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# YESHUA, THE LIVING TORAH

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By Larry Biggs



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BAR-CHU et Adonai ham'vorach. Baruch Adonai ham'vorach l'olam vaed.  
Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, asher bacher banu mi-  
kol ha'amim, v'natan lanu et Torato. Baruch Atah, Adonai, notein ha  
Torah.

BLESS ADONAI who is blessed. Blessed is Adonai who is blessed now and  
forever. Blessed are You, Adonai, our God, Sovereign of the universe,  
who has chosen us from among the peoples, and given us the Torah.  
Blessed are You, Adonai, who gives the Torah.

Amen.

## Yeshua, The Living Torah

### CHAPTER ONE

The Dragon's time has come. The Nation's have surrendered their sovereignty to evil. The perverse has become the expected. The synagogues and churches advertise an inclusiveness for those given to sinful desires. Truth is not to be found anywhere, and people who refuse to do evil are attacked (Is 59:15).

In heaven the twenty-four elders are gathering to take their thrones. The scroll is being prepared and the seals are being made ready. We hear the harps and trumpets being tuned up. For we are at that time. The time right before the actions of the end take place. As heaven sets things in order for the curtain of Revelation to open, we have been given a little time to prepare.

These are those days of preparation. A little time, a few months, some years. Time to prepare ourselves and God's family for the things that will soon take place. And time to prepare for the things that are taking place around us now.

1 Peter 1:13 TPT

*So then, prepare your hearts and minds for action! Stay alert and fix your hope firmly on the marvelous grace that is coming to you. For when Jesus Christ is unveiled, a greater measure of grace will be released to you.*

It is time to prepare our hearts and minds. Let's start by preparing our mind to have the same "Mindset" as the Mindset that the Bible was written in. The Bible was written with a Hebrew Mindset. The Old Testament or the Torah (The Pentateuch), the Nevi'im (Prophets), and the Ketuvim (Scriptures) was written in Hebrew. And the New Testament which came down to us in Greek was still written with a Hebrew Mindset and it is likely that most of the original writings were actually in Hebrew, and without a doubt the actual language spoken by Jesus or Yeshua and the disciples and apostles were in Hebrew in order for the idioms and representations to make sense.

But regardless of the Greek text of the New Testament, we must understand it in the Mindset of Hebrew. For unfortunately, this has not been how the church has viewed the New Testament over the last 2000 or so years. From the conception of the "Christian" church in Rome in its earliest days, the Greek Mindset not the Hebrew Mindset has been used to shape the vision of the church – its structure, mission, its theology, and its ways of doing business. The roles of the earliest Church fathers and apologists is a study of Greek oratory and dialectic not Hebrew structure. The church purposefully replaced itself as a spiritual Israel, changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and changed the ideal of the prophecies of Israel's return and future kingdom to be allegorized instead of a real, physical future for Israel.

This Greek Mindset has come down through the Reformation and remains embedded throughout church doctrines among Christian denominations to this day. Our seminaries teach Greek philosophy and

dissecting a verse into its Greek base provides endless sermon material. This Greek influence into God's word from a God who wrote the Bible with a Hebrew Mindset is destroying and scattering the sheep.

Jeremiah 23:1-4

*"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the Lord. Therefore, this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done." Declares the Lord. "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the Lord.*

This really is why we have so many denominations and separations in the Christian church today because Greek thinking does not fit with a Hebrew Bible and a Hebrew Mindset. And with the time before us so short and filled with evil, we need to stop looking at the Bible through Greek thought and return to the Bibles proper Hebrew roots.

Hebrew is the Mindset and the language of the law, the prophets, and the writings, the three divisions of the Hebrew scriptures, the Torah, the Nevi'im, and the Ketuvim. The Hebrew scriptures themselves are predisposed to a certain sort of thinking that is not binary, not either / or. In fact, the Pharisees and early Rabbis of Yeshua's (Jesus's) day had at least four ways of interpreting the Bible, which they enshrined in a little mnemonic devise called Pardes, the word for garden (from where we get our "paradise"). The P stands for Pshat ("simple"), the literal, straightforward meaning of the text of the Bible on which all else depends. No further levels of interpretation can contradict the literal sense, but they can build upon it. The R stands for Remez ("hint"), which is the implied meaning of scripture, where you build on the implications that scripture leaves believers to figure out for themselves but provides the clues for. The D stands for Derush ("search"), which is the analogical or moralistic meaning of the Bible. For example, when we take scripture (such as a Psalm or the Song of Solomon) and apply it to physical Israel as a whole, we are engaging in this sort of interpretation. Finally, the S stands for Sod ("secret") the hidden level of interpretation. The hidden nature is how something that seems simple and straightforward and maybe pointless in scripture applies to us personally.

The key thing to understand here is that unlike with Greek or modern thinking the Bible wasn't written with an either / or Mindset. It was written to have layers of meaning. It was written to have depth. Greek thought is something that is nailed down, that means exactly and only one thing. When you apply that thinking to the Bible you get dogma. And dogma leads to division, especially when it is partially or wholly in error.

The Hebrew Mindset is not concerned with the abstract ideas of the ancient Greeks that so many preachers have brought into their sermons. This is because of the direct revelation of YHVH, reality was regarded in terms of divine encounter, dialog, antinomy, paradox, and mystery. Hebrew thinking is more dynamic, more poetic, more dramatic, more based on appearances, and more impassioned than that of the ancient Greeks.

Since the Hebrews dealt with the Divine revelation that was eventually committed to writing (i.e. the Torah), hermeneutics and interpretation became important in their overall perspective. The study of narrative, the layered sense of meanings, the focus on action (rather than static), the application Divine law to particular cases, etc., were the result of interpreting the divine within everyday life.

Jewish Theology has been conditioned by debate, discussion, and dialog – all within a shared sense of communal tradition. To the Hebrew mind, reality is the handiwork of a single all-knowing, all-powerful, and Supreme Creator who has personally revealed Himself to key individuals in human history. Reality is intensely, overwhelmingly, and personal. Truth therefore is a matter of trust – not abstract knowledge as with the Greek mind.

The Hebrew Mindset has a different concept of time. It is not considered a straight line where we stand gazing forward at the future with the past behind us. In Greek and English, we have three tenses relating to time, past, present, and future. In Hebrew there are two tenses, corresponding to the completeness or incompleteness of the events that make up time. That which has been concluded and that which has not been concluded. And when Hebrew does correlate seeing to time, it speaks of the past as before and the future behind.

For God, the future is a done deal. He has declared. He has determined. Isaiah 46:10 *I declare the end from the beginning*. . . For God, the future is behind him. But, for God the past is before him. In the Greek and modern mind, we think of the past as gone forever. The Christian with the Greek Mindset may think, “I have sinned. Nothing can change that, and any recompense, whether by me or by God himself, is a poor substitute for what should have happened in the first place.” In the modern mind, history is a series of events that disappear forever, and once gone, they cannot be changed or redone.

But, in the Hebrew Mindset, and to God, time runs in both directions and the past can change. In the Hebrew Mindset something that happens now can affect the being of something that occurred previously. Time is not circular, but it has cycles. Time has a rhythm. And God is looking to the past and he has declared the end. God can fix that sin in your past that brings you such grief. And we do not walk into an unknown future because God has already been there, and everything is ready for us. It is a matter of talking to God in the Now, and he will take care of the past and future.

So, for the church we’ve seen how two thousand years of Greek and modern thinking has diluted and corrupted the message of the Bible and led to doctrines that are contrary to God’s message. But, how about the Jewish nation? Have they been able to maintain a Hebrew Mindset? To some degree yes, but to a large degree no. The modern Hebrew speaking Jew is largely a modern thinker influenced by the same Greek Mindset as the rest of the western world. The secular Jew obviously is completely overtaken. The reform and conservative Jewish synagogues are also largely overwhelmed by a Greek Mindset. The Orthodox retain the most Hebrew Mindset, but they have largely been caught in what might be called the trap of the Talmud. Where they are so entangled in hidden and secret meanings of the text and overcome by the circular thinking of the Hebrew Mindset that they have lost the original intent and produce nothing but traps for themselves. The mystical and Kabbalist are off counting letters looking for secrets. So, most of the Hebrew speaking Jews today have a need to return to the Hebrew Mindset in its pure form.

And so, with two thousand years of incorrect thinking worked into our doctrines, creeds, statements of faith, and what we call our spiritual community, we need to turn away from all this and take a fresh look at the Bible from God's perspective alone. Without all this Greek thinking muddling it up.

## CHAPTER TWO

Let's start with the man, Jesus. Two thousand years ago Jesus didn't exist. Jesus didn't exist until somewhere around 400 AD or so. Two thousand years ago his name was Yeshua because he was Hebrew. And when he was small his mother probably called him Yoshi.

When the New Testament was written in Greek his name would be pronounced "Yay-soos", which would be the Greek for Yeshua. Somewhere in the early Middle Ages the word Jesus came into being in the English language as a transliteration of Yay-soos.

So, to begin with Yeshua, I like to begin with John. John is the most Hebrew of the Gospels. We know John's Gospel was copied into Greek, but was it originally written in Greek? We don't know the language of the first draft, but we do know the language of the author and this Gospel didn't start as a book. It started as a testimony. From the time of Yeshua's death until somewhere before 70 A.D. when the Gospel of John was first written down. John himself would speak this Gospel to all the congregations in Jerusalem and beyond. And he would be speaking in Hebrew which is obvious from the phrases and the choice of wording and use of Hebrew thought.

Now, some of you scholars will say, John was written after 70 AD. And I know this is a common belief. But the Gospel itself says:

John 5:2

*Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool called Bethesda in Aramaic, which has five covered walkways.*

John is describing the sheep gate as still standing at the time he is writing. He could not have said this after 70 A.D. since the sheep gate was destroyed in the year 70 A.D., along with the rest of the city of Jerusalem. For this reason, I say that the Gospel of John was written down before 70 A.D.

Let's get back to Yeshua:

Genesis 1:1

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Genesis 1:3

*And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.*

John 1:1-5

*In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and darkness has not overcome it.*

God created the heavens and the earth with His word. He spoke and the universe was formed, the earth came to be, water, dry ground, vegetation, stars, the moon and the sun, sea creatures, living creatures of the land, livestock, wild animals, and finally mankind in God's image. All with His word. His word formed matter and brought life. God's word was life and is life. God's word is the life that holds the universe together.

God took His Word. His Word that created life. His Word that is life. God took His Word and gave it to His people through Moses in a written format called the Torah. The Word tells the people how to live as God's people. A Holy people, a separate people, chosen from among the nations for God to dwell with in a temple. The Word instructs the people how to do this. How to build the temple, care for and maintain the temple, how to keep the temple pure for God, and how to keep the people pure for God also. Because God cannot dwell with the impure or corrupt.

God saved His people through His Torah. His Torah gives eternal life to those who abide by it.

Leviticus 18:5

*Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them. I am the Lord.*

That this verse is speaking about righteousness and eternal life is confirmed by Paul in Romans:

Romans 10:4,5

*Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them."*

And confirmed by Yeshua in Luke:

Luke 10:25-28

*On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind', and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."*

And how can a person obtain eternal life by following the law? Because the Law of Moses is Yeshua.

John 1:14

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

You say, what a minute that's a pretty big jump with just one verse from John to say the Law of Moses is Yeshua. But, John and Yeshua make this claim many times but they do it with the Hebrew Mindset. In Hebrew the Word is used to reference the Torah. As is the word Light.

*"For the mitzvah is a lamp, Torah is Light" (Proverbs 6:23)*



The Hebrew word Torah comes from the Hebrew word “Orah” which means “Light” as well as “Teaching”. In the Jewish world the Torah is continually referenced as Light. And the two words Torah and Light are used interchangeably when speaking in the form of a parable or story. And when discussing the law it is very common to bring up a reference to light. A couple of examples of this are:

In “Derech Etz Chaim” the master Kabbalist, Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato (Ramchal) writes:

The Torah is not like the wisdom of the nations and the secular knowledge, which are nothing more than knowledge which the intellect grasps after toiling to understand it. Rather, the Torah, behold, it is holy. It has a supernal existence in the upper spheres. And when a man toils in it below, it is a light which illuminates in his soul to elevate it to the treasures on high, the treasures of the Creator, blessed be He. And this is what the wise man said (King Solomon) “And Torah is light” (Mishlei 6:23), literally light, and not just wisdom. And not that it is called “light” as a kind of metaphor rather it is literally “light”. Because this is its existence above (in the higher worlds), and when it enters the soul, the light enters it just like the sun’s rays enter inside a house.

And to quote a modern writer Yosef Sebag in regard to Torah:

Do not think it is just religious concepts. These are laws governing human conduct, which apply as rigidly as the law of gravity. When we disregard these laws in any walk of life, we distance from truth and from G-d and chaos results.

But it goes deeper than this. The Torah is not just a book of laws. It is a spiritual world. One who studies torah draws spiritual light unto himself and gains access into this spiritual realm. Without this, he walks in darkness and sees only the physical side of things.

It was the same in Yeshua’s day. Torah was equated to the Word, and Torah was equated to Light. And when John wrote John 1:1-14 every Jewish man and woman who read these words in that day knew John was equating Jesus to Torah.

John 1:4-13

*In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent or a husband’s will, but born of God.*

Also, Yeshua himself claimed to be Torah when he claimed to be the light of the world. We see this in John 8:12, John 9:5, and John 12:46. The people he was talking to knew the Psalms and would remember; *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path* (Psalms 119:105) and *The entrance*

*of thy words give light; it gives understanding to the simple (Psalms 119:130). So, for Yeshua to equate himself to light was to equate himself to Torah in the minds of the Jew.*

John 8:12-20

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

*The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid."*

*Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I pass judgement on no one. But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me."*

*Then they asked him, "Where is your father?"*

*"You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also."*

*He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.*

This is why the Pharisees challenged Yeshua in John 8:13, because they recognized that he was claiming to be the Torah by claiming to be the light of the world and unless he could provide two witnesses to verify this was so, then he was speaking blasphemy and by law should be stoned. Yeshua claimed himself and his Father who sent him as his two witnesses (John 8:14-18). They obviously didn't accept his explanation, *yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come* (John 8:20).

If the Pharisees did not understand the word Light equaled Torah in the Hebrew mind, then this whole passage would make no sense for what would it matter if Yeshua said, "I am the light of the world." And the meaning was only "light". Why would the Pharisees get upset? So, this guy thinks he is a bright guy, who cares.

No, for the Pharisees it was as if Yeshua had said, "I am the Torah to the world." To their expanded "law" of Moses this meant that Yeshua was committing a grave sin claiming to be the Torah and without witnesses. And they did not mean just anyone could be his witness, they meant he needed two great Rabbi's, who are recognized without question as being from God, needed to give testimony that this man was who he said he was. For he said not only that he was the Torah, but that he was the Torah to the world. This meant he would take the Torah to the world and only the Messiah could do that in their minds. They would immediately reference Isaiah - the Messiah would be a light for the Gentiles (Isaiah 42:6). So, Yeshua was claiming to be the Torah, and claiming to be the Messiah.

And then it gets worse for Yeshua in the minds of the Pharisees. For Yeshua then says that he and his father are the two witnesses. Which means he is claiming to be a great Rabbi and his father is a greater

Rabbi than him (John 8:14-18). This is why in verse 19 the Pharisees ask him, “Where is your father?” They must be ready to pull out their hair for this man isn’t anyone great and nobody seems to know of him, or his father so how can this nobody from Nazareth come to Jerusalem and start claiming to be the Torah and the Messiah?

And now to make matters worse; Yeshua is speaking these things while standing in the temple courts (John 8:20) which is another sin to the Rabbi’s, to speak blasphemy on the temple mount, just shameful. And it really is remarkable when you understand this passage from the time period Jewish mind, that nobody seized him and stoned him, but nobody did, for his hour had not yet come (John 8:20)

We can conclude from reading John that Yeshua is the Living Torah. But, Yeshua is more than just a living embodiment of the Torah which is the old covenant with God’s people. He came to become the New Covenant and fulfill Isaiah’s prophecy and become a light to the Gentiles (Isaiah 42:6).

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”*

Luke 22:20

*In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”*

Hebrews 9:15

*For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance – now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*

Hebrews 10:15-17

*The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First, he says: “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”*

Yeshua is the New Covenant he is the Living Word and writes Torah on our hearts and minds. He did not do away with the law, he put it in our heart. He did not make a new religion “Christianity” he made a way for Gentiles to become adopted sons of Abraham and enter into the covenant with the people of Israel and the people of Judah.

Galatians 3:29

*If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Galatians 4:4-7

*But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father". So, you are no longer a slave, but God's child, God has made you also an heir.*

Yeshua is the New Covenant and Yeshua is the old Covenant the Law of Moses, the Torah. Yeshua is the Living Torah. Now, when I say that Yeshua is the Living Torah, I mean that in the literal sense. He is a living breathing Torah. The complete Tanakh; the Torah (The Pentateuch), the Nevi'im (Prophets), and the Ketuvim (Scriptures). And not just a reference to the scroll. Let me explain:

For the observant Jew the Torah is considered to be alive. They call it Torat haim, a living Torah. Not only does it contain all knowledge – past, present and future – but the Torah actually has feelings, it has emotions, no less than does a human being. It can cry, it can be sad, it can even be angry and upset; but on one special day, Simhat Torah, the Torah is boundlessly happy. The literal meaning of 'Simhat Torah' is, 'The happiness of the Torah itself.' This is why observant Jews dance with the Torah on Simhat Torah. And when a Torah scroll is destroyed or damaged it is given a funeral. They put it in a small plain pine coffin and deliver eulogies over it.

Now, if you will follow this; and you remember what was said about the Hebrew Mindset concerning time. Then I would maintain that the Torah scroll is indeed alive because it has been infused from the time of Yeshua on earth with his spirit and whether a Torah scroll from past history or today the scroll itself retains a part of Yeshua and speaks of him. It reflects him and identifies with him. How?

Well, a kosher Torah scroll is made of lambskin on which the Word of God has been written, which is impaled on two rollers of wood which the rabbis refer to as the Etz Chaim, or Tree of Life. It is then "dressed" in a beautiful mantle and adorned with a breastplate representing the breastplate of the Cohen HaGadol (High Priest). Finally, a crown or pair of finials representing crowns are set on the top of the Etz, representing the crowns of a king.

And who is Yeshua? He is the Word of God (John 1:1) in the form of the Lamb (John 1:36), impaled on two pieces of wood (the cross) which are to us a Tree of Life (Gal. 3:13). He was then robed in glory (Rev. 1:13). Given the role of our great High Priest (Heb. 7-10) and crowned with many crowns (Rev. 19:12). So, the Torah scroll itself is reflecting Yeshua throughout history in the synagogues around the world.

But Yeshua is not just a scroll. He is in fact the Torah itself. The actual Word that was handed down to Moses on Mt. Sinai. And this Law is completed with him.

Matthew 5:17-20

*"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the*

*Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore, anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

When I speak of Yeshua, The Living Torah, I hear it stated over and over, Jesus came to fulfill the Law, and by saying this the speaker usually means; 'You can't mean the actual Torah given at Sinai. You must mean the Mosaic Law as symbolic. For the Torah was fulfilled by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and the new Law of the Spirit was then inaugurated at Pentecost.' Because in their mind, the 'Torah was fulfilled' means done away with.

So, what we have is a confusion of the definitions of words. Because if the Torah was done away with, or is no longer in effect, that would mean it was abolished. Which Yeshua says he did not come to do. But, the word 'fulfill' means: 1. To bring to completion or reality; achieve or realize (something desired, promised, or predicted). 2. To carry out a task, duty, or role, as required, pledged, or expected. 3. To put into effect; to execute.

But, when the Torah is brought into completion or reality it remains the Torah, and when the things promised or predicted come about, the Torah remains. And when it has been put into effect and has been executed it is still the Torah. So, the Torah remains until the heavens and earth disappear. And as Yeshua tells us; we are to practice and teach the commands of Torah until our righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law. And Yeshua tells us this, after the coming of Jesus. Yeshua didn't come to do away with Torah. He came so that he could write it on our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33).

The Torah, The Law, is extremely important in the Bible. It represents who God is. God is a God of Law. That is what righteousness means, acting in accord with divine law. Without the Law the history of the Bible has little meaning.

This concept that the Torah was fulfilled (done away with) by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and the new law of the Spirit was inaugurated at Pentecost, so all are brought into a personal relationship with Jesus. And this is the fulfillment of God's purpose and the Bible. This is a false concept because it is only partially true.

It misrepresents the fulfillment of Torah, it assumes a replacement of Torah with a spiritual law which isn't represented in the Bible. And although the New Covenant brought by Jesus's death and resurrection does provide a personal relationship with God and Jesus. A personal relationship is not God's only purpose in the Bible.

If God was only interested in personal relationships, then there would have been no need for a covenant with Abraham. There would have been no need for a lineage of Isaac, Jacob and his twelve sons. There would have been no need to secure Jacob and his sons in Egypt where they could grow into a nation. There would have been no need to rescue the Children of Israel from Egypt when a Pharaoh rose up who enslaved the Children of Israel. There would have been no need to call Moses from the wilderness. No need to bring plagues upon Egypt. No need to lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt to Sinai. No need to give them the Law of Moses on Sinai. No need to promise them a land. No need to make them

wander for forty years for a lack of faith to enter that land. No need for Joshua to conquer that land. No need to have a nation of Israel. No need for a tabernacle or a temple. No need to punish the Israelites when they did not follow the Law and take them out of the Land. No need to return them to the land. There would have been no need for Daniel to interpret dreams, or go to the lions den. No need for prophets. No need to punish the Jews again for rejecting their Messiah when Yeshua came. No need to return them once more to the land in 1948. No need to rebuild the temple in the last days. No need to return the lost ten tribes. No need to bring the nations against Israel in the End. And no need for a tribulation, a Messiah, or a kingdom of God on earth for one thousand years.

There would not be a need for any of those things except for the Law. Because it is only by the Law and through the Law that all of those things happened, came to be, transpired, and will transpire yet in the future.

These things were done and will be done because of the Law. God is Righteous and He cannot be Righteous without a Divine Law. Fortunately, we know the Law very well. The Law is Yeshua HaMashiah, Jesus Christ. He is the Living Torah. He is the Word of God who became the Torah before he became flesh. He dwells within and writes the Torah on our hearts and minds (Jeremiah 31:33). We have a personal relationship with the Law of God.

The Law remains until the heavens and earth pass away. The Law will remain after Yeshua returns as Messiah and rules the nations. God has declared that He will reign with His Law.

Isaiah 2:2-5

*In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Come descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.*

The Law will go out from Zion, the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. The Messiah will rule the nations with the Law of Moses for one thousand years. And this prophecy is so important about the millennial reign that God had it repeated with another prophet Micah.

Micah 4:1-5

*In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Everyone will sit under their*

*own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken. All nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.*

The Law and The Word. The reign of Messiah. This is what is meant by fulfilling the Law. The earth at peace and with a knowledge of God and a thirst to follow His paths because of His Law. At that time all of God's people from the least to the greatest will have that Law written on their heart and they will all know God (Jeremiah 31:34).

We remember when Yeshua stood up in the synagogue in Nazareth and read the scroll from Isaiah 63 and stopped with *"to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."* Then he handed the scroll back and sat down. (Luke 4:16-21) He said, *"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

He had stopped reading before saying the rest of the Isaiah prophecy which continued, *"and the day of vengeance of our God,"* (Isaiah 61:2) but the scripture isn't fulfilled with the day of vengeance alone. That day is next. But we need to read the rest of the chapter and we see that the prophecy continues into the millennium and finishes with *"For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels, For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations."* (Isaiah 61:10-11).

The fulfillment of the Law is when the righteousness of God is displayed before all nations. And when all nations are at peace because of it. Fulfillment is completion. Fulfillment is to have fully executed and all things are not executed yet with the Law and the Prophets.

In the meantime, we need to get prepared for the remaining days before the Messiah. And one important thing we need to do is to set aside these doctrines that inhibit our understanding of the Law and limit our study and thinking of the Old Testament and the Law of Moses. The Old Testament and the Prophets are not simply analogy pointing to Jesus and his death on the cross. Yes, symbolism obviously exists. But that wasn't the only reason these things were written about or happened. The Old Testament is real history about God and His Law and God's people and their trouble with that Law.

Yet, today we find God's people the Jews in their land Israel. There are secular Jews, but there are many, many Jews who are keeping God's Torah. And many Jews who are finding the New Covenant. We see these things because God is fulfilling His promises in the Torah today with the nation of the Jews. His promises with the covenant of Abraham.

God fulfills His Law, and He never abolishes it. Not while the Heavens and Earth stand.

So, this brings up the next question. If Yeshua is the Torah and the old Covenant remains in effect and isn't replaced by Grace, then how is one saved? And I would answer, the same way we always have been for nothing has changed. The New Covenant is in effect, we are saved by Yeshua HaMashiah, his death and resurrection making atonement for our sins. But the difference for the Christian to understand is that for the observant Jew, he is saved under the old Covenant because it is still in effect.

The New Testament describes this:

Mark 10:17,18

*As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him. "Good teacher." He asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

*"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good – except God alone. You know the commandments; 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"*

Yeshua tells the Jewish ruler to inherit eternal life you must obey the commandments.

And this is also what the Torah tells us.

Leviticus 18:5

*Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them. I am the Lord.*

The word here for living is eternal living. God said to the Jews, I give you my Torah and if you obey my decrees and laws you will have eternal life. Because within my Torah is my son Yeshua who will one day come in the flesh, live a perfect life, die for the sins of the world, conquer death, raise again, and write Torah on the hearts of those who accept him according to a New Covenant.

So, under this Old Covenant the Jews are saved and continue to be saved. They remain God's people and God remains faithful to them. God has never at any time abandoned His people the Jews. Now, can a Jew also accept Yeshua? Of course, he can. He can accept Yeshua and the New Covenant and have the Torah written on his heart. After all, the time is coming when all of Israel and Judah will have this New Covenant written on their hearts.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord, "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."*

And this New Covenant is especially important to the Jews because this is something that has been missing in Jewish life that God has been promising through His prophets.

Let's go back to the exchange of the rich Jewish ruler and Yeshua, but this time let's look at the story from Matthew.



Matthew 19:16-22

*Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"*

*"Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments."*

*"Which ones?" he inquired.*

*Jesus replied, "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself."*

*"All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"*

*Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*

*When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.*

Yeshua answered his question about eternal life simply – keep the commandments. He has kept the commandments he has eternal life. But he still felt that he was missing something. "What do I still lack?" What was he looking for? Yeshua knew the answer and told him the solution. "Sell your possessions and come and follow me." Because what the man was searching for was a personal relationship with God. Not simply eternal life by following the commandments.

And the solution to a personal relationship with God is to follow Yeshua.

When I arrive in Israel, I can feel God's presence when I get off the plane. His Shekhina. It gets stronger when I get to Jerusalem and then stronger again when I enter the Old City. As I walk through the Jewish Quarter it is even stronger. And when I arrive at the Kotel or Wailing Wall it lingers there.

That feeling is just His presence His Shekhina. Now imagine having that inside your heart and having it grow. That is accepting Yeshua. Yeshua is God's Word, God's Torah, God's Living Torah. In your heart.

The New Covenant is a personal relationship with God.

So, observant Jews are saved by the Torah which was given to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Not the additions to Torah by the Rabbi's from 400 BC though today. Nor with the Talmud and Mishna. Nor the Haggada or Kabbalah, Jewish Mysticism, The Cabala, Midrash or any other text. Only the Torah given by God, not words given by men.

These additions to Torah by Rabbi's and men clutter the mind and confuse the heart and make it difficult to know God. With these additions one can't even say his name. Or write it. You must write, G-d. Is this any way to talk to someone you love? No, repent from the doctrines of men and return to Torah (from God) alone, and should you wish to know God's love on a very personal level, accept Yeshua into your heart.

Now, concerning salvation to the Gentiles:

Paul and Silas in prison in Macedonia due to a miraculous occurrence of an earthquake which freed all the prisoners, but who remained with Paul and Silas due to their testimony, find themselves with a Gentile jailer who asks the question:

Acts 16:30,31

*He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"*

*They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household."*

The Gentile is not under God's Old Covenant this was given to the Jews who God selected as His people. Only by believing in Yeshua can a Gentile be saved and have eternal life. For when one accepts Yeshua into his heart, Yeshua writes the Torah on his heart and it is the Torah that brings eternal life. And Yeshua is The Living Torah. And when this happens, the Gentile also becomes God's people.

Galations 3:26-29

*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

So, if you are not Jewish and you wish to know God, and you wish to know eternal life, then you also need to invite Yeshua into your heart. Then you too will know the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guarding your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

## CHAPTER THREE

We are at the very end of days and we are in the days of preparation before the coming of Messiah and the Kingdom of God on Earth. All of God's people both Jews and Christians look forward to their last day expectation. The Jews look for the Messiah and the Christians look for the Rapture. But there are some things that need to happen yet before those things take place. And there are some things that need to be cleared up about the Messiah and the Rapture.

First, I will speak to the Jews. The Messiah isn't the character or characters that appear in the teachings in the Talmud. The Talmud was written by men and is the traditions and doctrines of men and not God. Much has been added to the Torah in the Talmud and we need to repent from these things. (Deuteronomy 4:2 *Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you.*) The discussions of Rabbis do not become God's voice.

The Messiah is given to us twice. First as the man Yeshua of Nazareth in the New Testament who is born of a virgin, lives a perfect life, performs miracles, preaches to thousands, teaches his disciples, is hung on a cross, is buried in a tomb, and is raised up from death and ascends to heaven with his promise to return at the end. And so, the Messiah will return at the end to save Israel from the armies of the world, conquer the nations, judge the nations, establish a kingdom, and set up a dominion over the nations of the world that will last 1,000 years.

Now, let me address the Rapture.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

This gathering in the clouds is called the Rapture. A beautiful thing to look forward to. But God does not promise that the Rapture will let us escape the tribulation. To the contrary he warns us that the beast of Revelation was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them (Revelation 13:7). The Rapture is also not for all of God's people. The Rapture is only for the Bride of Christ. And whether you will hear this or not, not all Christians are of the Bride. All Christians have the Living Torah (Yeshua HaMashiah) in their hearts and therefore are adopted sons of Abraham and God's people and heirs to the promise. But not all are a part of the Bride. The Bride is only those who Yeshua himself has chosen to be his Bride.

And concerning when the Messiah and the Rapture will come?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

*Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching*

*allegedly from us – whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter – asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.*

Now, is “that day” referring to “the day of the Lord” or to “our being gathered to him” because these are two different events. The day of the Lord is the tribulation, but our being gathered to him is the rapture. So if “that day” is referencing the gathering then this verse provides a timing for the rapture. But if “that day” references the day of the Lord, then this verse provides timing for the tribulation.

Before “that day” we first must see the man of lawlessness, the Antichrist revealed and set up in God's temple. This means the temple must be built in Jerusalem. And the Antichrist will do much damage to God's people before he gets to the temple. There are hard days ahead for us before Messiah comes and for this we must also be prepared.

It is possible God's people do not escape Revelation, but God's people have been given Revelation in advance. We will see the rising of the beast, the dragon thrown to earth, the wrath of God, and the coming of Messiah. Yet, prior to the coming of Messiah is the wedding of the Lamb and for this we must be prepared.

Revelation 19:7-9

*Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.) Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”*

Who is this Bride?

Isaiah 54:5

*For your Maker is your husband – the Lord Almighty is his name – the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer: he is called the God of all the earth.*

Most Christians would say that the Bride of Christ is the Church based on Ephesians 5:22-33 where Paul compares the union of husband and wife to that of Christ and the church. But Isaiah was writing to Israel before Christianity and the Church. So, the Bride of Christ the Messiah is larger than just the Christian church.

But the Bride doesn't include all of God's people either. In Revelation when writing to the Church in Laodicea Jesus says, “So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:16). Jesus also said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21). No the angel in Revelation makes it plain the only ones who attend the wedding super of the Lamb are those who are invited. And this will not be all of God's people.

Matthew 25:1-13

*At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.*

*At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'*

*Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'*

*'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'*

*But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.*

*Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'*

*But he replied, 'Truly I tell you; I don't know you.'*

*Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.*

And so, we have the parable of the ten virgins. All ten are God's people. But only five are allowed into the wedding banquet. What was the difference between them? The five that were let into the wedding banquet were prepared.

These are the days of preparation.

This book is written so God's people can be prepared for what is to come.

We need to stop looking at the Bible from the perspective of men. From the perspective of Catholics, or Protestants, Charismatic, Evangelical, Jewish, Reformed, Orthodox, or Kabbalistic. All of these are doctrines of men, and we need to turn away from them.

We need to look at it from the perspective of God. See the Bible through God's eyes. These are the last of days, be prepared.

And what must we do to prepare?

We have discussed how we need to prepare our hearts and minds. Our hearts by inviting Yeshua the Living Torah to write Torah on our heart and let his spirit dwell within. Our minds by clearing out the clutter caused by the doctrines of men and focusing on the Bible alone.

We need to prepare our bodies also. Are you ready to walk and not faint? Or run and not grow weary? (Isaiah 40:31) I know the Lord will renew their strength and they will soar on wings like eagles, but I think we need to also do our best to be in shape for what is to come. We will be pursued by the dragon (Revelation 12:13-17). We will be conquered by the beast (Revelation 13:7).

Revelation 13:9,10

*Whoever has ears, let them hear. "If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed." This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.*

We need to prepare for better communion and fellowship with one another. In these last days we can no longer depend on our synagogues and churches as our place to meet, worship, and fellowship. These buildings will be easy targets for an evil government to shut down. We need to prepare other avenues of fellowship and worship.

And most of all, we need to prepare Israel and the temple. Two things will happen before Messiah comes. One, Ezekiel 38 will come to pass where Russia and Iran with other nations will come against Israel but God will stop them in a miraculous way.

Ezekiel 38:22,23

*I will execute judgement on him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord.*

Two, the Temple must be built in Jerusalem. For the Man of Lawlessness must set himself up in the temple and the temple must be built for him to do this (2 Thessalonians 2:3,4). So, we must support Israel and support the Temple. Everything is now ready in Israel for the temple to be rebuilt.

So, let us prepare our hearts, our minds, our bodies, our fellowship, Israel, and the temple for these last days and the coming of Messiah.

Also, in preparation of the coming of Messiah the missing tribes of Israel, the tribes of Reuben, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan and Ephraim are to return to Israel, to the Land.

Listen, tribes of Reuben, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan and Ephraim. You were hostile towards your God and rejected him and you were taken from Israel to Assyria in 708 B.C. (2 Kings 18:10,11). God appointed 390 years for your correction to bear your sin (Ezekiel 4:4,5), but you still rejected him and so according to Torah God added to your curse seven times (Leviticus 26:21) and so you have remained under his curse for 2,730 years. But as God has promised in Leviticus 26:44&45, God remembers you. Those 2,730 years will come to an end and God will declare an end to the curse on Yom Kippur of the Jewish year 5784 or September 24-25, 2023.

So, it is time to get ready to return to the Land of Israel and become one with Judah again. God will go before you, and God is with you.

Ezekiel 37:19-23

*Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph – which is in Ephraim's hand – and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah's stick. I will make them into a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.' Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will*

*make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.*

We know all the tribes of Israel will be identified and founded once again since they will have a seal put on their foreheads in Revelation (Revelation 7:3-8). So, in the days ahead all of God's people will be there, and all the tribes will be together.

Isaiah 43:5,6

*Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth.*

Isaiah 11:12,13

*He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth. Ephraim's jealousy will vanish, and Judah's enemies will be destroyed; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim.*

In prophetic language, Ephraim, Israel, or Joseph represents all ten of the tribes that are to return, and Judah represents the tribes of Judah and Benjamin who have already returned to the land.

Jeremiah 3:18

*In those days the people of Judah will join the people of Israel, and together they will come from a northern land to the land I gave your ancestors as an inheritance.*

Jeremiah 50:4

*"In those days, at that time," declares the Lord, "the people of Israel and the people of Judah together will go in tears to seek the Lord their God."*

Zechariah 10:6

*"I will strengthen Judah and save the tribes of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the Lord their God and I will answer them.*

It is clear that God has promised the return of the ten tribes of Israel (or Joseph). The time of their curse is coming to an end and shortly it is the time to return to the land. With God all things are possible. Rise up Ephraim and get ready to make your way back to the land God gave to your ancestors.

Now, I've heard it said that the notion of "lost tribes", i.e. that entire tribes migrated away from Israel and are lost is a false assumption and that members of all 12 tribes are represented among the Jewish people today.

Unfortunately, I have found no scholarly work or discourse that would back up this claim. Yet there are many scholarly works that trace the exile of the northern ten tribes of Israel by Assyria and have reconstructed their migrations into the far corners of the world. Gaon Elyahu of Vilna and recently Yair Davidiy come to mind. And the Biblical evidence is strongly in support of the fact that the ten tribes of Israel in the north were taken and did not return. We see from the census in Ezra (Ezra chapter 2) that no members of the northern ten tribes are named. The same with Nehemiah 7.

Instead, scholars agree that the Jews today are made up of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi with some from Simeon and Cohanim but definitely not all twelve tribes are represented. So, it would not be possible to find 12,000 men from each tribe as mentioned in Revelation (Revelation 7:4-8) unless God does some miracle. Which is exactly God's plan.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

*The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"*

*I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."*

*Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"*

*So, I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked and tendons and flesh appeared on them, and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.*

*Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'"*

*So, I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army.*

*Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' Therefore, prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.'"*

We know Ezekiel's prophecy of the Valley of Dry Bones is not speaking about the Jews who returned to Israel prior to 1948 because they were not dead and unrecognizable as a people. They were very much recognizable as a people and had retained their traditions, customs and their God. But these bones are



dead. They are no longer recognizable as a people. No traditions, no customs, and no God. Totally assimilated into the nations. Buried in the nations, in their graves within the nations. Without hope.

But God as he promised in Leviticus 26:44,45 said he will not destroy them completely so that his covenant will be broken, but he will remember the covenant with their ancestors. And God has specifically said he will bring these ten lost tribes back to the land. But he had to also fulfill his law first.

We know that when God had Israel (the 10 northern tribes) taken by Assyria (2 Kings 18:10,11) he appointed 390 years to them for their correction to bear their sin (Ezekiel 4:4,5) but they did not repent after the 390 years, so God added to their curse seven times according to his law (Leviticus 26:21). For this reason, God could not bring about the prophecy of Ezekiel's Dry Bones until 2,730 years came to an end.

This time will come to an end on Yom Kippur of the Jewish year 5784 or September 24-25, 2023. How do we know this? We didn't know the exact date until relatively recently, but some tablets were uncovered at Tell Jemmeh during renewed excavations that actually had lists of the last Israelite captives taken and the dates they were taken.

#### **JOURNAL ARTICLE**

##### **Sargon II's Deportations to Israel and Philistia (716 – 708 B.C.)**

Nadav Na'aman and Ran Zadok

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So, with the correct dates of the last captives we were able to calculate the year 2023 and we know that Yom Kippur is the day that the Lord declares his judgements.

The Bible makes it clear that both the northern tribes of Israel and the southern tribes of Judah will both be in the land in the last days.

Jeremiah 3:18

*In those days the people of Judah will join the people of Israel, and together they will come from a northern land to the land I gave your ancestors as an inheritance.*

In the Jewish Oral Tradition this passage is used to say that the exiles of Judah and Benjamin are destined to go to the nations of the north and bring back the people of Israel in order to merit with them the Messianic Era and life in the World-To-Come. But, however interpreted, it does speak of two distinct Jewish people who do not both exist at this time coming together in the last days. We see this again and again.

Jeremiah 50:4

*"In those days, at that time," declares the Lord, "the people of Israel and the people of Judah together will go in tears to seek the Lord their God."*

Zechariah 10:6

*“I will strengthen Judah and save the tribes of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the Lord their God, and I will answer them.”*

Israel and Judah, Judah and Joseph. These are references to the tribes of the north and the tribes of the south. All twelve tribes in Israel in the end times. God will resurrect the lost ten tribes who are now buried in the nations and have lost their identity and their hope. He will breathe into them his Spirit and bring them back to the land of Israel and join them to Judah (Ezekiel 37:15-28). And this will happen in the days that we are living in now.

We are going to see all the things that must be before the end happening around us. In the fall of this year 2023 we will see a pure red heifer sacrificed on the Mount of Olives which is the traditional place for this sacrifice. This sacrifice will be the first step in the building of the temple in Jerusalem. For it is only with the ashes of a perfect red heifer mixed in water that all the temple grounds, tools, artifacts, priests, and people are made clean with sprinkling. Since 1948 until today Israel has not been able to breed a pure red heifer without spot or blemish. But today, due to a miracle of God, Israel has five pure red heifers that will come of age this fall in time for a Yom Kippur ceremony.

Everything for the temple has been prepared. The temple is necessary for the end to happen. The return of the ten tribes is necessary for the end to happen. The coming together of Christians and Jews into acceptance of each other as all children of Abraham is necessary for the end to happen.

All these things will come to be because God has declared it.

And they will come to be in the next few short years ahead of us. Because the days of preparation will soon come to a close and then the tribulation.

## CHAPTER FOUR

We are in the end of days. The last of days. The days of preparation. And in these days and the days ahead God will not be silent.

Joel 2:28-32

*I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.*

God is going to become very active. God's people will see and do miracles such that haven't been seen since the days of the Bible.

Isaiah 40:31

*But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.*

God will destroy the armies of Russia and Iran and other nations who come against Israel in a miraculous way.

Ezekiel 38:21-23

*I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Sovereign Lord. Every man's sword will be against his brother. I will execute judgment on him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord.*

God will have the temple rebuilt in Jerusalem. There will be a war in heaven.

Revelation 12:7-9

*Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

God will raise up His two prophets (Revelation 11:3-13) and they will withhold rain, bring fire and plagues.

And God will bring about everything that is written in Revelation. The Seals, The Trumpets, The Plagues, The Bowls of Wrath. And The Messiah coming on his white horse.

Revelation 19:11-16

*I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With Justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

God will not be silent.

These are the last of days. These are the days of preparation. And God will not be silent.

Revelation 13:9,10

*Whoever has ears, let them hear.*

*"If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed."*

*This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.*

When I speak of the tribulation and the fact that God has not promised that Christians will escape the tribulation by a pre-tribulation rapture. The listener usually responds with fear. This is because there has been such a vast amount of teaching that the tribulation is to be a time of trial for God's people the Jews as well as the nations. So, Christians feel that if they aren't raptured, then they will be caught up in the trial also.

Let me attempt to bring a better clarity to these last seven years before God's kingdom and what will happen to God's people during that time.

First: This is not a time of God's trial for God's people.

Daniel 12:1

*Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard of the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.*

Second: There is no distinction between Christian and Jew when it comes to who is found written in the book. We are all children of Abraham and saved by Jesus Christ who is the Living Torah. We are all written in the book if we have been saved by Yeshua. And everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. In the time of tribulation God is going to do miraculous things to protect His people even

though Satan and the Anti-Christ will be doing everything they can to destroy God's people. God's miracles will be greater than when He delivered the Children of Israel from the land of Egypt.

Third: The purpose of the tribulation is to prepare the world for God's kingdom and to do this God will rid the world of wickedness. In Jeremiah, he tells him to prophesy to all the kingdoms on the face of the earth (Jeremiah 25:26).

Jeremiah 25:30-38

*"Now prophesy all these words against them and say to them: "The Lord will roar from on high; he will thunder from his holy dwelling and roar mightily against his land. He will shout like those who tread the grapes, shout against all who live on the earth. The tumult will resound to the ends of the earth, for the Lord will bring charges against the nations; he will bring judgement on all mankind and put the wicked to the sword." declares the Lord.*

*This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Look! Disaster is spreading from nation to nation; a mighty storm is rising from the ends of the earth." At that time those slain by the Lord will be everywhere – from one end of the earth to the other. They will not be mourned or gathered up or buried, but will be like dung lying on the ground.*

*Weep and wail, you shepherds; roll in the dust, you leaders of the flock. For your time to be slaughtered has come; you will fall like the best of the rams. The shepherds will have nowhere to flee, the leaders of the flock no place to escape. Hear the cry of the shepherds, the wailing of the leaders of the flock, for the Lord is destroying their pasture. The peaceful meadows will be laid waste because of the fierce anger of the Lord. Like a lion he will leave his lair, and their land will become desolate because of the sword of the oppressor and because of the Lord's fierce anger.*

It is the wicked that will be killed with the sword. But God will protect His people in a miraculous way even though the evil ones will try to destroy Jerusalem. During the tribulation, they will fail.

Zechariah 12:3

*It will come about in that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.*

During the time of the tribulation God will save His people and specifically Jerusalem at least three times in a mighty way. First as we read in Ezekiel 38 and 39, God is going to draw (put hooks in your jaws) Gog, Meshek and Tubal against Israel with all their armies. Gog, Meshek and Tubal in today's geography will be Russia, Turkey and Iran. They will be joined by other nations and come against Israel in a vast army to overtake Israel. But the Lord will save Israel before they can come against it.

Ezekiel 38:17-23

*"This is what the Sovereign Lord says: You are the one I spoke of in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel. At that time they prophesied for years that I would bring you against them. This is what will happen in that day: When Gog attacks the land of*

*Israel, my hot anger will be aroused, declares the Sovereign Lord. In my Zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. The fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground. I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Sovereign Lord. Every man's sword will be against his brother. I will execute judgement on him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord."*

God will destroy the enemies who come against Israel by miraculous means. This battle is not far off. Russia has recently made a deal with Iran and having talks with Turkey. This battle will probably be the opening battle for the tribulation period.

The second time we will see a miraculous salvation of God's people is at the time the Anti-Christ takes over the temple. If we study only the New Testament, we may be led to believe this is a bleak time for those in Jerusalem and indeed many have taught this. But we need to add the Hebrew scriptures to see the whole picture.

Let's start with Jesus's words in Matthew:

Matthew 24:15-21

*"So, when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation' spoken of through the prophet Daniel – let the reader understand – then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the housetops go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now – and never to be equaled again."*

This sounds pretty dire for Judea. Let's turn to Revelation and see this same event from John's vision:

Revelation 12:13-17

*When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach. Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring – those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.*

The language used here is very specifically used to lead us to Hebrew prophecy so we can understand what is being said. It is also explained in the context around it. We know the dragon is Satan because we are told so earlier in Revelation 12:9. We know the woman is Israel because of the description of her in the first six verses of chapter 12, only Israel gave birth to a male child who would rule the world with an iron scepter, We know this from prophecy of the Messiah. When Satan pursues the woman, she is given the two wings of a great eagle. This reflects the language of Exodus 19:4 where God reminds the Israelites that He bore them *“on eagles wings”* out of Egypt. And that tells us that the woman’s flight from the dragon will be helped by God as he helped Israel out of Egypt. She flees to the wilderness where a place is prepared for her. In Matthew we are only told to flee, but here we see that there is a place prepared, and she will be taken care of.

Now the dragon or serpent spewed water out of his mouth to overtake the woman. This symbolizes a vast army and who would Satan use for an army, the Anti-Christ. This comes into focus in chapter 13 of Revelation with the rising of the Beast which is speaking of the Anti-Christ. So, the Anti-Christ sends an army after Israel as it flees into the wilderness. And then the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river. Well, how did that happen and where is this place in the wilderness?

To find the answer to those questions we need to turn to the prophets.

Micah 2:12,13

*“I will surely gather all of you, Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people. The One who breaks open the way will go before them; they will break through the gate and go out. Their King will pass through before them, the Lord at their head.”*

So, we see them gathered up and brought together, led by One who goes before them. Their King. The Lord at their head. Sounds like the Messiah himself gathers them up and helps them get into the wilderness.

But who takes care of the armies? How does the earth swallow them up? Let’s turn to Isaiah.

Isaiah 34:1-6

*Come near, you nations, and listen; pay attention, you peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world, and all that comes out of it! The Lord is angry with all nations; his wrath is on all their armies. He will totally destroy them; he will give them over to slaughter. Their slain will be thrown out, their dead bodies will stink; the mountains will be soaked with their blood. All the stars in the sky will be dissolved and the heavens rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree. My sword has drunk its fill in the heavens; see, it descends in judgement on Edom, the people I have totally destroyed. The sword of the Lord is bathed in blood, it is covered with fat – the blood of lambs and goats, fat from the kidneys of rams. For the Lord has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in the land of Edom.*

Now we see more. The Lord slaughters the armies, and the place is in Bozrah which is Hebrew for Petra in the Greek which is in Jordan which was Edom in the Old Testament. We know that this is a prophecy of the end times because the prophet uses the end time symbols 'the heavens rolled up like a scroll' etc. We know this isn't the last battle at Armageddon because we are told it is in Edom at Bozrah which is Petra today. So, this is the place in the wilderness that God's people flee from the Anti-Christ during the tribulation, and we see that the Lord gathers them, leads them, and then slaughters the armies of the nations who pursue.

This is even more clear in Isaiah 63:

Isaiah 63:1-6

*Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, proclaiming victory, mighty to save." Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood splattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. It was for me the day of vengeance; the year for me to redeem had come. I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so, my own arm achieved salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me. I trampled the nations in my anger; in my wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground."*

To repeat, we see that in the middle of the tribulation when the Anti-Christ takes over the temple in Jerusalem and the people of God flee to the mountains, God steps in and leads on wings of eagles, He gathers, He has a place prepared and then He slaughters the armies that pursue.

The third time that God saves his people is at the end of the tribulation when the Messiah returns to the Mount of Olives with the hosts of heaven and takes out the armies of the nations which are once more gathered at Armageddon to destroy Jerusalem and Israel.

Revelation 19:11-21

*I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With Justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh, he has this name written:*

*KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

*And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small."*



*Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.*

The Messiah, The Word of God. His eyes are like blazing fire meaning they are eyes of judgement, eyes that penetrate to the soul. On his head are many crowns. He has triumphed and God has crowned him multiple times. Dressed in a robe dipped in blood, the blood of the cross. His name is the Word of God, the Torah. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. What proceeds out of the mouth, the word again. The Torah is his sword, and he will strike down the nations with the Torah itself. The Messiah the Living Torah strikes down the nations with the Torah.

The message here is simple. If you are wicked, you should fear the tribulation for it will destroy you. But if you are one of God's people you will see the Glory of God presented multiple times even beyond what was seen as God led His people out of Egypt. The tribulation will be a time of Glory for God's people.

Also, in these days before Messiah, we will see a special gathering and confession of the Jewish nation. Not just the nation of Judah who are in Israel today, but the whole Jewish nation made up of all the tribes of Israel and Judah.

Matthew 23:37-39

*"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' "*

Before Yeshua comes as the Messiah, the Jews will say, "*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*" This was proclaimed by Yeshua at the end of a sermon by Yeshua about the teachers of the law and Pharisees.

Zechariah 12:10

*"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son."*

This will come about in the days before Messiah. And Zechariah makes it clear that it isn't just the house of David in Jerusalem that will mourn for Jesus who they pierced, but verse 12 "*The land will mourn, each clan by itself. . .*" and he goes on to mention the tribes of Nathan, Levi, Shimei, and then finishes in verse 14 "*and all the rest of the clans and their wives.*" All the tribes will be there in the land of Israel and all the tribes will mourn for Jesus who they pierced on the cross.

You will say, "How can this happen?" An Orthodox Rabbi recognizing that Jesus came in the name of the Lord? Grieving that he was killed? It will happen because it was declared by God. It will happen because it was prophesied by Zechariah and Yeshua. And it will come about because God will pour out his spirit in the last days to make it happen.

Joel 2:28-32

*"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls."*

God will pour out His spirit on all people in the last days. In these days that we are in now. He will bring the remaining tribes of Israel back to the land from the ends of the earth. He will then pour His spirit out on all the tribes of Judah and Israel in the land, and they will recognize Yeshua who they pierced as the New Covenant, as the Living Torah, as the Son of God. And they will mourn. Not only does Zechariah make it clear that all of the tribes are back in Israel during the end times but so does Revelation. We see in Revelation 7:4-8 that twelve tribes of Israel are sealed before the land or sea is harmed. All the tribes except Dan. I don't know why Dan isn't mentioned in Revelation. But all the tribes are there.

Israel will be saved and under the New Covenant when the Messiah comes.

Revelation 1:7

*"Look, he is coming with the clouds," and "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him." So shall it be! Amen.*

Also, in these days of preparation Yeshua will complete the building of his church.

Ephesians 1:22,23

*And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

God raised Yeshua from the dead and seated him at His right hand in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 1:20) and appointed him to be head over the church which Yeshua has been building from the time of his resurrection until today. At first, the church was made up only of the Jews of Judah. But soon God brought Peter and Cornelius together (Acts 10) and the Holy Spirit came on all who heard.

Acts 10:44-48

*While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we*

*have.” So, he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.*

And so, Gentiles began to be added to the church. And Paul stepped in as missionary to the Gentiles and provided the foundational teaching for the church of Jews and Gentiles.

Ephesians 2:19-22

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

We see that without Gentiles Yeshuas body, the church, would not be complete. Because it is through the church that God is fulfilling his covenant with Abraham.

Genesis 12:2,3

*“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

Yeshua was of Abrahams seed. And the church is Yeshua body and therefore also of Abraham. And through the church all the peoples on earth are being blessed. And it will be from the church that Yeshua will choose his bride. Not everyone who is in the church will be invited to the wedding feast of the bride (Revelation 19:9).

Now we come down the long road of history to today. We find along that road that while Christ (Messiah, HaMashiah) has been building his church, man has been building churches also and they have not always been faithful or honoring to their roots in Abraham. In fact, through most of this history of man-made churches, Jews have been excluded from them. This is shameful and sad for as Paul pointed out in Ephesians a true church is made up of both Jews and Gentiles.

But we are in the last days. And as these last days have approached, we’ve seen new Jewish congregations who believe in Yeshua springing up. So, we see that Yeshua has been busy building his church. Yet there is a large piece missing in this temple that Paul speaks of. I will call it the Ephraim piece.

Ezekiel 37:18,19

*“When your people ask you, ‘Won’t you tell us what you mean by this?’ say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph – which is in Ephraim’s hand – and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah’s stick. I will make them into a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.’”*

God has yet to return the ten tribes of Israelites to the land and join them to Judah. This will happen and until this happens the church is not complete. Nor is the Bride. Yeshua needs to add from those tribes to his church, and select from those he adds for his Bride.

I will also point out that God intends to make Ephraim and Judah one in his hand. A single stick of wood. This is important, they will not be two separate people. They will not have two identities and sets of traditions; they will become one. Think about this. The Jewish nation and especially religious Jews have developed a very strong identity and heritage. Their traditions are deep. Too often when a Jew accepts Yeshua, Christians have tried to Christianize him. Make him leave his Jewish heritage and traditions behind. This is wrong.

These are the last days. It is in these days that God will not only return the ten tribes of Israel but he will bring both the people of Israel and the people of Judah into his New Covenant, Yeshua (Jeremiah 31:31-34). All of them, from the least to the greatest (Jeremiah 31:34). So, when the ten tribes return from their exile in the nations they will need their brother Judah to teach them the old ways, the traditions, and their heritage so that they can truly be one stick of wood. Let us all preserve Jewish tradition.

And with these future believers Yeshua will complete the building of his church.

Yet there are still many Jews who will see the return of the ten tribes and the pouring out of the spirit of God and will not turn to God. And for these there will be one more refinement during the tribulation period before the Messiah can return.

Zechariah 13:7-9

*“Awake, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!” declares the Lord Almighty. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones. In the whole land,” declares the Lord, “two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The Lord is our God.’”*

We think the time of judgement of the Jews is over, we think now is the time of restoration of the Jews and the time of converting the old covenant into the New Covenant. Restoration is in process. The Jews have a nation, and the tribes are returning. These days we are in now are the time for the returning of the rest of the northern tribes of Israel. The old covenant is already rapidly being converted into the New Covenant, in the last fifty years the number of congregations of Jews who believe in Yeshua has grown remarkably and, in the years, ahead we will see this process increased as God pours His Spirit out and puts a fire into the hearts of the Jews. This is all true.

In the time of tribulation God will not let His wrath come against His people but He will preserve them. Ezekiel 38 will happen at that time, Russia and Iran will come against Israel and God will destroy them in a miraculous way. God will seal the tribes of Israel before harm comes to the land or sea in Revelation (Revelation 7:3-8). God will protect the Land of Israel but he will judge those Jews who remain in rebellion to him.

The ones who suffer harm and judgement during the tribulation are the false teachers. The Prostitute on the Beast in Revelation 17.

Revelation 17:6

*I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God’s holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.*

Among other things, she represents false teachers who Yeshua condemns in Matthew 23. Yeshua says the teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat, so you must be careful to do everything they tell you (Matthew 23:2,3). So, Yeshua does not condemn the listeners, he admonishes them to obey what they are taught. But he follows this with seven woes on the teachers of the law and the Pharisees. And he ends with the curse of the blood.

Matthew 23:35

*And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.*

And the Prostitute is drinking that blood. She represents false teachers. So, those who teach falsely will be punished in revelation.

Revelation 17:16

*The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.*

The truth is that God does not promise to remove His people from the tribulation. The only reason for the rapture is to bring the Bride to the wedding supper of the Lamb and this does not happen until the middle of chapter 19 of Revelation. But God does promise to protect His people during the tribulation, to pour out His Spirit, to prepare places of sanctuary, and to bring all of Israel and Judah into His New Covenant.

I wonder at a teaching that separates Christians and Jews. Especially when reading of the end times. If you aren't identifying with the tribes of Israel and Judah, then you should be. After all, everyone who comes to God through the New Covenant which is Yeshua HaMashiah (Christ Jesus); is by definition, Jewish.

And it is the twelve tribes that get sealed on the forehead for the tribulation (Revelation 7:3). In prophecy and in Revelation when we come to the end times we find only Israel and Judah called out. No Christians. Revelation opens addressing the church, *John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:* (Revelation 1:4), but by the time we get into the vision of the tribulation only the twelve tribes of Israel are mentioned (Revelation 7:4-8). This isn't because the church was raptured and taken away from the earth before the tribulation. For we will find no mention of the church though all prophecy of the millennium and the kingdom of heaven. It is because by the time of the tribulation the church will finally be reconciled with Israel and Judah will have become one with the stick of Ephraim.

The ten tribes will have returned, and with the church (Christians) will be brought into Israel as one nation again. God will have restored his nation of twelve tribes before the tribulation. And Christians are part of that nation.

## CHAPTER FIVE

Let us return to this discussion of Grace and the Law for it has become a great stumbling block for Christians today. It is a byproduct of the Greek Mindset where we see in Greek philosophy that which is spiritual is separated from the physical and given a higher, more important role. And so, Grace, a spiritual salvation replaces what is seen as a physical Law.

We also recognize the same Greek Mindset has infiltrated the religious Jewish community and has produced the spiritual ritual rather than the simple living of the Torah. Up until about 400 BC following Torah was something you lived, Torah was the way you were, not what you did. But then the Greeks took over the Hebrew world and forced them to learn and think in Greek and with this grew the Talmudic theology. The ritual is spiritual and it replaced the physical daily living of the Torah with the doing of rituals as the Greeks did with their Gods. And so, dress this way, face this way when you pray, do this to eat, etc. - Rituals please God is Greek thinking.

When we read through the Old Testament and follow the stories and the lives, read the Psalms and Proverbs, we find that following Torah was exactly like following Yeshua. Walking in the Torah was like walking with Yeshua. And this is exactly what was happening. Yeshua and the Torah were one and the same.

Christians today have a very hard time with the idea that the Torah can "save" the Jews and point to Matthew 19:23,24 as Yeshua telling his disciples that the Law did NOT save the young man. I think Matthew 19:1-24 demands a more in-depth explanation.

Matthew 19:1-24

*Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"*

*"Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied, "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments."*

*"Which ones?" he inquired.*

*Jesus replied, "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

*"All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"*

*Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*

*When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.*

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you; it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again, I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."*

Yeshua is speaking to a Jewish man and for a Jewish man to get eternal life God has already provided the way through Torah. The Torah is the Word of God and the Word of God created life. The Word of God is life. And the Word of God given to the Jews through Moses as the Torah will provide eternal life if it is followed.

Leviticus 18:5

*Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them. I am the Lord.*

God promised eternal life by following Torah and God cannot go back on His Word, not then, not now, not ever. So, when the Jewish man asks Yeshua what he must do to get eternal life, Yeshua answers, 'keep the commandments.' The man inquires, "Which ones?" Now he is not asking which specific commandments are to be followed, but he is asking which set of commandments because he has been raised with two sets of commandments. The Law of Moses as God handed down on Mt. Sinai, and the additions to the Law of Moses that the Pharisees and Sanhedrin have added and they also call the Law of Moses.

So, Yeshua quotes a few of the commandments which identify the ones that Yeshua is talking about as the Law of Moses as handed down from God to Moses on Mt. Sinai. At this point both Yeshua and the young man know that he will enter eternal life. But what is bothering the young man is that something is still missing on the inside. The personal relationship with God. So, Yeshua invites him to sell his possessions and follow him. The young man goes away sad because he has great wealth.

And so, as Yeshua points out to his disciples, he will not enter the kingdom of God. Because the kingdom of God that Yeshua is talking about is not eternal life it is the kingdom of God on earth and not all who have eternal life will be invited to rule with Christ in the kingdom of God on earth for a thousand years. Only those who follow Yeshua and have a personal relationship with him.

The young man was "saved" and will see eternal life by following Torah. But the young man will not enter the kingdom of God on earth with Yeshua because he did not follow Yeshua when he had his chance.

We see Yeshua confirm that Torah indeed brings eternal life again in Luke.

Luke 10:25-28

*On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher" he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

*"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"*

*He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and will all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and Love your neighbor as yourself."*

*"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."*

When Yeshua says, "Do this and you will live." He is quoting Leviticus 18:5. So, in doing Torah he will inherit eternal life. And look at what the expert in the law said that summed up the whole Torah, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your

mind; and Love your neighbor as yourself.” Is this not what any Christian would say sums up his duty following Yeshua? Contrast this simple Torah summary with a reading of the Talmud.

I think if we approach the Torah with a proper Hebrew Mindset we will find that the Law is not opposed to Grace, but we have Grace within the Law. God did not start out one way on Mt. Sinai and then change his mind and decided to send his son to change the Law and have a totally different dispensation of time.

God does not change. And God did not separate his people into two groups his Jews and his Christians. He has one nation of twelve tribes under him and God is in the process of bringing those twelve tribes back together again now. In the day and age we live in.

Christians must give up and repent from their separation from the Jewish people. I would say it is time for Christians to stop trying to invite Jews into the church and instead Christians should start visiting synagogues.

There is no other writer who had greater influence in the separation of Jews and Christians and Christians and the Law of Moses than the Apostle Paul. Paul’s discourse on the law in Romans and Galatians has been used to create the incorrect doctrine that Christ replaced the law. And Paul’s discourse about Hagar and Sarah in Galatians 4:21-31 directly led to incorrect doctrines of replacement theology of the Jews by the Christians.

Let’s quickly take a look at the passage in Galatians which led to replacement theology.

Galatians 4:21-31

*Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.*

*These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants, One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written:*

*“Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child; shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband.”*

*Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac are children of promise. At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.” Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.*

Christians have taken this passage to mean that Christians are the children of the free woman born of the promise and Spirit, and the Jews are the children of the slave woman whose covenant is from Mt.



Sianai and that Paul is instructing the Christians to “Get rid of the Jews, for they will never share in the inheritance”. And sadly, Christians used this to persecute the Jews.

This was not what Paul was representing because this passage is in the middle of a long discussion Paul is having with the Galatians about circumcision and conversion to Judaism or remaining as Christians by salvation through Yeshua alone. The metaphor to Hagar refers to circumcision and conversion not to the Jewish nation. And the metaphor to Sarah refers to salvation through Yeshua alone.

Because it is obvious from the rest of the entire Bible that the Jewish nation are not the children of Hagar and that God will always keep them and restore them. He is a God of Law because he is a righteous God and righteous means to follow a divine law, so the Law remains. But he is a God of Grace and Mercy and we are his children.

So, it is important to understand Paul and not to misunderstand what Paul is saying. The first step in understanding Paul is understanding to whom he is speaking and at what time. He is speaking to Gentiles in Romans and Galatians, young Christians who need guidance and growth. And he speaks about the law and about Israelites as they existed at that time. So, for example in Romans 10 Paul says that the Israelites are not saved:

Romans 10:1-5

*Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Moses writes about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them."*

First, what is Paul's definition of saved in this passage. Is he saying that the Israelites are no longer God's people? No, he is saying they are not saved by Yeshua. That they are still God's people is made clear in Paul's discussion of grafting in the wild branches to the olive root (Romans 11:11-24). And he directly quotes Leviticus 18:5 obviously saying they inherit eternal life through Torah. But he is saying that the Israelites have transgressed, and because of this salvation has come to the Gentiles (Romans 11:11).

Romans 11:11

*Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.*

Paul clearly understands the truth of the matter, that the Israelites are under God's old Covenant, the Law of Moses. And Yeshua is the Law of Moses (John 1:1; John 1:14). Because of this the Israelites have eternal life.

But, under the old Covenant, the Law of Moses, with transgression of the law comes God's judgement and curse which also is part of the law (Leviticus 26:14-45). Yeshua who is the Word of God and the Living Torah pronounced judgement on Israel in Luke 19:

Luke 19:41-44

*As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."*

As Paul said in the verse quoted above, " *Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.*" (Romans 10:3). By adding so many commandments to the Law of Moses the Sanhedrin in effect were saying that they could speak for God and define righteousness and by so doing became blind to the fact that the Messiah had actually come from God to establish the prophesied and long-awaited New Covenant. For this sin the tribes of Judah and Benjamin were once again to be removed from the Land and scattered amongst the nations until 1948.

They were returned in 1948 because in the Law of Moses under the old Covenant God says:

Leviticus 26:44,45

*Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely, breaking my covenant with them. I am the Lord their God. But for their sake I will remember the covenant with their ancestors whom I brought out of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I am the Lord.*

And so, in 1948 God restored Israel as a nation and as God always has and always will continue to honor his old Covenant with the Jews. Christians do not replace the Jews but have been grafted in amongst them.

Romans 11:17,18

*If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.*

So, when Paul was speaking in Romans and Galatians about the Israelites in language that seemed like the Jews were condemned it is because he was speaking about a people who had just been judged by Yeshua HaMashiah and were about to be, in Paul's near future, (in 70 A.D.) sacked, destroyed, and dispersed amongst the nations. Yes, they were condemned. By the old Covenant, and according to the old Covenant. But also, according to the old Covenant, God remembers His people forever and will always restore them.

We must also remember that God will keep all of his promises. And God promises that the days are coming when all the people of Israel and all the people of Judah will know him through the New Covenant which is Yeshua HaMashiah (Jeremiah 31:31-34). With no other nation on earth has God made that promise that all of them will know him through Christ one day.

Jeremiah 31:36

*“Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,” declares the Lord, “will Israel ever cease being a nation before me.”*

So, as Paul makes clear in Galatians Christians are saved and have received the Spirit under the New Covenant which is Yeshua HaMashiah. The New Covenant where Yeshua writes the law on our hearts and in our minds (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Paul calls the New Covenant Grace but Yeshua himself made it clear who he was:

Luke 22:20

*In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.*

So, we have the old Covenant the Law of Moses the written Word of God who is also Yeshua. And we have the New Covenant the law written on our hearts and minds by Yeshua. Both covenants exist side by side in the world today. We see the Jewish nation restored in Israel through miracles by God and kept in existence by God’s continued help and support. And we see Christians that have taken God’s Word to the ends of the earth and translated the Bible into every tongue through miracles by God and kept by God’s continued help and support.

God’s Word in our hearts cannot abolish the law of the Old Testament since God’s Word is the Law. It is simply in our hearts now. It is wrong for Christians to ignore the Torah and ignore the festivals and holidays that God has established since each of them has meaning and a purpose that God wishes us to be involved with.

There is a day coming when all of God’s people will be under the New Covenant. And that day is coming soon. When Yeshua went to Nazareth on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue and stood up to read;

Luke 4:17-21

*and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”*

Yeshua fulfilled part of the law and the prophets when he walked the earth. But why was everyone looking at him? Because he had stopped reading in the middle of a verse. In the middle of a sentence. Let’s read what Yeshua has yet to fulfill;

Isaiah 61:2-7

*to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise*

*instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of splendor. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours.*

Until Yeshua returns as the Messiah on the day of vengeance of our God, and restores order to the land, the law and prophets haven't been fulfilled and the old Covenant will still be in effect. But after that we will all have the New Covenant and the Millennium reign of Christ.

Paul never intended to imply that Christians replaced the Jewish people. Nor did Paul intend to imply that Yeshua replaced the law. Yeshua came to fulfill the old Covenant law and establish a New Covenant law written on our hearts and minds.

God's Word became His law and God's Word became the Savior of the whole world.

John 14:6

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."*

Yeshua is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through him. He is the Living Torah and the Word of God, He is the Law of Moses and was the way to the Father for the Jews at Mt. Sinai. Now, he is available to the whole world as the Living Torah and through the New Covenant will save the world by writing his Torah on our hearts and minds.

BARUCH atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, asher natan lanu Torat emet, v'chayei olam nata b'tocheinu. Baruch Atah, Adonai, notein ha Torah.

BLESSED ARE YOU, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has given us a Torah of truth, implanting within us eternal life. Blessed are You, Adonai, who gives the Torah.

Amen.