three months to be destroyed before his foes/“the sword of thine enemies”, or three days under the sword of Yahuah/destruction by pestilence “throughout all the coasts of Israel”. He chose to come under the sword of Yahuah, because “very great are his mercies” rather than under the sword of his enemies, which would not come with any mercy attached. The slaughter began, and ultimately the angel of Yahuah killed seventy thousand of the men of Israel. At that point, Yahuah told the angel “It is enough, stay now thine hand and David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of Yahuah stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Yahrusalem/Jerusalem” (all references from I Chronicles 21).

This spring (2009) my spiritual eyes were opened, and I saw the same sword seen by Balaam and David drawn from its sheath, and POISED TO FALL ON MY HOUSE! Let me explain.

For many years we have held annual Sabbath gatherings at our home here in Ontario, but it was not until I was preparing a presentation on the blood of the Messiah for Passover this spring that I recognized the true nature and enormity of the crime involved in consuming animal or bird blood. Due to a mixture of ignorance and presumption, I had invited speakers and attendees to these gatherings without reference to compliance with the statute we are discussing. I have read through the Bible many times, including all the passages forbidding without exception the consumption of meat with blood, but somehow never took them seriously enough to cause a change in my program. This spring, however, through the moving of the Ruach ha Kodesh, I came under overwhelming conviction that my rather casual approach to this matter constituted presumption, and would have to be replaced by a clear witness regarding this statute (in the form of the study you are presently reading) and action to ensure that the annual Sabbath gatherings at our home would bring only honor and glory to our Messiah and His Heavenly Father. Because of my presumption the sword of Yahuah was poised to fall on my house, and I was given to understand that the only way to prevent it from falling would be to grasp the sword (of the Word: Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12) myself, and use it to protect my home and those attending the annual Sabbath convocations held within it. Please note that I have been a vegetarian all my life and a vegan for the last 20 +/- years, so the issue I am dealing with in this study does not pertain to my personal diet and lifestyle. As convener of convocations on the appointed times of Israel, however, I have a responsibility to uphold Torah standards with reference to fellowshiping in Israel, or I and those in attendance will not receive the intended blessing, but will receive a curse instead – see Joshua 7 regarding Achan, who brought the forbidden/accursed thing into the camp of Israel and caused the entire camp to suffer.

Starting this fall, then, I will ask all who wish to meet with us for annual Sabbath convocations to affirm that they have permanently discontinued eating meat with blood. Will implementation of this policy cause a decline in attendance at our gatherings? I really hope not, but it is possible that some who have attended in the past will not return. Speaking truth about blood always seems to be a “hard saying” – it was 2,000 years ago when our Messiah Yahuahshua spoke His “hard saying” about blood, and “from that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with Him” (John 6:66), and it continues to be a “hard saying” today as evidenced by the feedback I have received from a few who have heard of my position. But truth will ultimately triumph, and will bring a reward for all who take a stand for it and endure unto the end.

My intent in organizing annual Sabbath gatherings is to help each soul who attends to become “Latter Rain-ready” and “Israel-ready”, not to run a booking agency for escort services provided by the whore of Babylon or any of her daughters or their kissing cousins. If people want these services there is no need for them to drive up to our home in the country to receive them – they are readily available throughout the big city at most every Catholic and Protestant congregation, Adventist congregations included (with the exception of congregations of the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement, who are to be commended for taking a better position on meat issues).

The Almighty Yahuah made a special promise to the prophet Ezekiel to assist him in carrying his unpopular message to Israel: “But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted. Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house” (Ezekiel 3:7-9). I have prayed for the two very precious blessings promised to the prophet Ezekiel, specifically a rock-hard head and a strong face, and the Almighty Yahuah has graciously granted my request. So, I suggest that you not waste your time writing letters, essays, and emails critical of my position, because it’s not going to change. Of course, you are free to oppose the position I have taken if you wish, but I will warn you in advance that any opposition which you do muster will bring a curse on your own head – you will personally experience one dimension of fulfillment of a prophecy made by Yahuah through the prophet Zechariah: “Behold, I will make Yahrusalem/Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Yahrusalem. And in that day will I make Yahrusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it” (Zechariah 12:2,3).

Are You Getting Good Value For Your Dog Food Money?

Consider the following scenario. You attend church week after week, cheerfully placing your tithes and generous offerings in the offering plate as it passes. The pastor’s sermons routinely cover lovely and comforting topics such as faith, love, heaven, grace, the assurance of salvation in the Messiah, etc. You’re happy with this pastor and his entire team of assistants and, needless to say, they’re all very happy with you. Why, just last week the congregation’s Stewardship Director had you over to his house after the service, where you enjoyed a feast fit for a king, with outstanding potatoes, fresh garden beans, prime Black Angus steak, and a super salad complete with olives, avocados, sweet onions, and pine nuts! Wonderful!

Today as you’re leaving the church after the conclusion of services you spot a man wearing a Jewish prayer shawl (called a talit in Hebrew) and handing out pamphlets with a bold heading asking “ARE YOU GOING TO HELL? NO??...ARE YOU SURE???”. “Is this one of those fanatics or nut-job extremists which our pastor has warned us about?” you ask yourself as you walk toward your car. Before you reach it, however, something compels you to turn around and go back for one of those pamphlets. You remember the Biblical admonition to “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (I Thessalonians 5:21), and you figure that

after you get home and finish eating, you'll follow that instruction and see if there might be anything useful and spiritually sound in that pamphlet.

Dinner over, you settle into your easy chair for a relaxing read. You open the pamphlet to see what it's all about, and suddenly all thought of relaxation vanishes! The author shows from Scripture that eating non-kosher meat (i.e. meat with blood) is such a disgusting abomination in the eyes of the Creator that those who do it will end up in the Lake of Hellfire and Brimstone, which is the Second Death. "This cannot be" you say to yourself; "my pastor, elders, and spiritual watchmen that I've been supporting royally for years with my tithes and offerings, have never said a word about this, and beyond that they regularly eat non-kosher meat themselves". With trembling hands you pick up your Bible to confirm the references quoted in the pamphlet, and every one turns out to be quoted correctly and in context. The shocking, awful, HORRIBLE truth hits you like a ton of bricks – YOU could end up in the Lake of Hellfire and Brimstone, which is the Second Death and not a word warning you of your danger has ever come from your pastor, Stewardship Director, or anyone else in the power structure of your church. A text flashes into your mind which you read years ago in Isaiah: "His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter" (Isaiah 56:10,11). A very clear but not very pretty picture is emerging – your spiritual watchdogs and stewards have been much more concerned about their own bottom lines than about finding and providing for their flock the spiritual food which it requires, and as a result your own soul is in mortal danger! What a rotten deal you've gotten for all the dog food you've bought for your spiritual "watchdogs"! Scripture tells us that "it is required in stewards (of the mysteries of Elohim/God), that a man be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:1,2), but these guys have been ANYTHING BUT faithful!

You think about the brother wearing the talit who gave you the pamphlet. He was a watchdog who barked, who gave you truth about the danger you were in while there was still time to amend your ways and change your course. You check out his website "truthdepot.net" and find many more enlightening studies. You ask yourself – "Would it not make more sense to buy dog food for this watchdog that barks, rather than for my old pack of 'watchdogs' which never sounded the warning, but rather were watching out only for their own gain?" Dear reader, this question is one I would request that you ask yourself, and also pray about. The hour is late in earth's history, and I would sincerely appreciate help for the truth and warning ministry you are benefiting from at the moment. It is written that "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (I Peter 2:9) and that "The priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of Yahuah of hosts" (Malachi 2:7).

So Are You Going To Hell Or Not?

Frankly, the answer to this question is entirely up to you

If you're like most of the people who will read this study, you love and worship the Messiah of Israel, you've eaten meat with blood all your life, and due to your own failure to diligently study the Word and your pastor's failure to be a steward of the mysteries of Elohim, you had no idea just how offensive your diet was to your Creator and Redeemer. You are totally shocked and mortified by what you have read in this study, and in light of the punishments and judgments promised to those who violate the command under discussion, you are deeply worried regarding your spiritual welfare and ultimate destiny.

In fact, your prognosis is excellent! You are guilty of committing what Scripture refers to as a "sin of ignorance", and provided you confess your sin, claim the blood of the Messiah to cover your sin, and forsake

your sin now that you understand its sinfulness the forgiveness you need is guaranteed. The Torah portion covering your situation explains it this way: “If a soul sin, and commit any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of Yahuah; though he wist it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity. And he shall bring a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest: and the priest shall make an atonement for him concerning his ignorance wherein he erred and wist it not, and it shall be forgiven him. It is a trespass offering: he hath certainly trespassed against Yahuah” (Leviticus 5:17-19).

If, however, you intend to continue eating meat with blood in spite of your Creator’s command to the contrary, you can know with certainty, on the authority of an “It is written” in the Word of Yahuah, that your ultimate destiny is the Lake of Hellfire and Brimstone (Revelation 21:8). The only conceivable way to avoid this destiny would be to have a genuine successful deathbed repentance, but don’t ask me how you could pull this one off, because if you’ve read this far in the study there is NO WAY you could plead ignorance! And what if you were killed instantly in an accident? or if you died in your sleep? you wouldn’t even have an opportunity to collect enough thoughts to put together a deathbed repentance! Friend, why don’t you rethink right now your addiction to the bloody fleshpots of Egypt? Tremble at the words of Yahuah for a change, and He will “look to you” (Isaiah 66:1,2) and impart His strength and presence to you. Learn to really live on His words (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4) rather than trying and failing to live on the artificial stimulation and satisfaction obtained from eating meat with blood. You will never regret it! And please don’t forget to thank the Almighty Yahuah for His graciousness in allowing you to receive this study – see bonus study “The Graciousness of Yahuah” attached.

“I set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: that thou mayest love Yahuah thy Elohim, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him: for He is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which Yahuah swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them” (Deuteronomy 30:19,20).

- “And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word which proceedeth out of the mouth of Yahuah doth man live” (Deuteronomy 8:3).
- “Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him” (Leviticus 19:17).
- “Don’t ever think I came to set aside Moses’ Teachings or the Prophets. I didn’t come to set them aside but to make them come true. I can guarantee this truth: Until the earth and the heavens disappear, neither a period nor a comma will disappear from Moses’ Teachings before everything has come true. So whoever sets aside any command that seems unimportant and teaches others to do the same will be unimportant in the Kingdom of Heaven. But whoever does and teaches what the commands say will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 5:17-19 God’s Word Translation).
- and for the critics: “Then Yahuah asked Cain, Why are you angry, and why do you look disappointed? If you do well, won’t you be accepted? But if you don’t do well, sin is lying outside your door ready to attack. It wants to control you, but you must master it” (Genesis 4:6,7 God’s Word Translation).
- “Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm” (I Chronicles 16:22; Psalm 105:15).
- “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of Yahuah, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify Yahuah in your body, and in your spirit, which are Yahuah’s” (I Corinthians 6:19,20).

- “Know ye not that ye are the temple of Elohim, and that the spirit of Elohim dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of Elohim, him shall Elohim destroy, for the temple of Elohim is HOLY, which temple ye are” (I Corinthians 3:16,17).
- “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28).
- “.... I will cut off the pride of the Philistines. And I will take away his blood out of his mouth, and his abominations from between his teeth” (Zechariah 9:6,7).
- **“Yahuah bless thee, and keep thee. YAHUAH MAKE HIS FACE SHINE UPON THEE, and be gracious unto thee. YAHUAH LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE UPON THEE, and give thee peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).**

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PS Don't feel that simply by switching to kosher meat you're in the clear as far as your Creator and His holy Torah are concerned. As awareness has increased in recent years regarding the linkage between feeding ruminant (i.e. cud-chewing) animals – in the form of protein feed supplements – to other ruminants, and the spread of mad cow disease governments have acted by passing laws to ban the practice. And the meat industry's diabolically brilliant response? they now feed ground up ruminants to pigs, which are non-ruminants, and then when they slaughter the pigs they grind up the waste to make protein supplements for cows! So, for all practical purposes, much commercial beef is simply a pig in cow's clothing, the dietary equivalent of the spiritual “wolf in sheep's clothing” (Matthew 7:15), a mixture of clean and unclean which, whether intended or not, constitutes a sophisticated form of sorcery. If after reading this study you still plan to eat meat, then, you will need to ensure not only that the meat is kosher, but also that the animals from which the meat was sourced were fed exclusively a grain and/or grass diet. If you cannot confirm this you would need to assume that they were fed protein supplements made from ground up swine, and thus that they were unfit for consumption by followers of the Messiah of Israel.

PPS And don't feel that you're out of the woods as far as your Creator is concerned if you switch to supposedly vegetarian fake meat products sold through some church-connected health food stores. Years ago, one brother was so impressed with the authentic taste of one of these fake meat products, that he decided to ask the manufacturer exactly what was in the “natural flavouring” included on the ingredient list on the side of the can. Unbelievably, the manufacturer didn't know but they did refer him to the company from which they purchased their flavouring products. When the brother contacted that company, he discovered the reason for the incredibly authentic taste – the “natural flavouring” was made out of ANIMAL BLOOD! Supposedly that particular fake meat manufacturer cleaned up their act when they were confronted with the facts, but who can say how many other manufacturers of similar products could be guilty of the same deceptive practice. You should play it safe and KNOW what's in the food you buy before you eat it.

PPPS Isaiah 46:10 tells us, in our English translations, that the Almighty Yahuah “declares the end from the beginning”, which is a completely correct and valid rendering and perspective. However, it has recently been noted that the Hebrew behind this text conveys further meaning not communicated through our traditional English translations, and providing the additional insight that Yahuah “through the beginning, reveals the end”. Since we know that in the beginning the diet given to mankind was completely plant-based, why not consider going completely plant-based now, so you are ready for the Kingdom/“the end” when it comes? That way you will avoid the problems with meat discussed in this study as well as a host of other problems not discussed here, including animal fat and contamination with disease, antibiotics and other animal

pharmaceuticals, heavy metals, pesticides, environmental pollutants, growth hormones, and bacteria. **BE BLESSED!**

This study is copyrighted, but only to prevent alteration or for-profit copying: our Master Yahuahshua said, “*Freely you have received, freely give*” (Matthew 10:8), and the reader is hereby permitted and encouraged to copy this study for personal use, or for free or at-cost distribution, provided it is copied in its entirety with no changes and that all copies include the author’s name and contact information as provided at the end of the study. I would like to remind the reader, however, that the Messiah’s statement which opens this paragraph works both ways. If you have been blessed by this study, I would be much obliged if you would freely share with me other facets of truth or useful study materials that the Ruach ha Kodesh has brought to your attention. Thank you, and Shalom!

NOTES:

The Graciousness of Yahuah

(Please note: this study utilizes what I currently understand to be the best pronunciations of the Sacred Names, specifically, “Yahuah” for the name of our Heavenly Father, and “Yahuahshua” for the name of His Son and our Messiah. The alternate spellings of “Yahuwah” and “Yahuwahshua” are used by some students for the same pronunciations.)

Every diligent Scripture student agrees that Yahuah is gracious. After all, He personally went out of His way to tell us that He is (Exodus 33:19), and no one would want to argue with Him (I John 5:10). There is less than unanimous agreement on what His graciousness looks like, however. Opinions on this matter are all over the map, leaving one wishing for some infallible, inspired way to know what His graciousness really involves.

Well, actually, there is such a way.

Other than the Messiah Yahuahshua Himself (“Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?” Matthew 23:33; “whited sepulchres full of dead men’s bones and of all uncleanness” Matthew 23:27; “children of your father the devil” John 8:44), John the Baptist probably set the benchmark for clarity and freedom from ambiguity in spiritual communication. He preached with such power and unction of the Spirit that if you walk today through the Judean wilderness along the Jordan River where he lived and ministered, it seems like you can still (almost) hear the echoes of his stern rebukes and call for repentance and righteous living! The disciple Luke preserves for us the drama of that momentous hour in Israel’s history: “Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of Elohim/God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of Yahuah, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of Yahuah. Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That Elohim is

able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages. And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Messiah, or not; John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable” (Luke 3:1-17: also see Romans 12:19 “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith Yahuah”; Deuteronomy 32:39 “See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no Elohim/God with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand”; Matthew 10:28 “Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”; James 4:12 “There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy”; and Revelation 20:9 “{the wicked nations} went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from Elohim out of heaven, and devoured them”).

But aside from the history of John the Baptist’s Heaven-ordained ministry and always-relevant call for repentance and reformation, is there something else we should learn from this chapter in the plan of salvation? Indeed there is, as we shall see.

We live in a spiritually retarded society where names merely identify. In Israel, however, names not only identify, but they also describe and reveal prophetic destiny! The man we call “John” is really Yahuchanan (commonly shortened to Yochanan, pronounced Yo-ha-**nan**), and how he came by this name is a very fascinating and important story which is also recorded for us in the gospel of Luke: “There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before Elohim, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of Yahuah blameless. And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years. And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest’s office before Elohim in the order of his course, according to the custom of the priest’s office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of Yahuah. And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. And there appeared unto him an angel of Yahuah standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name Yahuchanan (or “John” in our English MIS-translations!), and thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of Yahuah, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to Yahuah their Elohim. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Eliyahu/Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just (cf Malachi 4:5,6); to make ready a people prepared for Yahuah. And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? For I am an old man,

and my wife well stricken in years. And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of Yahuah; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season. And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless. And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, Thus hath Yahuah dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.....Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son. And her neighbours and her cousins heard how Yahuah had showed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her. And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called Yahuchanan. And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is Yahuchanan. And they marvelled all. And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, and praised Elohim. And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judea. And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of Yahuah was with him. And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be Yahuah the Elohim of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; the oath which he swore to our father Abraham, that he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life. And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of Yahuah to prepare his ways; to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our Elohim; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his showing unto Israel" (Luke 1:5-25, 57-80).

So now we see that so-called "John" the Baptist's actual divinely-inspired name, Yahuchanan, is so critically important that Gabriel, a heavenly messenger of such elevated status that he personally stands in the presence of Almighty Yahuah the King of the universe, was sent to give that name to Yahuchanan's father, Zacharias! Certainly, then, we must conclude that embedded in Yahuchanan's name is a critically significant spiritual revelation.

To get at this revelation, however, we need to make a short visit to the politically incorrect school of Scripture interpretation.....which is the reason why few "scholars" and ear-tickling preachers (whose messages are as smooth as their de-bearded faces! Leviticus 19:27) ever get close to the essential truth in this experience. To make a long story short, when we see that divinely-inspired names in Israel describe and reveal prophetic destiny as well as identify, and when we see that Yahuchanan's life work and ministry was to call for repentance and reformation in Israel to prepare the way for the Messiah's arrival.....AND WHEN WE LEARN THAT YAHUCHANAN'S NAME MEANS "YAHUAH HAS BEEN/IS

GRACIOUS”....we arrive at a very simple and obvious conclusion: Yahuchanan’s uncompromising and fearless call for repentance and reformation, was in fact the graciousness of Yahuah, Who sent this call so that those who heard could set their houses in order and be included with the wheat that the Messiah will gather into His garner, and not with the chaff that He will burn with unquenchable fire (Luke 3:17)! Truly the graciousness of Yahuah, by divinely-inspired definition!

Have YOU heard a call for repentance and reformation recently, possibly even a call for repentance and reformation that touched a rather sensitive nerve? If so, instead of ignoring it, griping, complaining, shrieking, howling, demanding someone’s head on a charger, or shooting the messenger with accusations of harshness, lack of love, fanaticism, extremism, misogyny, imbalance, lack of sympathy and/or compassion, or even murder (cf “Ye have killed the people of the Lord” Numbers 16:41).....try offering a sincere prayer of thanks for the graciousness of Yahuah, Who is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9). How YOU respond to Yahuah’s graciousness will determine YOUR eternal destiny!

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“Salvation is of the Yahudim (Jews)....we know what we worship.”
Yahuahshua ha Mashiach (Yahuchanan/John 4:22)

I'm sure you've all seen the popular wall plaque which has a picture of a handgun along with the words "WE DON'T CALL 911". The message is obvious – we have and will use the means to deal with problems without getting institutional Big Brother involved.

In the spirit of True Protestantism, I have re-designed this plaque for use by True Worshipers. Thank Heaven, "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through Elohim/God to the pulling down of strongholds" (II Corinthians 10:4), and my new design portrays our superior weaponry. You can either cut the image out of this page or make a photocopy of it if you don't want to damage this booklet, and then frame it, laminate it, or plaque mount it (at your local photography store or Costco Warehouse). Display it prominently at your home or office, to remind yourself and others that we are each responsible to "work out (y)our own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12) and that, as this study has proven, it is very unwise to rely on institutional religion for your eternal salvation or spiritual security. "Study to show THYSELF approved unto Elohim/God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

Space has been left under "WE DON'T CALL THE PASTOR" in case you wish to customize the plaque and make it more relevant to your particular situation by adding designations for other representatives of institutional religion, such as: priest, rabbi, marriage counsellor, conference president, Biblical Research Institute, etc. BE BLESSED!



WE DON'T CALL THE PASTOR

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