

The Faith

Volume 70

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Number 4

EVENING, EVEN, SUNSET, DAY AND NIGHT

Genesis 1:5 – And Elohim call the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. Verse 8 – ...And the evening and the morning were the second day. Verse 13 – And the evening and the morning were the third day. Verse 19 – And the evening and the morning were the fourth day. Verse 23 – And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. Verse 31 – And Elohim saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Leviticus 22:6-7 – The soul which hath touched any such shall be unclean until even.... And when the sun is down, he shall be clean....

Leviticus 23:32 – It shall be unto you a Sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath.

Deuteronomy 16:6 – But at the place which Yahweh thy Elohim shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the Passover at even, at the going down of the sun, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 23:11 – But it shall be, when evening cometh on, he shall wash himself with water: and when the sun is down, he shall come into the camp again.

Nehemiah 13:15-19 – ...which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals.... and sold on the Sabbath unto the children of Judah... What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the Sabbath day? ... Verse 19 – And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the Sabbath:

Psalms 104:19 – He appointed the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down.

Mark 1:21 – And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the Sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. Verse 32 – And at even, when the sun did set

Luke 4:31 – And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the Sabbath days. Verse 40 – Now when the sun was setting....

Ephesians 4:26 – Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Contending for The Faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. Jude 3

VOLUME 70

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This magazine is published for the sake of truth in honor of our Heavenly Father and His only begotten Son. It upholds the originally inspired Scriptures, teaching to declare all the counsel of The Almighty One. It proclaims the Father's scholarly recognized name, YAHWEH, and the Son's, YAHSHUA, rather than substitutions. It upholds the Ten Commandments, recognizing the name, Yahweh, in the third, and the seventh day Sabbath (not the first day of the week) in the fourth. It stands for baptism (immersion) in the name, Yahshua, the Messiah, according to Acts 2:38 and Matthew 28:19; the ordinance of feet washing and the commemoration of the Messiah's death, at the Passover season; the set times of Unleavened Bread, Weeks (Pentecost), Tabernacles, with all the yearly set apart convocation days of Leviticus 23. It advocates tithing and the observance of Yahweh's laws for our well being including clean foods. It teaches repentance of sin (disobeying Yahweh), and justification by faith in Yahshua, the Messiah, in whom we have redemption through His blood; making right the whole man, physically and spiritually; stressing the importance of the set apart righteous life, and the Power of Yahweh's Spirit of separation teaching the obedient to do His will. It is supported by "called out ones of Yahweh," which is the meaning of "Assembly of Yahweh." It is for those hearing and heeding the call of Revelation 18:4, and is proclaiming to the world that Yahweh reigns, Psalm 96.

Original editor, C.O. Dodd

Our motto: FORWARD WITH THE
ORIGINALLY INSPIRED
SCRIPTURES!

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EDITORIAL

Where Are We Going?

Our first thought in planning a trip or vacation is to pick a destination and then look for a guide or road map with instructions on how to arrive there from our present location.

Let's apply this same principle in our goal to become a child of the King. The King I am referring to is Yahshua the Messiah. His Kingship will be for a time period (one thousand years) then he will turn it over to Yahweh. 1 Corinthians 15:25-26 – For he (Yahshua) must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. Verse 28 – And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that Elohim may be all in all.

Some Saints will see this transformation. They will be there as eyewitnesses to the greatest event of all time. Just as in 2 Peter 1:15-16 – Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Master Yahshua the Messiah, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

Yahshua's short life of thirty-three and one-half years here on earth was a life filled with purpose, truth, obedience, forgiveness, temperance, patience, reverence, faith, brotherly kindness and love. While we have not been eyewitnesses to Yahshua in person, we can see Yahshua's character in others; and we hope most of all that Yahshua's attributes can be seen in us!

We must keep our eyes on the goal. We must be dedicated to a way of life that is far different than the ordinary man on the street. Let's look at that way of life, that High Calling. We must not follow man's traditions, but the example of the prophets of old, the disciples, the apostles and mainly Yahshua the Messiah.

We see that these holy (kodesh) men of old called on the name of the most high Yahweh. They loved his name because he provided for them, guided their paths, drove out kings before them, stopped the mouths of lions, healed the sick. They became leaders in foreign nations, were in prison, one was translated that he should not see death, another built an ark for the animals and his family of eight souls and were saved from the great flood over all the earth. See Hebrews chapter eleven. These all died in faith (the faith that was once delivered unto the saints (Jude verse 3), not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. They seek/desire a country, a better country, that is an heavenly.

Yes, we are strangers to this world and the state of affairs in this world. We are looking for a Redeemer to come to this earth, a Saviour who will establish righteousness and reestablish Yahweh's shalom (peace), his 7th day Sabbath, his Feast Days, his new moons, the difference between the clean and unclean and the holy (kodesh) and profane. Yahshua will reign as King for a thousand years.

We want to separate ourselves from man's traditions in our service to Yahweh the Father and Yahshua his Son. The high esteem due Yahweh the Heavenly Father and Yahshua the Messiah cannot be equaled to any person or office here on this earth. When we raise our voices and hands to sing Halleluyah, a joy floods and fills our souls. I often meditate and wonder what will the heavenly songs sound like in the Kingdom?

Being a pilgrim in today's world sounds and seems out of place, foreign to most. The definition of the word pilgrim in the dictionary is: a religious devotee who journeys to a shrine or sacred place. That is our goal, a holy (kodesh), separate or set apart place in the Kingdom. Yahshua said in John 14:3 – And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. What a promise to Israel and to all the sincere believers of this century.

How about this calling? Do you want to be a part of this High Calling? Do you want to live in the Kingdom with Yahshua reigning over the government of this world; a righteous government with Yahweh's shalom (perfect peace)? Read Yahweh's Word, pray without ceasing, be obedient, keep his commandments. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city (Revelation 22:14).

Samuel A. Graham

Editor's Note: In this issue we call your attention to the articles on Christmas, El and Elohim, and also Yahweh's Calendar for the year 2007 on the last page.

Humility

1 Peter 5:5-6 – Likewise, ye younger, submit your selves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for Elohim resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of Elohim, that he may exalt you in due time.

Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowances for each others faults, because of Yahshua's love. Loving humility overlooks the fault of others, because we see our own so vividly. Why worry about the speck in your brother's eye when you have a log in your own? Matthew 7:3.

Isaiah 57:15 – ...I dwell in the high and holy [kodesh] place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Submitted by: Elder Otto Miesel

ANNOUNCEMENT
Yahshua's Memorial (Passover)
April 3, 2007
Celebrate April 2 after sunset

CHRISTMAS, BIBLICAL HOLY DAY OR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY?

BY JAMES L. OBI

The Encyclopedia Britannica 15th edition, Vol. 16, page 383 says, “The word Christmas is derived from the old English, cristes maesse, ‘Christ Mass’.” It continues by saying that, “There is no certain tradition of the date of Christ’s birth.” Again, it went further to say that, “The first notice of a feast of the nativity of Christ occurs in a Roman almanac (the chronographer of 354, or Philocalian calendar), which indicates that the festival was observed by the church in Rome by the year 336 CE.” It is commonly supposed that the Emperor Constantine was influential in the institution of a Christian feast of “the birth day of the sun of righteousness” (Mal. 4:2) as a rival to the popular pagan festival of the unconquered sun at the winter solstice. The Britannica again confirms that “the exact circumstance of the beginning of Christmas Day at Rome remain obscure.” It sheds further light by affirming that, “From Rome the feast spread to other churches of the West and East, the last to adopt it being the church of Jerusalem in the time of Bishop Juvenal (424–458).”

From all indications so far some undisputable facts have emerged which must be considered with all seriousness. Now, let us consider the following details together.

*The word Christmas is native to the English people and not the Jews who gave the true Messiah to the world. “Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.” John 4:22.

*The word Christmas is not found in any credible version of the Holy Scriptures.

*Nobody knows the exact date of the birth of the Messiah hence December 25th or any other date in any month of the year cannot be accepted by Seekers of the Truth as the birth day of our Saviour. However, from Biblical proofs the month of October appears to be the actual month of the birth of the Messiah. No commemoration was however commanded.

*The first Christmas was celebrated in 336 CE, i.e., more than three centuries after the birth of the Messiah. So, what happened between 1–335 CE?

*It is very certain that modern day Christmas originated from Rome and not Bethlehem, Jerusalem or indeed any part of Israel, the nation where the Messiah was born.

*Christmas evidently was instituted by man and not by the Heavenly Father hence it is not found in the inspired word of the Almighty Creator but rather in the traditions of men as contained in their records. This is confirmed by the celebration of the Messiah’s birth day by some Christian organizations in October, the larger world of Christendom on December 25, and by the Eastern orthodox churches on January 6 of every year. A bundle of confusion!

*Christmas is nothing but an ancient Roman pagan festival that should not be touched with a long pole by true Bible Believers and those who love the truth.

***Therefore, no true Believer of the true Messiah will celebrate Christmas and abandon the Biblical and the Divinely ordained feasts of Passover/Unleavened bread, Pentecost and Tabernacles, which are still binding scripturally till the end of time.**

Now what is Christmas? Let me quickly answer by saying that Christmas is nothing but a social and religious festival at the end of the Roman calendar year generally accepted to be a world-wide Christian feast to commemorate the birth of Jesus the Christ (real name, Yahshua Meshiyach). Its historical background dates back to the 4th century. The church world-wide acknowledges that nobody knows the exact date of the Messiah's birth. One thing that is not in doubt is that he was born in a Middle East town of Bethlehem and not in Rome more than 2,000 years ago. And that is the truth!

Let me ask another question. Why celebrate his birthday in December? From all available and incontrovertible historical and Biblical evidences, it is obvious that the Creator of heaven and earth or any heavenly being did not command Christmas observance. Some human beings who apparently decided to take over the role of the father of the Messiah fixed a date in December to celebrate his birth, some thing nobody asked them to do. To justify their action they are very quick to cite Matthew 16:19 which says, "And I will give unto thee 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." And John 21:25 where it is recorded as follows, "And there are also many other things which Yahshua did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written." However, unknown to them, they are fulfilling to the letter Mark 7:6-9, 13 where the Master said, "Well hath E-sai-as prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of Yahweh, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such things (like Christmas, New Year, Easter, etc., emphasis mine) ye do. And he said unto them, full well ye reject the commandments of Yahweh, that ye may keep your own tradition. Making the word of Yahweh of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye," e.g., setting aside a date in December to celebrate the birth of the Messiah. They like King Saul of old were clearly told in the scriptures what they should do but they have chosen to do their own will which they claim is to the glory of Yahweh just like King Saul of old. Hear what the Almighty Father through Prophet Samuel told King Saul and those he led to disobey the voice of Yahweh in I Samuel 15:22-23, "And Samuel said, Hath Yahweh as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of Yahweh? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of Yahweh, He hath also rejected thee from being king."

If I may ask again, did Miriam, otherwise called Mary, ever celebrate her child's birthday? Did the early Apostles observe it? What of the rest of the disciples? Does the bible encourage the celebration of birthdays generally? The answer to all the questions is NO! I make bold to say that from Genesis to Revelation there is no

account of any man/woman of the Almighty who celebrated his/her Birthday. The only two accounts found in both the old and new testaments had to do with the pagan rulers of Egypt and Israel respectively. On both occasions a life was lost including that of John the Baptist. This is as contained in Genesis 40:20–22 which reads as follows, “And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh’s birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants. And he restored the butler unto his butlership again: and he gave the cup into Pharaoh’s hand: but he hanged the chief baker: as Joseph had interpreted to them.” This is supported by Mark 6:21–28, which reads thus, “And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee; And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee. And he swore unto her, whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto half of my kingdom. And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist. And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist. And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath’s sake, and for their sakes, which sat with him, he would not reject her. And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison. And brought his head in a charger and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother.”

So why then did the church introduce Christmas? The church I believe is in a better position to answer that question. What I know and is true is that Christmas came to the church through the Romans who used to celebrate a feast in honour of their god and characterized by wild parties, orgies, drunkenness, and exchange of gifts that is typical of modern day Christmas.

It is sad to note that people have been deceived into celebrating an unbiblical feast not commanded by the Almighty Father. One thing however stands out clear and that is the heavenly Father has His own appointed feasts of Passover/unleavened bread, Pentecost and Tabernacles clearly stated in the Bible. The months, dates and duration are all stated for proper guidance. You may wish to check out some of the details in Exodus 23:15–17, Leviticus 23:1–44, Deut. 16:16, Luke 2:41–42, John 7:1–37, Acts 20:16.

Remember that as a free moral agent you are at liberty to believe and practice whatsoever you may wish. The choice is entirely yours.

Before I conclude, let me state some basic facts which I challenge any clergyman or organization to disprove.

1. That Christmas is derived from the Roman pagan festival of saturnalia which was normally celebrated on December 17 before it was converted by the Roman church as a Christian feast in the 4th century CE.
2. From all available historical records it was not the church in Jerusalem, Israel, that took over the Roman pagan feast of saturnalia but the Romans through Emperor Constantine who used his executive power by employing the instrument of a decree to bring it to pass for his subjects to observe. If in doubt go to Israel to clarify issues for yourself.

3. That since that enactment the church has not been able to wrestle any of the numerous pagan festivals that abound in all parts of Nigeria and the outside world. If the church thinks she can do that I challenge them to try and see the result.
4. That part of the commission by the Messiah to the church was not to go and take over pagan religious festivals but to win lost souls for the soon coming kingdom of the Heavenly Father. However, if we must keep feasts the divinely ordained festivals are clearly stated in the Bible for us. Hear what the Bible has to say, “Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread, (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out of Egypt; and none shall appear before me empty;) And the feast of harvest, the first fruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.” Exodus 23:14–16.
5. That the Christmas tree comes from medieval German mystery plays centered in representations of the tree of paradise (Genesis 2:9).
6. That the origin of Father Christmas is traceable to one St. Nicholas of Myra – Italy (34 CE) who was believed to visit children with admonition and gifts in preparation for the gift of the Child Christ which is still being practiced in a commercial way today. The word Santa Claus which is a transliteration of St. Nicholas was introduced into the feast by the Dutch.
7. That the sending of greeting cards at Christmas began in Britain in the 1840s and was introduced to the United States in the 1870s several centuries after the birth of the Messiah.
8. That Boxing Day was never a part of the birth of the true Messiah.

In the face of the overwhelming evidence adduced so far, is Christmas still worth celebrating? I am not in a position to judge anybody because I was not sent to do that. After reading this piece you may decide to ignore it or consider the points raised seriously and comply accordingly. However, hear what the Master has to say in John 12:47–48, “And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejected me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the words that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” The Messiah wraps it up with the following thought provoking statement in Revelation 22:11 where he said, “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he that is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

Finally, I would like to conclude this piece by throwing my old challenge to Readers. Can anybody or organization prove that Christmas is biblical and commanded by the Heavenly Father or the Messiah? I would be very eager and pleased to hear from someone with convincing proofs soon. A reward of One Hundred Thousand Naira (₦ 100,000.00) still stands to be given away to anybody who can do that. Grace be with them that love our Saviour in sincerity. And how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation.

James L. Obi, A servant of Yahshua the Messiah
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EL AND ELOHIM

Idol names or designations for the Heavenly Hosts?

By Larry Rogers

Although ancient Bible manuscripts use the terms El and Elohim in referring to the Heavenly Hosts, some reject these titles because they were also used for pagan idols. Is it proper to employ these words for the Father and Son, even though they were used for such idols as those of the Canaanites?

Consider This

The Ras Shamra tablets, discovered in 1929, brought to light that the head of the pantheon of idols worshipped at ancient Ugarit in today's Western Syria was indeed called El (or Il). He is pictured as the father of the other idols, though he himself had a father called "Heaven" who was a shadowy figure.

El was a mighty one not only at Ugarit, but also in many other Semitic cultures. According to G. Ernest Wright in *Biblical Archaeology*, El was also the head of the Amorite pantheon. In fact, El is found in personal names in some of the oldest Semitic sources, including the old Akkadian cuneiform texts dated before 2350 B.C.E. (*Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, supplementary volume, article on El). El occurs either as a personal noun or as the generic term for mighty one in almost every Semitic language, including the recently discovered and formerly unknown language of the Ebla tablets.

Some scholars think the people known as the Habiru may be closely related to the ancient Hebrews. This could have been the term used by the Egyptians and Canaanites to describe the Hebrews, as possibly evidenced in the Tell-el-Amarna letters (1400 B.C.E.). The Habiru called their mighty one "Ilani" (plural in cuneiform script) which some scholars think to be identical with the Hebrew Elohim.

Is There Guilt by Association?

The widespread occurrence of El in these Semitic languages raises a fundamental question that must be addressed: was the title "El" or "Elohim" first applied to the true Creator, later being corrupted and used to designate pagan idols?

Arguments against the use of El and Elohim because of pagan association might also be employed against the use of Yahweh. A YW element was also found in the Ras Shamra tablets, which some scholars think may relate to Yahweh. The Ebla tablets

show that an idol called Ya was worshipped there. Ya occurs as an element in compound names at Ebla, one being "ya-ra-mu" which also occurs in the Bible as Joram and means "Yah is exalted."

Ya has also been found as an element in lists of idols from Fara (in Iraq) and in Sumerian documents from the third dynasty at Ur (Giovanni Pettinato, "Ebla and the Bible," *Biblical Archaeological Review*, Nov./Dec. 1980). Since the sacred Name has no doubt been known from creation, we can only conclude that sometime after the flood it was corrupted by pagan societies and used by them or at least the "Ya" element was.

Anyone who holds a faith in the Bible must believe that monotheism (belief in one Mighty One) was the original belief and that the polytheism (many mighty ones) of pagan societies became a later corruption of worship. The prevailing view of modern liberal scholarship is that Moses originated the monotheistic faith of Israel, and that the Genesis accounts are only fables that Israel borrowed from Babylon. This has led to many errors in thinking and doubts about the historicity of the Bible.

A Worship Divided

Stephen Langdon, professor and archaeologist, found evidence at the ancient city of Kish that monotheism was the original belief there, though it later became extremely polytheistic. He found a gradual lessening of the pantheon at Kish until only two deities were found in the earliest period. These two were "Anu the sky-god and Innini the Queen of heaven.

We should probably relate these two idols to Nimrod and Semiramis. The same evidence was corroborated at Erech, which was one of the cities that made up Nimrod's kingdom (Gen. 10:10). The findings of Dr. Langdon, brought out in his book *Semitic Mythology*, point to a primitive monotheistic deity with the name "An" meaning heaven, sky.

Alexander Hislop, in *The Two Babylons*, confirms that a corruption of True Worship began at Babylon under Nimrod. This is where paganism and polytheism began. Because El and Yahweh were known before Nimrod, he or others after him corrupted their use, associating them with paganistic concepts.

The Hebrew forebears can be traced back to the land the Bible calls Padan-Aram (Gen. 28:7) or Mesopotamia (Gen. 24:10). This is the land of Terah, Nahor, and Haran. When Abraham and Isaac were dwelling in the land of Canaan, they forbade their sons to marry Canaanite women, but they would send to Padan-Aram for their wives (compare Gen. 24:1-10 with 28:1-5).

Jacob is pictured as a wandering Aramean in Deuteronomy 26:5. This is an allusion

to his association with the area of Padan-Aram. This is also the land of Nimrod, the "land of Shinar, and Babylon."

A conglomeration of religious ideas could be found here in the "land of the two rivers." Abraham was called out of this paganistic environment to witness for the existence of the true Elohim as opposed to the false concept of many mighty ones.

From biblical evidence he and his descendants continued to use the generic terms for mighty one that they had no doubt used in Padan-Aram, applying them to the true Creator. "El" was used by Jacob in naming several significant places or worship sites. Examples are: Bethel (Gen. 28:19), Peniel (Gen. 32:30), El-Elohe-Israel (Gen. 33:20), and El-Bethel (Gen. 35:7).

El in the Prophets' Names

Another point that can't be overlooked is the use of El in personal names, especially in the names of prophets such as Eliyah, Elisha, Samuel, Daniel, Joel, Ezekiel. Eliyah definitely links El with Yah. It would be necessary to rename most of the prophets if el is not a proper term for the Almighty.

Abram named his son Ishmael, "El will hear." (Gen. 16:15). Also, el occurs in the name of one of the pre-flood patriarchs "Mahaleel" meaning "praise of El."

We should also note Yahshua's use of El, especially in His cry from the tree during His impalement recorded in Matthew 27:46: "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani." This Aramaic phrase was not translated. It is probably from the oldest New Testament text. Those nearby thought that Yahshua called for Eliyah (v. 47).

If He referred to the Father as "my El," it would be no crime for us to do the same. Yahshua Himself is referred to as El in the adjective "Emmanuel" (Matt. 1:23). This fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 "El with us."

Since El was so widely used in Semitic culture, we cannot say with any certainty where or when it originated. The evidence seems to conclude that El and Elohim were simply common Semitic, generic terms for any mighty one, and this is the way we find it used in the Bible.

It was applied to pagan idols (Gen. 31:30, 35:2, Ex. 12:12, 20:3, 22:20, 34:15, 34:17, Lev.19:4, Deu. 3:24, Isa. 21:9, Jonah 1:5) as well as to Yahweh Himself (Gen. 1:1, 14:18, 14:19, 17:1, Ex. 3:6, 3:15). The difference is that El and Elohim were not applied to Yahweh as a personal proper noun as it came to be in some pagan societies (i.e., Amorite, Ugaritic).

The Common Denominator

There would need to be some generic term for mighty one in Hebrew as well as the

other Semitic languages. The term that is common to them all is El. This is no surprise since the Semitic languages as well as the Semitic peoples are related. Such a common term would more than likely go back to the fountainhead of Semitic culture and the line of Noah's son Shem.

It is not difficult to visualize how the use of El came to be so widespread and eventually misused and applied to pagan idols.

We should surely try to remove paganism from our worship. But modern liberal scholarship (?) would have us believe that almost every custom and belief of Israel was learned from their pagan neighbors. The seventh day Sabbath was also observed in Babylon, and liberal scholars tell us this is where Israel learned it. If we believed them instead of the Genesis account, we would have to reject the Sabbath because of pagan association.

We must distinguish between the truth, and where and in what way the truth was misused and abused.

**Make Plans to Attend - The 23rd Annual Unity Conference
Which will be held (Yahweh willing),
August 3, 4 and 5, 2007
At the Assembly of Yahweh, Eaton Rapids, Michigan**

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FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2006

Eaton Rapids, Michigan

Outstanding Event: There was joy in heaven on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles (Luke 15:10). The invitation went out from the Pastor; we were going to have an immersion service on the first day. Two or three believers had written in advance regarding baptism at the 2006 Feast. What a surprise when ten people requested water baptism! Those who were immersed into Yahshua the Messiah were: Sonia Olevnik, California; Tara Jones and Kevin Max Self, Toronto, Canada; Fred and Elizabeth Gatzke, U.P., Michigan; Vicki and Brandon Nimitz, Michigan; Amy Runkel, Ohio; Sandee Waldo, Michigan; and R. Beulah Weiman, Michigan.

Something Learned: There were many scriptures read indicating that as we come to the water of refreshment and are baptized/immersed in the water; Yahshua will lead us to that Pure River of Life mentioned in Revelation 22:1, “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of Elohim and of the Lamb.”

Highlights: The Theme for the Feast this year was “Praise Yahweh” and Praise Him we did, with many song specials, congregational singing and many testimonies from believers on how Yahweh has worked in their lives. This was an international Feast of Harvest with the brethren from the Toronto, Ontario assembly coming to worship Yahweh with us. Everyone enjoyed their rendition of Walking on the King’s Highway. The reading of the book of Deuteronomy is an annual delight and several believers came forward to read whole chapters.

Speakers and Messages: David Butts, Minnesota – “Yahweh Changes Not.” George Kinney, Florida – “Love Connections,” “Ordaining Elders,” “Righteousness,” “Astronomy and Yahweh,” and the “Set Apart Festivals.” Bill McDiarmid, Michigan – “He Gave and We Must Give.” Otto Miesel, Michigan – “Psalm 91,” and “His Goodness, His Kindness.” Rock Key Yah Spence, Illinois – “Hiding Place.” Russ Sullivan, Michigan – “L.O.V.E.” Robert Wells, Michigan – “The Beast System of Revelation, Part 1 and Part 2.” Andrew Richards, Toronto, Ontario – “What Position Are You Playing on Yahweh’s Team?” Samuel Graham, Michigan – “The Greatest Event on Earth,” and “The Feast of Tabernacles.”

More Highlights: The group enjoyed the field trip to Grand Ledge (a nearby town) which was holding a Harvest Days Celebration. The assembly also enjoyed the health ministry of Paul Nison, who encouraged us to eat as the prophets did of old (remember Daniel and the three Hebrew children in Daniel Chapter one). Their diet was correct in nutrients and fiber just as the health experts are advocating today. The hayride around the property and kosher hot dog roast are always highlights of the Feast especially for the children, teen-agers and the young at heart.

Comments: We want to thank all those believers who came early to help with the final preparations, and thank you to all those who helped make this Feast a memorable one. May Yahweh be praised! Till we all meet again, may Yahweh bless you and keep you is our prayer.

Submitted by: Samuel Graham

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Yahweh's

2007 Calendar

| New Moon Days | Annual Convocation | Days |
|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| Jan. 21 | YAHSHUA'S MEMORIAL (Passover) APRIL 3 Celebrate APRIL 2 after sunset | April 4 |
| Feb. 19 | FESTIVAL OF UNLEAVENED BREAD APRIL 4 through APRIL 10 | April 10 |
| Mar. 21 | FEAST (appointment) OF WEEKS MAY 24 | May 24 |
| Apr. 19 | See Leviticus 23:10, 11, 15, 16, 21 | Sept. 14 |
| May 18 | FEAST (appointment) OF TRUMPETS SEPTEMBER 14 | Sept. 23 |
| June 17 | DAY (appointment) OF ATONEMENT SEPTEMBER 23 | Sept. 28 |
| July 16 | FEAST OF TABERNACLES (Booths or Huts) SEPTEMBER 28 through OCTOBER 4 | Oct. 5 |
| Aug. 15 | LAST GREAT DAY OCTOBER 5 | 7 days |
| Sept. 14 | | in all - the |
| Oct. 13 (Borderline) | | number of |
| Nov. 12 | | completeness |
| Dec. 12 | | |

Begin YAHWEH's days with the sunset preceding the indicated Roman days lasting till the next sunset.

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