

The Faith

Volume 73

4-6, 2009

Number 2

O My People

Psalm 50:7 – Hear, O my people, and I will speak;

Psalm 78:1 – Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ear to the words of my mouth.

Psalm 117 – O praise Yahweh, all ye nations: praise him all ye peoples. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of Yahweh endureth for ever. Halleluyah.

Psalm 66:8 – O bless our Elohim, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard:

Psalm 100:3 – Know ye that Yahweh he is Elohim: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Psalm 148:14 – He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Halleluyah.

Psalm 106:48 – Blessed be Yahweh Elohim of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise Yah.

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

VOLUME 73

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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

Redeem Israel, O Yahweh, Out of His Trouble

(Psalm 25:22)

The Spring season of 2009 is upon us. The long cold winter is past. Most of the people in the United States and many other Israelite Countries are concerned about the state of the economy. There are thousands of people out of work and we hear of factory after factory closing down. The auto industry has taken a huge hit with the slow-down of new car buyers. The purchase of other durable goods is down also. Thousands of homes have been foreclosed and are sitting empty. People have moved in with other family members just to have a place to live. Banks are closing or merging with other banks. Wall Street investments have diminished or vanished. Pension plans are in jeopardy. Remember when it was strongly suggested to change Social Security to part or all 401K plans? We would have a larger problem if that had taken effect. It seems to me that these conditions are tied in with the Scriptures. Deuteronomy chapter 28 lists the blessings from Yahweh if we obey Him, and the cursings if we do not obey Him.

Are the above conditions waking people up? Some eyes are open to the great trouble that is coming upon us if we as a people do not change our ways or if the governments do not change. The government of the United States is supposed to be of the people (that is what we were taught in our civic classes in school).

The Preamble to the Constitution starts out saying – We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, etc., etc. What We the People should be doing is returning to our first love; the creator of the universe Yahweh the Almighty, and His only begotten Son Yahshua the Messiah. The bottom line is the government should be subject to the people (with righteous ideas and dictates).

Remember 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 – Yahweh has set some in the Assembly, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, ... governments ... Daniel and Joseph were good examples for Yahweh. Should we be involved? Some feel believers should not participate in man's government. One government "we the people" are definitely subject to is Yahshua the Messiah (His government). Whatever He declares, whatever is His example, we should hold up that same standard. Anything less is lacking in respect for the authority of Yahweh through His Son.

Yahweh warns men in authority in Psalm 2:10-12 – Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve Yahweh with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son [Yahshua the Messiah], lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him. Israel and Judah's record of righteous and unrighteous kings can be found in the Books of Kings and Chronicles. If America or any country would do as 2 Chronicles 7:14 says, we or they could be blessed beyond measure. **"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."** It is time for "we the people" to get on our knees and start praying for ourselves and for our leaders – to return unto Yahweh as Malachi 3:7 says, ... Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith Yahweh of hosts. ... Return thou backsliding Israel – Jeremiah 3:12.

In the Torah, the Book of Deuteronomy, after listing the blessing and the cursings in Chapter 28 and exhorting Israel to obedience in Chapter 29, states in Chapter 30

beginning with verses 2 and 3 – And shalt return unto Yahweh thy Elohim, and shalt obey His voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; That then Yahweh thy Elohim will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither Yahweh thy Elohim hath scattered thee. Verse 11 – For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. Verses 14 and 15 – But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it. See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil. All Yahweh wants from us is in the 16th verse – In that I command thee this day to love Yahweh thy Elohim, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and Yahweh thy Elohim shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

The prophet Isaiah has some great words of advice for the Israelites in Chapter 44 verses 21 and 22 – Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me. I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

Isaiah 51:11 – Therefore the redeemed of Yahweh shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away. (This verse when sung is indeed spirit lifting).

Yahweh reassures Israel in Hosea Chapter 2 that He will take care of His betrothed even though she had been unfaithful to Him. Verse 23 - ... and I will say to them which were not my people, thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my Elohim. Back up in verses 19 and 20 – And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and loving kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness; and thou shalt know Yahweh. Yes, in Yahweh's master plan He has His betrothed, Israel, preparing for the great Marriage Supper of the Lamb of Yahweh. Revelation 19:7.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of Yahweh; which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear Yahweh, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. Ecclesiastes 12:13.

A Servant, Pastor Samuel A. Graham

CHOSEN (Continued from Page 13)

What if Yahweh called you or me? Would we hear Yahweh's call? Would we be ready? The answer of course is we need to be ready at all times to answer His call. He calls the most unlikely, so I guess we are "ripe for the picking" and we must be prepared now.

Elijah didn't just act on what Yahweh said; he continually depended on Yahweh for food, shelter and safety. Not knowing what would come next, he was obedient to trust and obey. As a result Yahweh grew and shaped Elijah into the man he became.

Pray and seek the face of Yahweh every day as Elijah did, to be ready to be used by Yahweh as He sees fit for your life.

THE ONLY SIGN

When did Yahshua's death, burial and resurrection take place? The traditional and prevalent view is that He died and was buried on Friday afternoon, and resurrected on Sunday morning. However, is this biblical teaching?

Let us now go to the Word of Yahweh and see whether the traditional and prevailing view is the biblical view. For it is written, "Buy the truth, and do not sell *it*, *Also* wisdom and instruction and understanding" (**Proverbs 23:23 NKJV**).

Matthew 12:38 (NKJV) Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher we want to see a sign from You." **Matthew 12:39 (NKJV)** But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. **Matthew 12:40 (NKJV)** For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. **Jonah 1:17 (NKJV)** Now [Yahweh] had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

I remember reading someplace where a Bible commentator made the comment: "*Of course we know that [Yahshua] was actually in the tomb only half as long as He thought He would be!*" It is incredible that a Bible commentator would make such a statement, for in so doing he discredits the ONLY sign Yahshua gave to that *evil and adulterous generation*.

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. **Matthew 27:63** Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. **John 2:19** Yahshua answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. **John 2:20** Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? **John 2:21** But he spake of the temple of his body.

We do not need a dictionary or Bible commentary to ascertain the meaning of three days and three nights. We can certainly do without the opinion of theologians. We can very easily find the answer in the Scriptures. Let us now look at the first chapter of Genesis.

Genesis 1:3 And Elohim said, Let there be light: and there was light. **Genesis 1:4** And Elohim saw the light, that *it was* good: and Elohim divided the light from the darkness. **Genesis 1:5** And Elohim called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Do you realize the significance of the above references? They very plainly show us the scriptural meaning of three days and three nights. The same sequence is repeated through verse thirteen.

How much plainer could it be? Three days and three nights mean exactly that, *three days and three nights*, or, to be more precise, 72 hours. It is not possible to get three days and three nights (72 hours) from Friday evening to early Sunday morning without perverting the plain meaning of words. The best we can do is about 36 hours. Do you remember the commentator we referred to earlier? Permit me to quote it again. "*Of*

course we know that [Yahshua] was actually in the tomb only half as long as He thought He would be!" The linguistic gymnastics to which some will resort in an effort to support their cherished traditions never cease to amaze me. Do you realize what it means if Yahshua was mistaken about this? What else might He have been mistaken about? Why not just accept what the Scriptures say?

Here is another plain statement from the lips of the Savior.

John 11:9 Yahshua answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.

If there are 12 hours in the day there are also 12 hours in the night. Therefore, Yahshua was three twelve hour nights ($3 \times 12 = 36$ hours), and three twelve hour days ($3 \times 12 = 36$ hours), which equals 72 hours ($36 + 36 = 72$ hours). What is there about three days and three nights that is so difficult to understand? Permit me to give a simple example to illustrate my point.

If I were to say to you, *I'm going down South and will be there three days and three nights*, you would have no problem understanding what I meant. But due to long held beliefs and traditions, when we read three days and three nights in the Bible we can't accept the plain and simple meaning these words were intended to convey. We must find a way to conform them to what we *think* they mean. Is it possible that tradition has blinded so many to the obvious?

THE TIME OF YAHSHUA'S DEATH AND BURIAL

If we can find the time of day of His burial it would be a simple matter to discover the time of day of His resurrection. Whatever time of day His burial took place, the resurrection would take place at the same time of day three days and three nights, 72 hours, later.

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour [3:00 P.M.] Yahshua cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My El, my El, why hast thou forsaken me? **Matthew 27:47** Some of them that stood there, when they heard *that*, said, This *man* calleth for Eliyah. **Matthew 27:48** And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled *it* with vinegar, and put *it* on a reed, and gave him to drink. **Matthew 27:49** The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Eliyah will come to save him. **Matthew 27:50** Yahshua, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the spirit.

YAHSHUA WAS BURIED BETWEEN 3:00 P.M. AND SUNSET

Matthew 27:57 When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Yahshua's disciple: **Matthew 27:58** He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Yahshua. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. **Matthew 27:59** And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, **Matthew 27:60** And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Luke 23:50 And, behold, *there was* a man named Joseph, a counsellor; *and he was* a good man, and a just: **Luke 23:51** (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) *he was* of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of Elohim. **Luke 23:52** This *man* went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Yahshua. **Luke 23:53** And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. **Luke 23:54** And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on.

John 19:42 There laid they Yahshua therefore because of the Jews' preparation *day*; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

THE BODY HAD TO BE TAKEN DOWN AND BURIED THE DAY HE WAS HANGED

Deuteronomy 21:22 And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: **Deuteronomy 21:23** His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged *is* accursed of Elohim;) that thy land be not defiled, which Yahweh thy Elohim giveth thee *for* an inheritance.

Another reason they hastened to get Him buried before sunset was because that sunset would be the start of a High Day Sabbath, the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (**Lev. 23:4-5**).

John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the stake on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

This was not the weekly seventh day Sabbath, but one of seven annual Sabbaths observed by Israel (**Lev. 16:30-31; 23:1-39**). These seven annual high day Sabbaths were based on certain dates on the calendar, not a certain day of the week.

MESSIAH WAS IMPALED ON PASSOVER

Matthew 26:1 And it came to pass, when Yahshua had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples, **Matthew 26:2** Ye know that after two days *is the feast of the Passover*, and the Son of man is betrayed to be executed.

Passover took place on the fourteenth day of the first month (Abib) followed by a high day Sabbath, the first day of Unleavened Bread, on the fifteenth day of the first month. This means there were *two* Sabbaths that week, the high day Sabbath on the day now known as Thursday, and the weekly Sabbath on Saturday.

It seems obvious from the Scriptures that Yahshua resurrected as the weekly Sabbath was ending and it was *dawning toward the first day of the week*. Keep in mind that the biblical day began and ended at sunset. This means that in order for Him to fulfill the ONLY sign that was to be given to that *evil and adulterous generation*, He would have to be in the grave exactly three days and three nights, or to be more precise, 72 hours. The only way this would have been possible would be if He had been executed on the day now known as Wednesday.

This means He was buried just prior to sunset on a Wednesday. The women and His disciples rested on Thursday, the high day Sabbath. They then bought and prepared the spices for His burial on Friday, as well as making their preparations for the weekly Sabbath. They rested on Saturday, the weekly Sabbath, and, according to **Matthew 28:1**, some came to the tomb toward the end of the Sabbath to *see the sepulchre*.

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Miriam Magdalene and the other Miriam to see the sepulchre.

The word *end* in the above verse is number 3796 in Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary. Notice carefully the definition.

G3796 From the same as **G3694** (through the idea of *backwardness*); (adverbially) *late in the day*; by extension *after the close* of the day; - (at) even, in the end.

There *appears* to be some discrepancy concerning the appearances of the women at the tomb. **Matthew 28:1** does not appear to be referring to the same events as recorded in Mark and Luke. For example, in Matthew, two women came to *see* the sepulchre. Nothing is said about anointing His body, as in Mark and Luke. Notice the meaning of the word *see* in this text.

G2334 From a derivative of **G2300** (perhaps by adverb of **G3708**); to *be a spectator* of, that is, *discern*, (literally, figuratively [*experience*] or intensively [*acknowledge*]): - behold, consider, look on, perceive, see. Compare **G3700**.

Mark 16:1 And when the Sabbath was past, Miriam Magdalene, and Miriam the *mother* of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. **Mark 16:2** And very early in the morning the first *day* of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

Luke 24:1 Now upon the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices that they had prepared, and certain *others* with them.

Mark and Luke inform us that several women came early in the morning of the first day of the week (Sunday) to anoint His body.

Perhaps Miriam Magdalene and another woman came to *view* the tomb, and tarried there for a time of mourning before returning home due to it getting dark. Until the stone was actually rolled back, they would not have known whether Yahshua was inside or not.

The next morning they returned, with the women mentioned by Mark, with the intention of anointing His body and found the stone already rolled back, and the tomb empty. Whatever the circumstances, the tomb was empty when they arrived early on the first day of the week, because He had resurrected at the end of the Sabbath the previous evening. Whatever the case may be, nobody actually saw Him resurrect. All accounts agree on this point, He was gone when they obtained access to the tomb early Sunday morning. He had resurrected some twelve hours earlier.

There is no indication in scripture as to the exact time when **Matthew 28:2; Mark 16:4; Luke 24:2; John 20:1** took place. The stone was rolled back so the disciples could see and enter into the tomb that they might know that He had indeed resurrected. Yahshua did not need the stone rolled back in order to exit the tomb. He could appear inside a room where the doors were closed (**John 20:26**). He also vanished from the sight of the two disciples who met Him as they were on their way to Emmaus (**Luke 24:13-31**). Regardless of how we interpret the appearances at the tomb, the Scriptures simply will not support a Friday execution and a Sunday resurrection.

Let us now look at another incident that took place after His resurrection. It is found in the Book of Luke and definitely took place in late afternoon of the first day of the week, the day now known as Sunday.

Luke 24:13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem *about* threescore furlongs. 14) And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15) And it came to pass, that, while they communed *together* and reasoned, Yahshua himself drew near, and went with them. 16) But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. 17) And he said unto them, What manner of communications *are* these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? 18) And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him,

Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? 19) And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Yahshua of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before Elohim and all the people: 20) And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. 21) But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

Notice carefully the underlined words. It is obvious the events described above did indeed take place on the day we now call Sunday. We have already shown that the execution and burial took place on Wednesday. If we count back three days from Sunday we come to Thursday. How do we explain this *apparent* inconsistency? It is really quite simple. Let us now go back to the Book of Matthew for the solution.

Matthew 27:62 (NKJV) On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate...

Since Yahshua was buried toward the *end* of the day of preparation, these events would have taken place after sunset on Wednesday, in other words, Thursday.

Matthew 27:63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. **Matthew 27:64** Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. **Matthew 27:65** Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. **Matthew 27:66** So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

Let us count the days. Thursday to Friday – day one; Friday to Saturday – second day; Saturday to Sunday – third day.

Yahshua was executed and buried on the preparation day, as previously shown. This would have been on the day we now know as Wednesday. The next day, which was a high day Sabbath, the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the day now known as Thursday, the chief priests and the Pharisees came to Pilate and requested that the tomb be sealed and a guard put in place. As noted earlier, this would have been after sunset on Wednesday, which, according to biblical reckoning, would be the beginning of Thursday. This was part of *the things that happened there in these days (Luke 24:18)*. Counting back three days from Sunday brings us to Thursday, *the third day since these things happened (Luke 24:21)*. It is truly marvelous to behold the harmony and consistency of the Scriptures.

Let us consider another point.

Mark 16:9 Now when *Yahshua* was risen early the first *day* of the week, he appeared first to Miriam Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Notice that the translators *inserted* a comma after the word *week*. This makes this verse say that Yahshua rose on the first day of the week, which contradicts the teaching of scripture. Let us see if we can resolve this *apparent* contradiction.

The Greek for this verse has no punctuation as does English. The translators simply *inserted* punctuation according to their understanding of the author's intent.

Let us now examine how some other translations punctuate this verse. Notice carefully the placement of the comma. We will begin with the 1611 King James Version.

Mark 16:9 (1611 KJV) Now when [Yahshua] was risen early, the first day of the weeke, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seuen deuils.

Mark 16:9 (HCSB) Early on the first day of the week, after He had risen, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had driven seven demons.

Mark 16:9 (CEV, Contemporary English Version) Very early on the first day of the week, after [Yahshua] had risen to life, he appeared to Mary Magdalene. Earlier he had forced seven demons out of her.

Mark 16:9 (Darby) Now when he had risen very early, the first [day] of the week, he appeared first to Mary of Magdala, out of whom he had cast seven demons.

Mark 16:9 (MontgomeryNT) Now after his resurrection, early on the first day of the week he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had driven out seven demons.

Mark 16:9 (The Word of Yahweh) Now when *Yahshua* was risen, early the first *day* of the week he appeared first to Miriam Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

It is obvious from the above references that different translators punctuate this verse differently. I have in my collection of Bibles three versions that punctuate this verse in a manner consistent with the teaching of scripture. The one I use the most is The Word of Yahweh (Assembly of Yahweh, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827).

It is obvious that Bible translators inserted punctuation in a manner that would support their particular theological viewpoint. This is evident by their punctuation of Mark 16:9.

It is not the intent of this writing to cover all the events surrounding the resurrection of Yahshua. My desire was simply to show that Messiah fulfilled exactly the sign He promised to the scribes and Pharisees. You cannot do this with a Friday execution and a Sunday resurrection. Just as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, Yahshua was to be *the* sign to that evil generation.

Luke 11:29 And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonah the prophet.

Luke 11:30 For as Jonah was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.

Yahshua said He would be in the grave three days and three nights. I believe the Scriptures, when rightly interpreted (2 Tim. 2:15), prove this conclusively. Shall we side with the Bible commentator quoted earlier, or will we forget our traditions and agree with the Word of Yahweh?

The fact that He fulfilled that sign exactly is proof to us, even today, that He was who He claimed to be. He said He would be in the grave three days and three nights, and that is exactly how long it was.

Romans 3:4 (The Word of Yahweh) ...let Elohim be true but every man a liar.

Yahweh bless us with understanding of His Word.

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

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Just What Does It Mean?

“ORDER HIS CONVERSATION ARIGHT”

A Commentary on Psalm 50:23/James 3:13

By Eric Gentile

It is written: “Whoso offers praise glorifies me: and to him that orders his conversation aright will I show the salvation of Elohim.” Psalm 50:23. Then, too, in the Apostolia it is also written: “Who is a wise man and endowed with knowledge among you: let him shew out of a good *conversation* his works with meekness of wisdom.” James 3:13.

Conversation? Why such emphasis on conversation? What is conversation here anyway, and what does it mean to “order our conversation aright?”

The interrelations of people in civilization require both a moral code and personal as well as public adherence thereto. For millennia the Scriptures have provided the most reliable standard of good morals and civil decorum. But this has not stopped some men from trying to devise their own moral code and civil standard. But, as history well shows, these human codes never are successful for long, if at all.

Consider the French Revolution. Oh, in one way it succeeded alright. It deposed the king. But, unlike the American War for Independence, which was guided by the laws of Nature and of Nature’s Creator manifested in the Scriptures, the French Revolution was guided by the Liberty, Equality and Fraternity of the atheist mob. Where the Americans were gracious in victory and let those remaining loyal to the King choose their own future, either return to England or stay as equal citizens of their respective, now independent States. The French not only slaughtered the King, but butchered the Queen and the entire Court, monarchial government, and virtually every person they could lay hands on who was, or was merely thought to be, a loyalist.

While our Creator has endowed each of us with liberty, as free men we are not to use His liberty to cover wrong-doing or evil (1 Peter 2:16), or as an opportunity to engage in lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5:13). We are not to get drunk, slander our neighbor, or run around in indecent apparel just because we have the ability to do so. Indeed, “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23.

We can see from present day examples how easily a people can be demoralized and will adopt immoral manners and habits when they abandon the Creator’s moral code. The influences of the ways of man have proven to corrupt such morals. It thus is imperative that children be continually imbued with the ideas and ways of chaste conduct which Scripture teaches, and that morality be taught from that standpoint.

Following and adhering to these principles and guidelines of morals and etiquette, have long been an earmark of a civilized people. The culture of Ancient Yisrael demanded a high degree of decorum and decency, and was a major aspect of our Saviour’s example and teaching.

The import of right *conversation* is clearly revealed by the steady urging of the wise men and prophets, that if men be shown the folly of misconduct, they will refrain from it. According, they pointed out the dangers of errant conduct (cf. Proverbs 1); how righteousness is better than riches (Proverbs 3:13-14); sobriety superior to drunkenness (Ecclesiastes 10:17).

That right *conversation* presented in Scripture is evidence of a life of civility that was not reclusive, or one confined to herding sheep and tilling fields. Indeed, even in the lives of such notable herdsmen as Abraham and Job, civility is manifested in generosity and nobility.

So, then, for one to “order his conversation aright” with meekness of wisdom, one must heed the Word of Yahweh.

“For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of Yahweh, to do justice and judgment.”... Genesis 18:19.

“Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.” Proverbs 20:11.

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.” Matthew 23:23.

“Pure religion and undefiled before Yahweh is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” James 1:27.

THE TRUTH

John 8:32 – And Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. In John 18:37 ... Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Verse 38 – Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? ...

Truth is proven fact, witnessed by two or three persons substantiated by deeds, evidence and sincerity and is sublimated by elements of: (1). Humility – Matthew 5:3; (2). Penitence – Matthew 5:4; (3). Meekness – Matthew 5:5; (4). Spiritual Hunger – Matthew 5:6; (5). Mercifulness – Matthew 5:7; (6). Inward Purity – Matthew 5:8; (7). Peace Maker – Matthew 5:9; (8). Sacrificial Suffering – Matthew 5:10-12. The existence of truth is prevailed by these elements. In the absence of one element, truth is never established.

Truth is the oasis of wisdom, knowledge and perfection. Truth is the foundation of all accepted facts and an innate manifestation of oneself to exhibit justification of sanctity and ecclesiastical values as an index of obedience and self perfection; and when perverted creates chaos, disloyalty and insincerity. Truth is an outgrowth of all elements present in its existence; and could not be measured in manner so deceptive as induced.

In its real essence truth is infallible, beneficial and brings goodwill to mankind and is never detrimental.

Submitted by Bro. Gideon Silva

Announcing!
THE 25TH ANNUAL UNITY CONFERENCE
To be held at Yahweh's Assembly in Messiah
Rochepoint, Missouri
July 31, 2009 through August 2, 2009

The Conference kicks off Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. and continues through the day, with breaks for meals. There will be a meeting at 9:00 a.m. Sabbath morning followed by lunch, then the regular Sabbath service at 1:30 p.m. The conference comes to a close after lunch on Sunday, August 2, 2009. All meals will be provided but donations are appreciated.

Campsites are available on Assembly grounds. Please inform them if you are planning on attending. This will help them to plan the meals. Motels are available in two nearby towns. Extended Stay America (800-398-7829) and Holiday Inn Express (573-445-8531) are located in Columbia, approximately 10 miles away. If you have any questions, call 573-698-4335 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Monday-Thursday).

If you have a subject that you wish to present at the Conference, please send a copy at least one month before the Conference for reviewing to Elder Samuel Graham at 1020 Scout Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827; and to Elder Pete Vacca at 5350 Old Miller Road #135, Columbia, MO 65201. Also bring 50 copies with you to distribute.

All brethren of good will are invited and encouraged to attend. Bring your Bibles (Scriptures) and be ready to spend the entire weekend studying Yahweh's word.

CHOSEN

Have you ever wondered why Yahweh chooses the most unlikely people to get His work done here on earth? If you think about some He has chosen, it really makes you wonder. For example, there is David a shepherd boy; Jonah who did everything he could to run from Yahweh; and Peter who denied Yahshua when he needed Him most.

If we were choosing, we may have picked a stronger "A Team" even though Yahweh chooses fallible men and women who in fact stumble along the way. In the end it is or will be a far greater plan than we could imagine, and always brings Yahweh glory and high esteem.

One unusual person Yahweh chose to carry out His work was Eliyah. Eliyah was called to go and speak His word to Ahab, an unrighteous leader governing Israel, when there was every kind of sin imaginable in the kingdom. Eliyah wasn't welcomed by King Ahab to speak Yahweh's Word in the palace, but Eliyah went as Yahweh's Ambassador and spoke to the King.

We find Eliyah did at least three important things: 1. He listened to Yahweh, 2. He obeyed and acted on what Yahweh said, 3. He depended on Yahweh. Eliyah was no "high and mighty one" no known elite of Israel, but was exactly the right person to do Yahweh's work.

(Continued on Page 4)

Special Guest

There is a special guest every Sabbath, Feast Day, bible study, prayer meeting and any other gathering at the Assembly of Yahweh, 1017 North Gunnell Road, Eaton Rapids, Michigan. It is the “Ruwach Qadosh” who is in our midst. The Holy (set apart) Spirit, the Comforter. John 14:26 – But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Matthew 18:20 – For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. 1 Corinthians 2:12-13 – Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of Elohim; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of Elohim. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. So, come early (10:30 a.m. every Sabbath), stay late; fellowship is encouraged.

Isaiah

Isaiah, in the Old Testament, was and is known as the Messianic prophet, because of his many prophecies of the coming of the true Messiah. He is the most quoted and well-known prophet in the Scriptures.

Isaiah predicted that one man would come, born of a virgin woman to save mankind; who would bring healing, love, tranquility and justice to all nations. (Isaiah 4, 7, 8, 40, 53, 60).

Many other scriptures fulfilled in the New Testament about his Messianic prophecy illustrated that Isaiah was a true prophet.

Isaiah was a prophet of Judah, approximately 740-700 BCE. He was in the court of King Uzziah of the southern Kingdom of Judah when Yahweh called him to be a prophet (Isaiah 6:1). Isaiah’s father (Amoz-not the prophet), was the brother of King Amaziah, making Isaiah the first cousin of King Uzziah and King Joash’s grandson. So we discover that Isaiah was of royal blood.

When King Uzziah died, the trappings of royalty and the scales were removed from Isaiah’s eyes. His spiritual insight was magnified and Yahweh’s majesty and his train filled the Temple in Jerusalem. Isaiah’s about face concerning his nation Judah took on new meaning. He openly denounced the wickedness and idolatry being committed by his people and declared that Yahweh would punish them if they did not repent and obey. Isaiah’s wise advice to King Hezekiah and his prayer helped save Jerusalem, when the Assyrians later invaded Judah (Isaiah 7:15-25 and Isaiah 36, 37, 38).

Isaiah’s Messianic prophecies dominate this book. He saw the “Branch – the Messiah Yahshua, of the lion of the earthly King David and the tribe of Judah,” as the son of Yahweh, coming one day to suffer persecution and redeem mankind. Isaiah’s prophecy of restoration gives us hope and an inheritance! Note: Isaiah 27:2-13, 42 and 65; Matthew 1; Mark 14; Luke 2; John 17; Revelation 21.

Submitted by E. Portier

A Prison Ministry in Arkansas

Excerpts from a newsletter entitled - The Cry From Within

It is by faith that we are starting this newsletter. We ask that everyone who reads this newsletter to pray that it would do what it is supposed to do. That lives would be changed and that it would lift up and edify. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 – Therefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. We need to pray for one another like never before! James 5:16 – Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

We have been having a busy schedule of serving the inmates on the 2nd Sabbath (of the month) at the Tucker Unit and 4th Sabbath at the Cummins Unit. This last 2nd Sabbath May 9th, 2009, we visited both Tucker and Cummins Units (see following reports). We would like to let all of you know we are available on other Sabbaths to meet with you. If there are three people from each unit, you can send a request into the Chaplain's office to let them know that you want a meeting with Darrell and Monica Whitfield (The Assembly of Yahweh, The Called Out Ones of the Messiah). Then let us know by letter what the Chaplain's name is so we can contact them. It is important to set it up with security clearance and credentials. We have 1st and 3rd Sabbaths (of the month) open at this time starting in June. We also want to cover as many prisons here in Arkansas for the feast days.

Pray that others will join us in this ministry, that we will be able to get clearance for who ever. We would like to see all prisons have a meeting more often for the weekly Sabbaths and Holy Days. Shalom and blessings upon you as you strive to obey the commandments in a very restricted environment, remembering that Matthew chapters 5-7 tells us of the adversity, as well as the joys of serving our King Yahshua the Messiah. Numbers 6:24-27 to all of you.

Tuckers's Unit – May 9, 2009. We started the service in prayer with seven men. The lesson for that day was on The Teaching of the Holy Spirit. We read from Acts 19:1-7, and Acts 2:38-39; and compared John 3:16 and Luke 3:16. We took Acts 2:38 and broke it down into three different parts – Repent, Be baptized and Receive the Holy Spirit. We talked about how Yahweh will write His laws onto our hearts. Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Ezekiel 36:22-28. The next service with the Tucker Unit will be May 30, 2009 for a baptism of Inmate Brumley. June 13, 2009 will be the next monthly service. Hope to see you there and bring a friend.

Cummins' Unit – Chaplain Banks welcomed us in the pouring rain on the evening of May 9th, 2009. We want to say a big thanks to Inmate Flanery with much gratitude for helping being organized and handing towels to the men who were baptized. Those baptized in the Name of Yahweh/Yahshua were in order – Dale Meadows, Willie Smith, James Vick, Carl Langford, Herb Blake, Edward Craft, and Haskell Snelgrove. We had six minutes after the baptism to do the Bread and the Cup. The men were so energized and humbled to be part of Yahweh's family. This was such a wonderful service even though it was all done in 40 minutes. The body of Messiah wants to congratulate each of the men baptized in the Name and our prayers are with you. Continue to pray and to put on that whole armor as you walk in Yahweh.

Contact information: Darrell and Monica Whitfield at P.O. Box 17122, North Little Rock, AR 72117-0122.

THE WORD OF YAHWEH

2nd Edition

The Word of Yahweh (2nd Edition) is now available with three cover choices: **Bonded Leather; Hard Cover; and Soft Cover (Lexotone Perfect Bound)**. If you have not placed your order yet, please fill in the order form below to order your copy now. Make check or money order payable to: **Assembly of Yahweh, 1017 N. Gunnell Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 (USA)**. Michigan residents add 6% sales tax.

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Go to www.songsforyahweh.com on the internet. The music is free for you to download onto your computer and listen to at any time you wish. You may also burn the files onto a compact disk. To order these songs on CD, send a donation of \$2.00 for each CD you would like. For all 9 CD's send a donation of \$18.00. Make all checks and money orders out to Linda Arthur and mail to Songs For Yahweh, P.O. Box 6, Wallace, SC 29596. Please specify which CD's you want to order. For more information call (843) 535-0115.

THE COVENANTAL NAME PIN

The Pin bears witness to the true Covenant Name of the Creator in ancient Hebrew characters, and the place in Scripture where that unique Name is commanded eternally for those joining in Covenant-relation to Him. It makes a wonderful conversation-starter and, so, provides an excellent means for witnessing. Too, as a gift, the Pin would evidence the giver's deep desire to share a key Truth, and provides a clear encouragement for spiritual growth in the recipient.

The Tetragrammaton Pin is available for a donation of \$5.00 each payable to the Assembly of Yahweh Building Fund. Requests for Pins should be addressed to AOY Special Projects, 1102 Turner Street, DeWitt, Michigan 48820.

Yahweh's 2009 Calendar

New Moon Days	YAHSHUA'S MEMORIAL (Passover) APRIL 10 Celebrate APRIL 9 after sunset	Annual Convocation Days
	FESTIVAL OF UNLEAVENED BREAD APRIL 11 through APRIL 17	
	FEAST (appointment) OF WEEKS MAY 31 See Leviticus 23:10, 11, 15, 16, 21	
	FEAST (appointment) OF TRUMPETS SEPTEMBER 21	
	DAY (appointment) OF ATONEMENT SEPTEMBER 30	
	FEAST OF TABERNACLES (Booths or Huts) OCTOBER 5 through OCTOBER 11	
	LAST GREAT DAY OCTOBER 12	
Jan. 28 Feb. 27 Mar. 28 Apr. 27 May 26 June 24 July 24 Aug. 22 (Borderline) Sept. 21 Oct. 20 (Borderline) Nov. 19 Dec. 18		April 11 April 17 May 31 Sept. 21 Sept. 30 Oct. 5 Oct. 12 7 days in all – the number of completeness

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

Sabbath Services Online

You can now listen to
 Assembly of Yahweh Sabbath services online.
 Go to <http://aoy.triumphpro.org> to listen.

Spanish Scriptures Available

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