



Thoughts and notes on Sukkot

by Roly Buys



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*The Good
Shepherd of
Sukkot*

The yearly cycle of YHWH's Feasts is moving to its conclusion. The summer is almost over, and we will soon have a change of season; in Israel, we enter the time of autumn.

This is also the start of the final Feasts, of:

- Yom Teruah (Trumpets)
- Yom Kippur
- Sukkot (Tabernacles)



Mostly we analyze the Old Testament Scriptures when we think about these festivals, simply because that's where we find so much of the what, when, and how facts ... indeed, we also study the traditions set up by the Jewish people, who have been keeping these Feasts for so long – like RUTH with Naomi - we can learn so much from the Hebrew family about the God of Israel, the God of the Bible!

However, YHWH tells us to walk in the SPIRIT ...

The New Testament examples are therefore equally important to study and understand in order that we can apply the spiritual lessons in our day-to-day walk.

For this reason, we need to consider the Sukkot Feasts that Y'SHUA also attended – to see what happened at that time – and then to consider whether we are not walking in similar circumstances/times, and also to determine what **prophetic message** needs to be expressed at a time such as this ...

Y'shua's attendance at the Feast of Sukkot is described for us in the Book of John:

John 7:2, 10 “2 Now the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was drawing near. 10 But afterward, when His brothers had gone up to the Feast, He went up also, not publicly [not with a caravan], but by **Himself quietly** and as if He did not wish to be observed.”

Some context ...

The story starts off around about the time of the Feast of PESACH/Passover (**John 6:4**). Y'shua and His disciples are walking with a great "multitude" who don't have food to eat. We then see the miracle of the **five loaves and the two fish** ...

In the time up to Passover, Y'shua teaches about the fact that MAN seemingly fails to see past the physical things of life. He then challenges them – "*You had Moses, you had the Tabernacle, you have see Me (Y'shua) walk on earth and YET you (us included) still do not believe!*"

While the people listen to this word, struggling to see into the spiritual realm, the disciples also fail to prepare in the physical – they go to the meeting without preparation, without BREAD.

It seems almost the same as the story of the **ten virgins** – with five having insufficient oil for the event:

- They listen without comprehension,
- They see without insight,
- They are unprepared.

Y'shua teaches that the Manna was spiritual food, that He is made of the same substance/material, and those who come to Him will never have a lack of spiritual insight again.

Another story happens around the time near the end of Y'shua's ministry. As we read in:

John 6:15 "15 Then Jesus, knowing that they meant to come and seize Him that they might make Him king, **withdrew again to the hillside by Himself alone.**"

Another miracle takes place about the same time – the event known as Y'shua **walking on the water** ...

We start off with mankind embarking on a journey, who look at physical circumstances and begin to **react in fear** when Y'shua arrives **walking on the water** ...

We are going to see as this story unfolds that people who have the following characteristics, will NOT reflect Messiah:

- Listen without understanding,
- See without revelation,
- Unprepared,
- Fearful.

How different is the story of **David and Goliath**. Here we find a small boy coming out against a GIANT. He picks up a SMALL stone.

If you have the right heart/spirit for Sukkot, you will know that if you are walking in the Footsteps of Messiah ...

Your biggest problem in YHVH's Eyes is
only as big as a SMALL stone ...

Almost daily, we hear of movements in the stars, of wars and other things that speak of end-times. It would seem to me that a study of this Sukkot Feast where Y'shua speaks out at the end of His ministry would reveal something of such end-times.

So, are these signs that I can look for?

We have a Feast that prophetically proclaims a time of intimacy/victorious living. We would have thought it would be the time of rejoicing, singing, and dancing ... HOWEVER, instead I see a sobering Word ...



A. Y'shua was REJECTED by His own ...

John 6:42 "42 They kept asking, Is not this Jesus, the Son of Joseph, Whose father and mother we know? **How then can He say, I have come down from heaven?**"

... is this not Y'shua, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we all know?

What makes us only want to accept something if we can see the proof!

What is in us that fails to accept that YHVH can use someone else ... someone very ordinary. It's the OLD MAN in us that is still very much alive and well.

On the way out of Egypt, we see that the AMALEKITES attack those who are old and struggling to keep up. The name Amalekites means "people who lick up the dust". Since we are made of dust, we are licked up unless we are walking in the Spirit, close to ABBA, and in unity.

The spiritual equivalent of this act is:

- We are to deal with the old man,
- And that those who fail to deal with the old man, are the ones who will easily reject YHVH's Calling because it **will never meet** the needs of the flesh.

On a practical level, let's take the story of Israel under the dominance of the Philistines.

We are told that the Israelites are forced to take their TOOLS, PLOUGHS, and SPADES, to the Philistines in order to sharpen them – but they were NOT to make swords.

What does this mean in the spiritual?

We are called to walk in Spirit AND Truth – we need the Word AND we need the Spirit!

We need the tools used in the study of the Word to be sharp and true – you cannot ask a **pagan to interpret the Torah**. HOWEVER, we need the Sword of the Spirit in order to flow in intercession and warfare needed to take the Land ... and you cannot let a pagan decide/determine when this would be.

If you allow the WORLD/PAGAN to determine what YHVH's Standard in life is, then you have rejected Him – we cannot just let things be!

Have you made a stand!

John 6:53 “53 And Jesus said to them, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, you cannot have any life in you unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood [unless you appropriate His life and the saving merit of His Blood].”

We see that unless you eat the Flesh of the SON of Man, and drink His Blood you have no life in you ...

B. Many disciples to turn away:

John 6:66 “66 After this, many of **His disciples drew back** (returned to their old associations) and no longer accompanied Him.”

What does this mean in today's language, to draw back from YHVH? We walk away when we determine our “own” Truth ...

In the Old Testament you were required to bring a lamb as a part of the sacrifice. The skin belonged to the Levites. Each and every lamb was slightly different – in size, shape, and so forth. HOWEVER, once the skin had been cured, it was used as the “paper” of the TORAH SCROLLS.

The letters of the Torah are always the same – they are always pure and TRUE!

The question is this:

- Do you have the Torah written on your heart?
- Do you have ALL of the Torah written on your heart?
- Or are there still parts where, your own letters are still dominant?

When my own letters don't match with YHVH's Letters, then I can easily turn away ...

c. Y'shua's brothers DISBELIEVE:

John 7:3-4 “3 So His brothers said to Him, Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples [there] may also see the works that You do. [This is no place for You.] 4 For no one does anything in secret when he wishes to be conspicuous and secure publicity. If You [must] do these things [if You must act like this], show Yourself openly and make Yourself known to the world!”



Y'shua's brothers do not believe Him ... His brothers said to Him, “Depart from here and go to Judea, that the disciples may also see the works that you are doing ... for no one does anything in secret while himself seeks to be known openly – if you do these things show yourself to the world!”

John 7:5 “5 For [even] His brothers did not believe in or adhere to or trust in or rely on Him either.”

The brothers struggled to believe because they did not see Y'shua in a public ministry. They were looking for an external leader. They wanted a captain of this ship, and they want Him to stay on board.

Many times we also “keep the Covenant”, but in SECRET. We walk a path where none gets to see the Light shining through our lifestyles.

We are called to be Light and Salt – to make a DIFFERENCE. My actions are Light and Salt.

How would others follow if I role-model in SECRET?

The Essence of Sukkot

It seems to me that the essence of Sukkot is wrapped up in these words:

John 7:37-38 “37 Now on the final and most important day of the Feast, Jesus stood, and He cried in a loud voice, If any man is **thirsty**, let him come **to Me and drink!** 38 He who believes in Me [who cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me] as the Scripture has said, From his innermost being shall flow [continuously] springs and rivers of living water.”

Man MUST be filled **before** Living Waters will flow!

We tend to think that we must drink:

- The Torah – the Water of the Word,
- The Ruach – the Spirit of the Father,

And in a sense this is true ... BUT Y'shua goes on to focus our attention by using the example of **the blind man that could now see** – this is an example in the PHYSICAL.

What HE is really saying is ... DO YOU HAVE VISION?

And if you do:

- Are you focused on the short-term?
- AND, are you focused on the end-game?

We need to find out exactly what it is that we need to DRINK!

Let's analyze this concept of VISION:

John 9:39-41 “39 Then Jesus said, *I came into this world for judgment [as a Separator, in order that there may be p separation between those who believe on Me and those who reject Me], to make the sightless see and to make those who see become blind.* 40 Some Pharisees who were near, hearing this remark, said to Him, Are we also blind? 41 Jesus said to them, *If you were blind, you would have no sin; but because you now claim to have sight, your sin remains. [If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but because you insist, We do see clearly, you are unable to escape your guilt.]”*

The Book of Genesis sets a pattern in place that we should take more note of ... every-time that YHVH creates something, He does so by “separating”. This pattern is still in place ...

Y'shua wants us to know that HE has come to separate the sheep!

- Those that hear His Voice and follow Him – those who DO His Works,
- From those sheep who DON'T!

That those who do not see may SEE!

It seems hard to image that no one has had an opportunity to comprehend the awesomeness of creation, and therefore also to seek the Creator ... but it seems clear that there are those who have an element of TRUTH but are still lost.

It seems that Y'shua knows there are “sheep” that are in another fold ... and that they are a part of His Plan:

John 10:16 “16 And I have other sheep [beside these] that are not of this fold. I must bring and simpel those also; and they will listen to My voice and heed My call, and so there will be [they will become] one flock under one Shepherd. [Ezek. 34:23.]”

It seems clear – these people are “sheep”. They know the Creator. It appears however that these sheep are:

1. Part of another flock,
2. And that they cannot clearly “hear” the Shepherd’s Voice.

Once these sheep are part of one fold, THEN they will follow HIM:

John 10:27 “27 The sheep that are My own hear and are listening to My voice; and I know them, and they follow Me.”

As I look at this, it seems to me that the focus on this group is NOT about the “seeing” part, but the fact that they do not have a VISION of the Kingdom that leads to a life of abundance. This group needs to **rid themselves of false teaching/compromise and idols that the world holds up as success.**

Revelation 2:17 “17 He who is able to hear, let him listen to and heed what the Spirit says to the assemblies (churches). To him who overcomes (conquers), I will give to eat of the manna that is hidden, and I will give him a white stone with a new name engraved on the stone, which no one knows or understands except he who receives it. [Ps. 78:24; Isa. 62:2.]”

Those who “hear” and “overcome” will receive the hidden Manna AND the white stone of the victor.

we think we can SEE ...

Part of this group are the Jews (**John 8:31-36**), that know they are physical children of Abraham, and know that they have never been enslaved ... BUT, fail to understand that true FREEDOM is to DO the works of Abraham, to SH’MA!

Also part of this group are the children of Israel that have fallen into the snares of this world, whether this is due to hurts/wounding, or willful disobedience, or a lack of good parental role-modeling – it makes no difference ...

At first glance, we tend to think “this is speaking of the JEWISH people” ... BUT, Paul tells us that when we are “born again”, we are adopted into the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, AND stand to receive the blessing if we live a Covenantal life.

Knowing this, you should ask yourself whether this passage is not speaking directly to YOU ...

The example that the Bible choses to record in close proximity to the Feast of Sukkot is that of **the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-12)**.

We may very well think that this story has very little to do with Sukkot. But then, why tell the story here?

It takes two to commit adultery. I assume that the MAN represents the sons of Abraham that are not walking in spiritual freedom, and the WOMAN represents the sons of Abraham that have, for whatever reason, drifted into a sinful lifestyle.

Y'shua writes in the sand ... I think He wrote the words of:

Jeremiah 17:13 “13 O Lord, the Hope of Israel, **all who forsake You shall be put to shame.** They who depart from You and me [Your prophet] shall [disappear like] **writing upon the ground, because they have forsaken the Lord, the Fountain of living waters.**”

What did He say? If you SEE Me, you will be free to see the spiritual value of your life ...

That those who SEE may be made BLIND.

John 9:39-41 “39 Then Jesus said, I came into this world for judgment [as a Separator, in order that there may be separation between those who believe on Me and those who reject Me], to make the sightless see and to make those who see become blind. 40 Some Pharisees who were near, hearing this remark, said to Him, Are we also blind? 41 Jesus said to them, If you were blind, you would have no sin; but because you now claim to have sight, your sin remains. [If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but because you insist, We do see clearly, you are unable to escape your guilt.]”

The Pharisees ask – are we blind?

If you were blind, you would have no sin ... but because you say you can “see”, Y'shua says your sin remains.

It is vital that we think about this statement.

If we consider the principle set out in **1 Corinthians 15**, namely that we walk, initially in the physical, but must find the corresponding walk in the spiritual – then we should ask OURSELVES ... can I be BLIND?

- We think that we can see,
- That we have established Godly principles,
- And that our interpretation of the Will of GOD is the correct one,

BUT ... we see with our mindsets, cultures, values, and so forth – with our BIASES!

Y'shua says that if we were spiritually blind ... if we had no concept of the KINGDOM OF GOD, then HE could open our eyes. **But if we feel that we are on the right road, and are not ... then we continue to walk on a perilous path.**

You do not BELIEVE because you are NOT My sheep

John 10:26 “26 But you do not believe and trust and rely on Me because you do not belong to My fold [you are no sheep of Mine].”

Those who have the VISION have come to Him ...

There are many that study/pray/flow prophetically, and yet will wonder whether they are walking in their calling. We find the people earnestly searching for an answer ... what shall we do that we may work the works of GOD?

They understood that it had to do with the MANNA!

Moses did not give the bread from heaven – YHVH did, and now HE gives it again.

The Bread of GOD is He Who comes down from heaven and gives LIFE!

And then HE goes on to say – everyone who “sees” the SON ...

Somehow you and I have to look at the bread (physical) and see the Hand of GOD. Equally, you and I have to “SEE” Y’shua and be CHANGED.

Somehow, I must take the Torah, the Spirit, and the prophetic call, and turn this into a plumbline, a measuring line that I can use to benchmark all of the experiences of life in order to chart my course.

HOW do I know?

... Do your ears tingle/ring when YHVH speaks?

I am referring to the **story of Samuel** – Samuel is a small boy, growing up in the Tabernacle.

1 Samuel 3:1 *“NOW THE boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. The word of the Lord was rare and precious in those days; there was no frequent or widely spread vision.”*

He is “studying” under the hand of Eli. Unfortunately, it’s a time when “word and visions” from GOD are rare! Samuel “hears” the call and answers “HERE I AM” ... but does not know WHO is speaking!

It takes Eli quite a while to understand that GOD is speaking! And then this verse!

1 Samuel 3:11 *“11 The Lord told Samuel, Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which **both ears of all who hear it shall tingle.**”*

GOD says – DEAL with all iniquity in your house! And because Samuel SH’MA’d what God wants ... GOD appears again at Shiloh.

Samuel grew each year.

There are many people who fail to “grow-up”. These are the people who study the Torah portions weekly, but fail to make a practical application in the daily walk, and whose comfort is established in the routine of the ritual. The Biblical example for us is the life of SAUL.

The English translations tell us that he ruled as king for forty-two years. The Hebrew says something very different!

It says he was ONE year old, and ruled for TWO years!

We are not talking of physical age, but the age of spiritual maturity. Saul really only ruled in his calling and purpose for two years. After that, he was walking within a calling BUT WITHOUT an anointing!

On the other hand, we get the example of Samuel – the Scriptures say that he grew every year. Each year his mother made new garment – a bigger garment!

He had grown in the physical. She had had to intercede MORE each year as his spirit-man grew ... the growth in the physical was MATCHED with the growth in the spiritual.

QUESTION ... do your clothes from LAST year still fit you?

If so, you are not eating the MANNA from heaven! Great experiences don't necessarily mean I am totally on course. Bad experiences (unasked for, uncomprehendable circumstances) do not mean that I am off course ...

But LISTENING helps a lot!

The disciples have been fishing all night long ...

- They know how to fish.
- They know where to fish.
- But it does not work!

Until their ears TINGLE! "Throw the net on the right hand side!"

The left hand is a reflection of the world/physical – the right hand side is a manifestation of the spiritual. We catch the fish when we learn to walk in the PHYSICAL and APPLY the principles of the natural in the domain of the HEAVENLY.

The TORAH is clear – we are created with a purpose – we all have a calling.

- The time that I live in,
- The culture that I come from,
- And the imprints from my childhood,

All determine how I look at life. For many, we find that they are hooked on the past – what was, what could have been, and so forth. For others, we find that they are permanently day-dreaming in the future – what could be, if only! These people are trapped in a prison of space and time ...

YHWH wants us to live in the "here and now"!

The question is this:

- Do you know your purpose?
- Do you walk envying the calling of others?
- Do you try to live the calling of others?

You are murdering the calling/mission in you, and have nothing to hold on to, and therefore disbelieve so easily ...

The Messiah rejected by the Spiritual Leadership

John 7:47 *“47 The Pharisees said to them, Are you also deluded and led astray? [Are you also swept off your feet?]”*

Then the Pharisees answered – *are you also DECEIVED?*

Will you be a “Nicodemus” in a time such as this?

John 7:51 *“51 Does our Law convict a man without giving him a hearing and finding out what he has done?”*

Our Torah does not judge a man, unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?

So I want to share the story of Jonathan, Saul’s son. He goes to battle. Unknown to him, his father gives an unfair order – the soldiers are not to eat until the end of the battle.

Jonathan fights, is hungry, and so eats some honey – he is strengthened and goes on to win the battle. When his father challenges all the soldiers, Jonathan says, “I ate HONEY ...” What he is saying in the spirit is that he ate GOD’s Word, and is prepared to die.

Eating honey represents eating the Revelation of the Holy Spirit.

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you are prepared to DIE – for anything, according to YHVH’s Will and Purpose for you ...

*The Four
Species of
Sukkot*

This Feast more than any other is a declaration of the fulfillment of YHVH's Love. It's the end of a cycle. It speaks of the final plan.



It coincides with the harvest of the good fruits, and therefore we reflect on the words of Solomon:

Song of Solomon 7:10, 13 "10 [She proudly said] I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me! [John 10:28.] 13 The mandrakes give forth fragrance, and over our doors are all manner of choice fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for you, O my beloved!"

The fruit of Sukkot represents the totality of the LOVE that YHVH has saved up for you.

One of Israel's prime ministers got up to make a speech, where he argued for the sanctity of the Shabbat. The essence of his talk would equally apply to every element of the Covenant, and especially to the Feasts.

Imagine for a moment a circle, which represents the Covenantal Promise. Picture the boundary being "attacked" from three sides. If I am on the inside of the circle, then I am protected from these ATTACKS:

- **The corrosive actions of this world.**

We live today, in a time when values no longer hold true. Whatever standard of justice, mercy, and humble lifestyle that you will want to apply, you will find that the pressures of success/fame/progress will test your values as relentlessly as the tide washes up onto the beach every day.

These world norms have a corrosive effect ... they rub against us ... they return in new forms every now and then. The sanctity of the Covenant/Shabbat/Feast forms a layer of protection over your spiritman.

- **The profane actions of the kingdom of darkness.**

We are living stones forming a Living Tabernacle. Our calling is to be shining a light that reflects the attributes of another heavenly Kingdom. This lifestyle will not go unnoticed.

The kingdom of this world will launch all manner of attacks. This assault will be focused to cause me to choose between that which is CLEAN, or the things that will render me UNCLEAR.

And then I find myself outside of the Tabernacle and the camp, and even though I can be restored, I will have "lost" time and direction with that which is my calling.

- The diversion of precious/sacred time.

We all are given an allotted time on earth. Our impact and success of calling is often derailed, or delayed, by activities (not necessarily bad things) that are not relevant and which cause us to waste the “space of sacred time”.

Recently, Amanda and I met someone in Jerusalem. In that brief conversation, he made a powerful statement ... we need to live with the “dust” settled. In other words, we need to get rid of all activities that would cause us to waste sacred time allotted to our ultimate purpose.

The bare bones of Sukkot

I like to try to establish what exactly are the “bare-bones” or in other words the “must-haves” of each Feast.

I find that when we understand the spiritual implications of these critical elements, then we can add the other elements that provide the colour to the Feast.

1. You must not appear empty-handed – you must gather the four species mentioned in the following verses.

Leviticus 23:40 “40 And on the first day you shall take the fruit of pleasing trees [and make booths of them], branches of palm trees, and boughs of thick (leafy) trees, and willows of the brook ...”

2. You MUST REJOICE!¹

Leviticus 23:40 “40 ... and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days.”

Deuteronomy 16:14 “14 You shall rejoice in your Feast, you, your son and daughter, your manservant and maidservant, the Levite, the transient and the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow who are within your towns.”

3. You must build and live in a sukkah.

Leviticus 23:42 “42 You shall dwell in booths (shelters) for seven days: All native Israelites shall dwell in booths,”



The spiritual essence of Sukkot

We see that Pesach and Sukkot are linked:

¹ Comic taken from <http://www.facebook.com/inthewaycomic>

- Both of these Feasts are set to commence of the fifteenth of the month.
- Both events make reference to Sukkot ...

Leviticus 23:34-43 “34 Say to the Israelites, The **fifteenth day** of this seventh month, and for seven days, is the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths to the Lord. 35 On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no servile work on that day. 36 For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord; on the eighth day shall be a holy convocation and you shall present an offering made by fire to the Lord. It is a solemn assembly; you shall do no laborious work on that day. 37 These are the set feasts or appointed seasons of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to present an offering made by fire to the Lord, a burnt offering and a cereal offering, sacrifices and drink offerings, each on its own day. 38 This is in addition to the Sabbaths of the Lord and besides your gifts and all your vowed offerings and all your freewill offerings which you give to the Lord. 39 Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month [nearly October], when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the Lord for seven days, the first day and the eighth day each a Sabbath. 40 And on the first day you shall take the fruit of pleasing trees [and make booths of them], branches of palm trees, and boughs of thick (leafy) trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. 41 You shall keep it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year, a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall keep it in the seventh month. 42 You shall dwell in booths (shelters) for seven days: All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, 43 That your generations may know that I made the Israelites dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

- Both Feasts teach of an end to BONDAGE. With Pesach, it was an end to slavery in the physical domain.
- With Sukkot, it's the end of man's striving and a transformation to a place of total DEPENDANCE on YHVH.

The SH'MA of Sukkot

I would suggest that we generally manage, in one form or another, to “build/live” in a sukkah, and that we also manage to rejoice with some degree of realization that we are indeed blessed.

But do we raise the spiritual four species in victory every year?

Leviticus 23:40 “40 And on the first day you shall take the fruit of pleasing trees [and make booths of them], branches of palm trees, and boughs of thick (leafy) trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days.”

The foliage of beautiful (Strong's H1926) trees - ETR-OG/citron.

The Hebrew word for this tree is given as “hadar” and means:

- Magnificence,

- Excellency,
- Glorious/majesty,
- To put forth honour.

If we take each one of the letters, then we see the following meaning revealed!

- **Hey** = Behold, to reveal.
- **Dalet** = A door, pathway, to enter.
- **Resh** = A head, leader, highest person.

In summary, if we “see” into the spiritual realm we will behold our KING.

Psalm 104:1 “BLESS (AFFECTIONATELY, gratefully praise) the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are very great! You are clothed with honor and majesty—“

This tells us we are to be clothed in the Glory and the Majesty (hadar) of our KING.



The Palm Branches

The Hebrew given for palm is “lulav” and carries the meaning of righteousness. If we take each one of the letters, then we see the following meaning revealed!

- **Lamed** = Control, authority, the tongue.
- **Aleph** = First, leader, strength.
- **Vav** = Nail, hook, secure.

In summary, the authoritative words and strength of our KING is the only anchor for our lives.

Psalm 93 “**THE LORD reigns**, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is robed, He has girded Himself with strength and power; the world also is established, that it cannot be moved. 2 Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting. 3 The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up the roaring of their waves. 4 The Lord on high is mightier and more glorious than the noise of many waters, yes, than the mighty breakers and waves of the sea. 5 **Your testimonies are very sure; holiness** [apparent in separation from sin, with simple trust and hearty obedience] **is becoming to Your house, O Lord, forever.**”

This tells us that in order to role-model “up-rightness” we must reflect justice and mercy all of the time.

The boughs of leafy trees (Strong's H1918) - MYRTLE.

The Hebrew word for myrtle, is "**hadas**" and carries the meaning of enlightenment. If we take each of the Hebrew letters, then we see the following meaning revealed!

- **Hey** = Behold, to reveal.
- **Dalet** = A door, pathway, to enter.
- **Shin** = To consume, to destroy.

In summary, if we "see" into the spiritual realm, we will understand/know how "chaos" was destroyed.

John tells us in the Book of Revelation that the Messiah is found standing in the Menorah.

Zechariah 1:8, 11 "8 I saw in the night [vision] and behold, a man riding upon a red horse, and He stood among the myrtle trees that were in a low valley or bottom, and behind Him there were horses, red, bay or flame-colored, and white. 11 And the men on the horses answered the Angel of the Lord Who stood among the myrtle trees and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth [patrolling it] and behold, all the earth sits at rest [in peaceful security]."

We are to be a Menorah. We are to produce the FRUIT of the Spirit, which will be the oil that lights our path and sets a standard for others to follow.

The Willow of the Brook.

The Hebrew word for WILLOW is "arab/aravot" (Strong's H6155).

If we take each of the Hebrew letters then we see the following meaning:

- **Aleph** = Strength, leader, first.
- **Resh** = A head, person, highest.
- **Bet** = House, family, household.

And if we add the TAV (to make the plural form):

- **Tav** = A sign, seal, covenant.

In summary, the KING/Source of strength of our family (Body of Messiah) provides us with a Covenantal Sign to hold onto:

Psalms 68:5 "5 A father of the fatherless and a judge and protector of the widows is God in His holy habitation."

We are to raise a prayer offering to the One Who rides in the clouds of glory.

Our personal wave Offering

You and I are to appear in Jerusalem, before the KING of KINGS. We are to have a branch of the:

- Willow (A/Y),
- Myrtle (H),
- Palm (V),
- And etrog (H) in our hands.

If we substitute the “a” of *arab* for a “y” of *yod*, then we find the following spelling ... YHVH.

So how would you and I wave GOD’s Name before HIM?



We are supposed to “not” come empty handed. We mostly think that we should bring some material offering – some evidence of GOD’s Blessing here on earth.

But that all belongs to Him anyway ...

we have a life to give!

Earlier, I said that we are supposed to have used this time to transform from the deliverance of the physical (slavery) to a place where we are totally dependent on God (spiritual).

In the physical, this was a journey through the wilderness, and into Canaan.

I would suggest that these four pieces of vegetation represent four different stages of our journey:

FOUR stages of the Wilderness journey:

- **Willow,**
 - The brooks/rivers of our lives.
- **Myrtle,**
 - The mountains that we have to climb in our lives.
- **Palm,**
 - The valleys that we have to cross in our lives.

- **Etrog,**
 - The fruit that we have to grow in our lives.

The WATERS that we have to navigate (WILLOW).

I see four examples of water that we must face and master ...

1. The Red Sea.

An immersion in the water of YHVH's Word and Holy Spirit, so deeply that every vestige of slavery/slave thinking is washed away ... we need a transformation away from my personal freedom to one where you refuse to tolerate any form of abuse or corruption. For example, is not about illegitimate personal wealth, but the fact that the poor and destitute are robbed of financial freedom.

2. The Oasis of Elim.

The world system is set up with the principle that there should be progressive cross subsidization from the rich to the poor (those who earn more, pay more tax), whilst this sounds fair ... it is an un-Godly principle. YHVH wants every man to be independent and able to stand on his own two feet (i.e., the year of Jubilee). YHVH recognizes that some people will be able to use their talents to greater advantage than others. However, HE expects each and every one of us to apply the principle of the oasis.

Whatever my financial position, I must learn to be an oasis – a place where others, wandering through a wilderness, can find [1] rest and [2] refreshment.

3. The Tabernacle.

The Tabernacle is given in the wilderness as a type of the Tabernacle made of living-stones. You and I have to transform the physical man, into a constant flow of a pure river of life, crystal clear, bringing rejuvenation to every tree that is planted along the way.

We have to remove every “unholy” attribute – my own ego and plans – and every “unclean” action where I chose to disobey YHVH's Commandments, and substitute these with a SH'MA lifestyle.

4. The Crossing of the Jordan.

The job of entering the Land requires a special baptism of the Water of YHVH's Word and HIS SPIRIT.

It requires the courage, that only comes to a man who has submitted everything to GOD's Will and Purpose.

Let's go back to the story of the sin of spies – those who cross over are those who have the spirit of Caleb and of Joshua ... you need to believe that you are the overcomer ... and you need to be able to destroy any word of unbelief/fear that is raised against your calling.

The MOUNTAINS that we have to climb (MYRTLE).

I see three mountains that you and I have to climb.

1. The war against Amalek.



We have been called to be a set apart, people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and nevertheless we will still come under attack. The kingdom of darkness, will be out and about looking for those who are weaker, slower, older. Moses tells us that we will always be ready to engage in the battle with Amalek.

Joshua destroys them with the SWORD. But you and I will fight them forever. Amalek is a picture of the FLESH. Amalek targets those parts of me that are not keeping up with the New Man ... do you have the Sword of the Torah at the throat of the old man?

Recently, we gave a key-ring to each of the people attending our local Torah discussion group – the key-ring was not of great value, but of incredible significance. It was the breastplate of the priest. We each get to wear one – do we understand the meaning? We are all different – colours/purpose – and yet we are joined together in ONE Body, each with equal value.

The warfare against Amalek tells me that I am my brothers' keeper!

2. The discipline to become an army of GOD.

Somewhere in the course of forty years of desert wandering, 40, 000 men are set apart to train daily, in the exercise of warfare. Towards the end of the time they will enter into a few battles, in order to prepare the groundwork of the invasion into Canaan, but also as a practical experience in warfare.

They will be able to run 40km at night, climb a mountain in pitch darkness and fight for an entire day, without ceasing. This type of training takes dedication, skill, and endurance ... we are on a lifetime journey. Are you hanging on for dear life, or are you, like Caleb at eighty years raring to go?

3. The battle plan of Jericho.

The Feast of Sukkot is one of a set of three. This first of the set is the Feast of TRUMPETS. Sukkot is all about entering a time of intimacy and a time of rest – a time where our KING reigns for a 1000 years with NO war.

But to begin this time of rest ... we need to start with the sound of the TRUMPETS.

On that day, we traditionally hear the shofar one hundred times ... a tradition set out to celebrate this call to action. We find the counterpart in the TORAH in the description of the battle where Joshua goes up to capture Jericho. We need to deal with the enemy in our lives before we can enjoy the fruits of the Land.

Joshua 6:4-10J “4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams’ horns; and on the seventh day you shall march around the enclosure seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 **When they make a long blast with the ram’s horn and you hear the sound of the trumpet**, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the enclosure shall fall down in its place and the people shall go up [over it], every man straight before him. 6 So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, Take up the ark of the covenant and **let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the Lord**. 7 He said to the people, Go on! March around the enclosure, and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the Lord. 8 When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams’ horns passed on before the Lord and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them. 9 The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, the priests blowing the trumpets as they went. 10 But Joshua commanded the people, You shall not shout or let your voice be heard, nor shall any word proceed out of your mouth until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout!”

What do we learn from this event?

You need the Ark of the Covenant to be a spiritual reality in your heart. Remember, the Ark contained the two tablets with the Ten Words/Commandments on it. Y’shua tells us, that if we have been renewed in the spirit, then the Torah will be written on our hearts

QUESTION – how much of what we do is RITUAL? And how much is LIFE?

You need to **hear the sound** of the shofar ... we blow the shofar for six days, and on the seventh day, with the sound of the shofar, we enter the Promised Land.

You need to shout. This is not about making a noise, but about a commitment ... you have to put your heart and soul into the action. Men who understand the battle plan of Jericho will know:

- The Ark (physical) passed before us to split the waters of the Jordan.
- The Ark (physical) passed around Jericho to split those walls.
- The Ark of my renewed heart will split the walls of opposition raised up against me.

The mountains give me elevation ... I can be seen for miles around ... a mountain stronghold is a position which can be defended. The myrtle, “boughs of thick trees”, speaks of a position of strength ... are you a stable/strong beacon/lighthouse that stands firmly in the face of the biggest storm?

The VALLEYS that I must cross (PALM).

I see seven values/lifestyle choices that I must make while travelling through the valley.

1. Trust in YHVH's Faithfulness ... don't look at the circumstances.

The first place that they go to is the Wilderness of Sin, otherwise known as “thorny”. We will face difficult times – potholes in life’s journey – whether it’s emotional, financial, relationships, gossip and backbiting, or plainly just a hot dry desert ... the question will be ...



How will I react?

- Do you forget all of the times when YHVH’s Hand delivered you?
- Do you recall the oasis in the wilderness?
- Do you think of you Red Sea moments, when the enemy is swept away in an instant?
- Do you think of the pain/anguish of the flesh?
- OR – do you chose to focus on YHVH’s Goodness, the enormity of your own deliverance, and chose to make a prophetic declaration that YHVH will carry us through all of life’s adversity?

2. Stand against all physical and spiritual immorality.

The second place that they go to is Aravah, otherwise known as a “sterile” desert valley in Jordan. We will face “sterile” times, when it appears as if there is NO life in what we do.

These are perilous times. Often we have faced the enemy in battle and overcome ... but now nothing seems to work. It’s at these times that we are often tested with the lusts of the flesh, with subtlety and deception – when a false prophetic word (Balaam) would lead us to chose the glamour of another kingdom, where we turn to the golden calf and the Midianite woman.

How will I react?

- Do you choose to stand and take courage?
- Do you choose to quieten your spirit so that you can hear the still Small Voice of the Holy Spirit? Elijah had to retreat into the corners of a cave, to a place where he could no longer see Jezebel, in order to “hear”.

3. *Speak words of life.*

The third place that they go to is the wilderness opposite the Red Sea. Just after you have had a major deliverance/victory you are often faced with another challenge. We tend to think back to what we had before ... I may have been a slave – but at least I had security ... I had a job and therefore I had a pension. Uncertain circumstances/times cause people to be fearful ... fearful people are quick to be fickle, gossip, and stir up division and discontent.

How will I react?

- Do you chose to speak words of life?
- Do you make prophetic declarations that YHWH will provide?
- Do you chose to see the blessing and the good news within your circumstance?
- Do you see the silver lining around the dark clouds?

4. *Develop courage and stand in the face of circumstances.*

The next place that they go to is Paran, a place of “beauty”. If you travel on the highway from Bethsheba to Eilat, in the middle of nowhere, you will find the oasis of Paran.

It's the place where Ishmael goes to stay after Abraham chases him away. It's the place where he learns to be skillful with the bow and arrow – warfare.

It's also the place where the Israelites allowed the “words” of ten men to confuse their own eyesight – they couldn't “see” the abundance in the fruit that the spies bring back, and did NOT “believe” that YHWH would honour HIS Word, but chose to be afraid and turn away from the “calling” ...

How will I react?

- Do you actively search/seek to be filled with the same spirit that was in Caleb/ Joshua?

5. Value spiritual wisdom/insight.

The next place that we stand still is where the Israelites decide to complain about the Manna. How reassuring to know that YHWH wants to provide “bread” in the physical, but at the same time, wants us to experience the spiritual fulfillment of having HIS Presence, Attributes, Values, and Ideas in our lives during our walk on earth.

Can you image how wonderful it would be:

- If you really knew what your calling was,
- If you know what the talents and gifts are that you should be using,
- AND, if you regularly received a prophetic word of direction, to help set the course!

How will I react?

- Do you seek out people with spiritual insight?
- Do you try to turn the TORAH stories into practical day-to-day applications?

6. Honour Godly leadership.

The next place that we stand still is at Hazerroth, which mean an “enclosure”. It’s also the place where KORAH choose to rebel against the leadership of the day.



Leadership is not always correct. Moses made mistakes – HOWEVER, he was quick to make restitution, or to be prepared to carry the consequences.

How will I react?

You see, my job it not to judge, determine, or decide what should be done. My job is to discern whether the teaching, prophetic word, role-model is in line with the Torah.

My calling is to walk in Y'shua footsteps ... I will have to stand accountable for the choices I have made. The leader who makes the wrong call may not enter into the Promised Land ... but I would have made my own choice.

7. Recognize YHVH's Hand of blessing.

YHVH blesses the people with GOLD. From the days of Abraham, to the Israelites on leaving Egypt, to entering into a Land that they had not cultivated ... sometimes this blessing can be the very thing that causes us to slip. Possessions can cause us to believe that we have need of nothing ... including YHVH. The end-time church is made up of such believers – Y'shua calls them lukewarm.

How will I react?

- Do you seek to bless?
- Do you look out for the widow/orphan?
- Do you come before YHVH with hands that are full of SH'MA deeds?

The walk in the valley is where we meet the ordinary person ... it's here that our "uprightness" will resemble the stance of the palm, where our role-model choices will be a light to a path or a road-sign showing a detour.

The FRUIT we are to cultivate (ETROG).

The fruit which we are to cultivate is the simplest to understand ... yet probably the most difficult to realize.

Y'shua says – abide in Me and bear much fruit!

John 15:1-8 *"I AM the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser. 2 Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit [that stops bearing] He cuts away (trims off, takes away); and He cleanses and repeatedly prunes every branch that continues to bear fruit, to make it bear more and richer and more excellent fruit. 3 You are cleansed and pruned already, because of the word which I have given you [the teachings I have discussed with you]. 4 Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing. 6 If a person does not dwell in Me, he is thrown out like a [broken-off] branch, and withers; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you live in Me [abide vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. 8 When you bear (produce) much fruit, My Father is honored and glorified, and you show and prove yourselves to be true followers of Mine."*

How do we abide?

By keeping HIS Commandments.

John 15:9-17 “9 I have loved you, [just] as the Father has loved Me; abide in My love [continue in His love with Me]. 10 If you keep My commandments [if you continue to obey My instructions], you will abide in My love and live on in it, just as I have obeyed My Father’s commandments and live on in His love. 11 I have told you these things, that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing. 12 This is My commandment: that you love one another [just] as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love [no one has shown stronger affection] than to lay down (give up) his own life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you keep on doing the things which I command you to do. 15 I do not call you servants (slaves) any longer, for the servant does not know what his master is doing (working out). But I have called you My friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father. [I have revealed to you everything that I have learned from Him.] 16 You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed you [I have planted you], that you might go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit may be lasting [that it may remain, abide], so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name [as presenting all that I AM], He may give it to you. 17 This is what I command you: that you love one another.”

Paul says ... how will we see this?

By the evidence of the Fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 “22 But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, 23 Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge].”

My fruit (Etrog) must be visible, fragrant, colourful, and a joy for others to experience.

It's the FEAST of Sukkot!

- You and I are in Jerusalem.
- We have lived in the booth.
- We come to show our KING what we have in our hands!

HE wants to rejoice with you ...

do you have something in your hands to offer HIM?

MORE importantly, will you, because of your walk with YHVH, be able to walk through the gates with ten gentiles holding onto your tzitzit?

We can truly rejoice, if we have made a difference somewhere ...



Hebrew into English doesn't always work ...

One of the words for REJOICE is "**guwl**" (Strong's H1523/24) and means:

- To spin around under the influence of violent emotion,
- A revolution in time.

Isaiah 61:10-11 "10 I will greatly rejoice [be elated] in the Lord, my soul will exult [triumphant joy, shall spin around] in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as [surely as] the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring forth, so [surely] the Lord God will cause rightness and justice and praise to spring forth before all the nations [through the self-fulfilling power of His word]."



Psalms 149 "1 PRAISE THE Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, praise Him in the assembly of His saints! 2 Let Israel rejoice in Him, their Maker; let Zion's children triumph and be joyful [spin around with triumphant joy] in their King! [Zech. 9:9; Matt. 21:5.] 3 Let them praise His name in chorus and choir and with the [single or group] dance; let them sing praises to Him with the tambourine and lyre! 4 For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation and adorn the wretched with victory. 5 Let the saints be joyful [jubilant] in the glory and beauty [which God confers upon them]; let them sing for joy upon their beds. 6 Let the high praises of God be in their throats and a two-edged sword in their

hands, [Heb. 4:12; Rev. 1:16.] 7 To wreak vengeance upon the nations and chastisement upon the peoples, 8 To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron, 9 To execute upon them the judgment written. He [the Lord] is the honor of all His saints. Praise the Lord! (Hallelujah!)"

Let us REJOICE!



*Sukkot
under the
Clouds*

It has become a tradition to read the book of *Kohelet*, or **Ecclesiastes**, as we know it in English.

The Hebrew word that this comes from is **KAHAL**, which means “an assembly of called out ones, a congregation”.

- **Kof** = Back of the head.
- **Hey** = Behold, the.
- **Lamed** = Staff, shepherd.

Interestingly, an analysis of the meaning of the letters would interpret this word as **BEHIND THE STAFF** or **SHEPHERD** – meaning, those who **FOLLOW**!

Solomon **SEEMS** to say that everything is pointless, that we are chasing after wind!

But this was one of the wisest men of all times – could this really be what we need to understand?!



Let's first establish who the Assembly is:

Genesis 35:11 “11 And God said to him, I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you and kings shall be born of your stock;”

YHVH speaks to Abraham and tells him that he will be the father of the promise. More importantly, YHVH goes on to define who the assembly/congregation is. “A nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you” ... the assembly are those who by faith are sons of YHVH through adoption – these are now also sons of Abraham!

So, IF the Book's name is “assembly”, THEN the question now remains ... what must the “congregation” understand from Solomon's thoughts?

Under the Sun

This seems to be a **KEY PHRASE** that is used by Solomon. He starts off his thinking/letter with the question!

what is the value of my hard work?

But, critically more importantly ... he adds the words “**UNDER THE SUN**”. Let's try to put some meaning to this term ...

We are celebrating the Feast of Sukkot - this Feast requires of us:

- To dwell in temporary structures,
- To relive those first few days after we had moved into the wilderness,
- To return to the basic understanding that we have a God that provides for us,

Leviticus 23:41-43 *"41 You shall keep it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year, a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall keep it in the seventh month. 42 You shall dwell in booths (shelters) for seven days: All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, 43 That your generations may know that I made the Israelites dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God."*

we need to REMEMBER where we had been!

- Willingly we had moved to Egypt,
- We had always had a choice to leave,
- But we chose to stay,

In Egypt, we had lived UNDER THE SUN:

- In a world system of finance,
- Under foreign gods – especially the sun god!
- Giving honor to MAN/Pharaoh,
- Building his house and his kingdom,

In this system MY work has no MEANING – WHY?!

Because ...

- My focus is only on living one more day,
- My world view is that of a slave,
- My expectations are low,

Man is called/destined to WORK

Genesis 1:28 *"28 And God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it [using all its vast resources in the service of God and man]; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth."*

AND so we know that work, has a purpose. Solomon's words must therefore reflect some kind of Standard that we have to measure ourselves against. In order to WORK you need to be PHYSICALLY strong. Only those who are strong can work – and so we can deduce that health is a BLESSING from GOD so that you can WORK.

If you are weak/or frail, we need to ask the question ... if to be healthy is a blessing, if to produce something with the labour of your hands is the fruit of a Commandment, then if you are unable to do this its either:

- Illness/disease,
- OR it's disobedience to YHVH's Commandments.



Solomon had all of the power/possessions/opportunity to search for the ultimate in satisfaction – YET this search led him to speak these words:

Life is VANITY,
a breath of wind!

Let's take some of these verses and see if we can find the opposite/ Godly Value System ...

The definition of a meaningful working life.

1. Work (occupation/profession) is my god/

In this Greco-Roman system we soon understand that unless we are the best, the fittest, the strongest, the BOSS – we will not get the recognition/rewards that others will do. The system of stepping on others, and stealing others people ideas, misrepresenting others as less capable, comes into play ... since the world will judge you on your performance, your success at the “work” becomes a driving force in your life. All of this effort does not always end in a success story. That's when we start to question:

- Are we doing the right job?
- Am I using my talents correctly?
- Why are others doing better than I am?

Solomon sums it up like this:

Ecclesiastes 1:3 “3 What profit does man have left from all his toil at which he toils under the sun? [Is life worth living?]”

Ecclesiastes 2:22-23 “22 For what has a man left from all his labor and from the striving and vexation of his heart in which he has toiled under the sun? 23 For all his days are but pain and sorrow, and his work is a vexation and grief; his mind takes no rest even at night. This is also vanity (emptiness, falsity, and futility)!”

What is the Biblical response?

We see the following principles:

ONE: Nature shows us an unending cycle. YHVH's world was created, set in motion, and until He speaks to end all things, it will continue to run like clockwork – this sense of predictability, confirms GOD's FAITHFULNESS. See Psalm 104.

TWO: GOD's Plan is for legacy – one generation after another generation. Every single thing that I do should be focused on building the family home/house.

Psalm 39:4 “4 Lord, make me to know my end **and [to appreciate] the measure of my days**—what it is; let me know and realize how frail I am [how transient is my stay here].”

A GODLY Vision

Every man should petition GOD to UNDERSTAND and define their heavenly vision. Even the Church has grasped the world's understanding of vision – we talk of the biggest church and the impact that we can have, and so forth.

God's Idea of vision is focused ONLY on HIS Kingdom. Your vision will be a part that is aligned to that plan. That is also why the Hebrew word for vision – CH-(a)-Z-(a)-H is so special:

- **Chet** = Fence.
- **Zayin** = Weapon, cut.
- **Hey** = What comes from.

If we put this in a sentence to describe the word we get ... “when the fence is cut, when you can see past the limitations and barriers”.

Anyone whose value is determined by the position/power of their occupation/work, will NOT be able to see through the fence into the world that God has planned for you. Understanding VISION from GOD's Perspective is not that easy – I want to use the story of HANNAH to illustrate my point.

Hannah had VISION

1 Samuel 1:1-6 “THERE WAS a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim, of the hill country of Ephraim, named Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 He had two wives, one named Hannah and the other named Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. 3 This man went from his city year by year to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were the Lord's priests. 4 When the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give to Peninnah his wife and all her sons and daughters portions [of the sacrificial meat]. 5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the Lord had given her no children. 6 [This embarrassed and grieved Hannah] and her rival provoked her greatly to vex her, because the Lord had left her childless.”

- Hannah is barren – her womb is sealed up.
- Hannah has an adversary – someone to remind her that she is not “successful”.
- Hannah is provoked until her she had bitterness in her soul.
- Hannah name means “grace” yet she does not seem to have YHWH’s Favor.

BUT! We see two attributes of this woman of valor:

- **She had a long term VISION.**
 - It’s true that she became emotional/disappointed at times.
 - It’s true that she felt wounded and misunderstood.
 - BUT she held on to the vision – she saw past the things that were limiting her life – she saw through the fence at a longer term plan.
 - Because of this sense of purpose she could “make a vow”.
- **She knew who she was NOT.**
 - She was NOT the daughter of Belial!



1 Samuel 1:16 “16 Regard not your handmaid as a wicked woman [a daughter of Belial]; for out of my great complaint and bitter provocation I have been speaking.”

VISION also means that we have to have a clear understanding of our value/heritage, in this case, to know that I am a son of Abraham. Interestingly, in the next few verses we get to understand “what” a son of Belial is!

This term is used to describe the sons of the High Priest Eli. They live with the Yoke of the Covenant/Torah, BUT they do not know YHWH. They steal things that are “offered” to YHWH in sacrifice – they take, by force, that which their heart desires:

1 Samuel 2:12 “12 The sons of Eli were base and worthless; they did not know or regard the Lord.”

2. The pursuit of pleasure.

Whilst some seem to find work a magnet, others turn to the pleasures of the flesh as a means to obtain happiness in life. Solomon describes it like this:

Ecclesiastes 2:1, 3 *“I SAID in my mind, Come now, I will prove you with mirth and test you with pleasure; so have a good time [enjoy pleasure]. But this also was vanity (emptiness, falsity, and futility)! [Luke 12:19, 20.] 3 I searched in my mind how to cheer my body with wine—yet at the same time having my mind hold its course and guide me with [human] wisdom—and how to lay hold of folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives.”*

Ecclesiastes 11:9-10 *“9 Rejoice, O young man, in your adolescence, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your [full-grown] youth. And walk in the ways of your heart and in the sight of your eyes, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. 10 Therefore remove [the lusts that end in] sorrow and vexation from your heart and mind and put away evil from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity [transitory, idle, empty, and devoid of truth]. [II Cor. 7:1; II Tim. 2:22.]”*

We have a world system that has made alcohol, drugs, and any other form of pleasure a magnet for the masses. The advertising media make sure that your senses are finely tuned to know what the norm of the people is. Indeed, the pressure from all of the efforts to be successful, and sometime the after effect of a failure, are very easily covered up with these pleasures.

The FEAST of Sukkot

The commandment of this Feast is to stay in a temporary dwelling for seven days.

This takes us away from the glamour to the plain and the simple. This takes away from artificial entertainment, to a commitment to share in friendship, relationships, your time, thoughts.

TEACH Godly Relationships (the OPPOSITE of the pursuit of PLEASURE)

We are called to tell our children – to show them the results of our walk in faith after Gods Heart. The Hebrew word “teach” so clearly demonstrates what this is meant to be like.

- L-(i)-M-(e)-D:
 - **Lamed** = Shepherd’s staff, control.
 - **Mem** = Water, ocean, mighty.
 - **Dalet** = Door.

The sentence which we put together forms the following ... “control the direction of the mighty door”.

If we as fathers spend time to ensure that our family are integrated into society, that they are confident of their worth, and are exposed to a sound foundation, then they will be able to control the door that opens to the world system

I would like to illustrate this role-model lifestyle with two examples.

A. The Battle for Jericho.

The story of the battle for Jericho is mostly told as a WAR story. YHVH tells us to take the physical things and use these to enter into the spiritual domain.

Jericho is the oldest city, its below sea level, it's a big oasis – it's the capital of the Palestine.

It's also a reflection of my OLD MAN/nature/sin. Therefore walking around Jericho is something that we need to do regularly. When I walk around this sin in my family (including generationally), I am dealing with the OLD MAN. Generational sin builds WALLS – it makes a prison for you. These walls can completely seal you off, so that you spirit-man can neither come in or get out.

I TEACH GODLY RELATIONSHIPS when I follow the battle plan, and create a NEW field for those who follow me.

What will they see?

- They will see me blow the shofar – seven times, just as recorded in the Book of Revelation, the SOUND of the shofar breaks down the kingdom of darkness.
- They will see me walk in harmony with the ARK, a life of repentance.
- They will see me go to war – the sword held ready for action.
- They will hear me shout, not in fear, but in anticipation that the walls will fall.
- They will see the “fire” of the Holy Spirit fall as I recognize that YHVH uses who HE will.

B. I will react in the same spirit as Samuel - 1 Samuel Chapter 12.

The people become unhappy with their lot in life ... at the same time, Samuel keeps raising a banner of holiness that they do not wish to see. At a point in time, the people accuse Samuel of evil deeds. His answer, set in terms of a set of negative/bad fruit, tells us what to look for in a role-model of Godly relationships.

Samuel asks ...

- **WHOSE OX/DONKEY HAVE I TAKEN?**
 - In today's words, have I done things that PREVENT you from work, or from getting to work ... have I caused you harm? Made an accident with your car, now leaving you on foot?
- **WHO HAVE I ROBBED/CHEATED?**
 - Have I taken that which does not belong to me? Things in the physical? A shirt? Or things emotional ... have I caused you pain with words and now you no longer have joy? Or have I taken your freedom and now you are a slave to circumstances?

- **WHO HAVE I CO-OERCED/OPPRESSED?**

- Have I tried to get you to change to my views? Have I put you under pressure to accept my standard in life? Have I determined your career path? Do I listen to your point of view?

- **WHOSE BRIBES HAVE I TAKEN?**

- Have I walked in honesty and integrity? I am not only talking about possessions, but also about a Biblical Standard ... have I always expressed the right principle? Or have I remained silent when I should have spoken?

Godly relationships are taught by a GODLY lifestyle ...

➡ I have nothing to SHOW.



A common statement that we hear when we counsel people, is that they feel they have nothing to show for years of effort. It so often feels that everything that we try ends up in a failure. How often do you hear someone say, "I spent years studying for this degree and look what it means now! Where I am working, its absolutely meaningless!"

Solomon sums it up like this:

Ecclesiastes 1:9 "9 The thing that has been—it is what will be again, and that which has been done is that which will be done again; **and there is nothing new under the sun.**"

Ecclesiastes 1:14 "14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity, a striving after the wind and a feeding on wind."

Rejoicing GOD's Way (the OPPOSITE of nothing to show)

We are reminded that God provides a NEW way ... something different, out in the wilderness. IF YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE SAND AND THE ROCKS, you will not see the opportunities! We need to take stock:

- Have we called out for deliverance?
- Have we faced the wilderness challenges?

Isaiah 43:19-20 “19 Behold, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs forth; do you not perceive and know it and will you not give heed to it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. 20 The beasts of the field honor Me, the jackals and the ostriches, because I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My people, My chosen, [Isa. 41:17, 18; 48:21.]”

Moreover, we have explicit instructions on how we should be keeping the Feasts. Our lives have meaning when:

- We go up to JERUSALEM,
- We rejoice for all that has been PUT into our hands.

A HEBREW word that means “shout for joy” gives us some perspective of this concept:

- R-(i)-N-(e)-H:
 - **Resh** = Head/person.
 - **Nun** = Action/life.
 - **Hey** = What comes from.

In a prophetic sentence it means – “what comes out of the person of life”.

You have to be living to rejoice – I want to take the story of the defeat at Ai as the example to study.

You can only rejoice if you have a garment of praise/tallit on!

At Ai, Anchan steals a image and a garment. The word used here for garment is “shinar” and this takes us back to the story of the Tower of Babel. The meaning becomes clear when we make the connection between the two stories and understand that that if we are relying on that which is man-made, man’s ego, man-made religions, as our “COVERING” then, our joy/rejoicing will be artificial.

And at some point in time, it all FALLS OVER!

To rejoice in freedom I must wear a tallit in the physical, but also in the spiritual. The Hebrew word is “**Kanaph**” and has two uses.

- **WING**
 - That which overcomes gravity,
 - That which reflects a higher spiritual law that allows me to soar with the eagle.
- **CORNER**
 - That which reminds me that I am connected to YHVH, and because I am part of the covenant/family, I can raise up to be with Him.

- The corner speaks of the whole ... I can only be part of the garment, when I keep the commandments.

IN FACT, in the story of Saul, we see that his kingdom is torn away when he tears the garment of Samuel from him (1 Samuel 15:27-28) AND he is never able to rejoice again.

➡ I feel that the whole world is on my shoulder.

It's true that the world that we live in is not fair ... there are many that use their physical strength to oppress others. Not only will we find physical abuse, but the leadership of an organization/country will often abuse the power that has been entrusted to them. The result is that the privileged few grow rich with the fruits of corruption ... and greed.

More scary is the case, where a neighbor is wounded/robbed/etc. and we all sit still with folded hands and watch.

Solomon describes it like this:

Ecclesiastes 4:1-7 *"THEN I returned and considered all the oppressions that are practiced under the sun: And I beheld the tears of the oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors was power, but they [too] had no comforter. 2 So I praised and thought more fortunate those who have been long dead than the living, who are still alive. 3 But better than them both [I thought] is he who has not yet been born, who has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun. 4 Then I saw that all painful effort in labor and all skill in work comes from man's rivalry with his neighbor. This is also vanity, a vain striving after the wind and a feeding on it. 5 The fool folds his hands together and eats his own flesh [destroying himself by indolence]. 6 Better is a handful with quietness than both hands full with painful effort, a vain striving after the wind and a feeding on it. 7 Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun [in one of its peculiar forms]."*

**In UNITY, we keep each other alive, focused, and warm
(the OPPOSITE of having the whole world on my shoulder)**

God's Plan is for you and I to turn to the RUACH/COMFORTER. HE has promised that we will never be alone. Strangely, the Body of Messiah battles to accept this truth. MOSTLY, we see the Holy Spirit being associated with the power ministry – the miracles! Yet, a football team will sing for hours at one of their team's matches saying – we will never walk alone!

God's Word is that when two stand together they can overcome:

Ecclesiastes 4:11 *"11 Again, if two lie down together, then they have warmth; but how can one be warm alone?"*

More critically, GOD promises that the upright will have dominion over the vain:

Psalm 49:13-15 “13 This is the fate of those who are foolishly confident, yet after them men approve their sayings. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]! 14 Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol (the place of the dead); death shall be their shepherd. And the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their form and beauty shall be consumed, for Sheol shall be their dwelling. 15 But God will redeem me from the power of Sheol (the place of the dead); for He will receive me. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!”

A Hebrew word that encapsulates this concept is:

- A-(e)-CH-(e)-D – “to unite”:
 - **Aleph** = Ox, strong.
 - **Chet** = Fence.
 - **Dalet** = Door.

This word gets revealed in the following descriptive sentence – “to strongly fence the door”. In other words, by standing together we close down any openings through which an adversary could come – physically, emotionally, and spiritually.



I want to use the story of Jonathan and his armour bearer as my example of UNITY.

1 Samuel 14:1-7 “ONE DAY Jonathan son of Saul said to his armor-bearer, Come, let us go over to the Philistine garrison on the other side. But he did not tell his father. 2 Saul was remaining in the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree in Migron; and with him were about 600 men, 3 And Ahijah son of Ahitub, Ichabod’s brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the Lord’s priest in Shiloh, was wearing the ephod. And the people did not know that Jonathan was gone. 4 Between the passes by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistine garrison **there was a rocky crag on the one side and a rocky crag on the other side; one was named Bozez, and the other Seneh.** 5 The one crag rose on the north in front of Michmash, and the other on the south in front of Geba. 6 And Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, Come, and let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the Lord will work for us. For there is nothing to prevent the Lord from saving by many or by few. 7 And his armor-bearer said to him, **Do all that is in your mind; I am with you in whatever you think [best].**”

Jonathan decides to attack the Philistine’s. His armor bearer’s words are the benchmark of unity ... “Go then, I am with you!”

In the course of the fight they will have to overcome two sharp rocks, one on either side of a ravine/deep valley.

- Go all the way down the cliff called “SENAH” or thorn-bush (Strong’s H5573).
- Go all the way up the cliff called “BOZEZ” or shining (Strong’s H948/9) before they can come up onto the level ground, and only then will they be able to engage with the enemy.

Living in UNITY means that I will walk with you in ALL circumstances.

➡ I have no generational legacy.

How many times have we sat with a parent, who has given his all for the ministry ... and wept over a child ... and never mind all of those parents who have done the same when they have come to the end of their pursuit of prestige/power and glory in other fields.

For some reason the ministry example remains the most painful. People who have given their all for others, but failed to care for/empower their own sons and daughters.

Solomon describes it as follows:

Ecclesiastes 2:17-22 “17 So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me; for all is vanity and a striving after the wind and a feeding on it. 18 **And I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun**, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will succeed me. [Ps. 49:10.] 19 And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have dominion over all my labor in which I have toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity (emptiness, falsity, and futility)! 20 So I turned around and gave my heart up to despair over all the labor of my efforts under the sun. 21 For here is a man whose labor is with wisdom and knowledge and skill; yet to a man who has not toiled for it he must leave it all as his portion. This also is vanity (emptiness, falsity, and futility) and a great evil! 22 For what has a man left from all his labor and from the striving and vexation of his heart in which he has toiled under the sun?”

Ecclesiastes 6:1-12 “THERE IS an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavily upon men: 2 A man to whom God has given riches, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing for his soul of all that he might desire, yet God does not give him the power or capacity to enjoy them [things which are gifts from God], but a stranger [in whom he has no interest succeeds him and] consumes and enjoys them. This is vanity (emptiness, falsity, and futility); it is a sore affliction! [Luke 12:20.] 3 If a man begets a hundred children and lives many years so that the days of his years are many, but his life is not filled with good, and also he is given no burial [honors nor is laid to rest in the sepulcher of his fathers], I say that [he who had] an untimely birth [resulting in death] is better off than he, [Job 3:16.] 4 For [the untimely one] comes in futility and goes into darkness, and in darkness his name is covered. 5 Moreover, he has not seen the sun nor had any knowledge, yet he [the stillborn child] has rest rather than he [who is aware of all that he has missed and all that he would not have had to suffer]. 6 Even though he lives a thousand years twice over and yet has seen no good and experienced no enjoyment—do not all go to one place [the place of the dead]?”

"7 All the labor of man is for his mouth [for self-preservation and enjoyment], and yet his desire is not satisfied. [Prov. 16:26.] 8 For what advantage has the wise man over the fool [being worldly-wise is not the secret to happiness]? What advantage has the poor man who has learned how to walk before the living [publicly, with men's eyes upon him; being poor is not the secret to happiness either]? 9 Better is the sight of the eyes [the enjoyment of what is available to one] than the cravings of wandering desire. This is also vanity (emptiness, falsity, and futility) and a striving after the wind and a feeding on it! 10 Whatever [man] is, he has been named that long ago, and it is known that it is man h[Adam]; nor can he contend with Him who is mightier than he [whether God or death]. 11 Seeing that there are [all these and] many other things and words that increase the emptiness, falsity, vainglory, and futility [of living], what profit and what outcome is there for man? 12 For who [ilimited to human wisdom] knows what is good for man in his life, all the days of his vain life which he spends as a shadow [going through the motions but accomplishing nothing]? For who can tell a man what will happen [to his work, his treasure, his plans] under the sun after he is gone?"

How can we build a kingdom, but not leave a legacy?

My son's legacy is established when I demonstrate the heavenly value system in real life here on earth. Sons walk in their father's footsteps. This sets the boundary of the covenant and produces a lifestyle of:

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Equity/Fairness

My reward is a Covenant-keeping family.

We have a promise ... however long it takes, GOD says He will bring healing as He establishes the family through our works.

Psalm 90:17 *"17 And let the beauty and delightfulness and favor of the Lord our God be upon us; confirm and establish the work of our hands—yes, the work of our hands, confirm and establish it."*

Psalm 127 *"EXCEPT THE Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; except the Lord keeps the city, the watchman wakes but in vain. [Ps. 121:1, 3, 5.] 2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to take rest late, to eat the bread of [anxious] toil—for He gives [blessings] to His beloved in sleep. 3 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. [Deut. 28:4.] 4 As arrows are in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. 5 Happy, blessed, and fortunate is the man whose quiver is filled with them! They will not be put to shame when they speak with their adversaries [in gatherings] at the [city's] gate."*

Legacy means UNCONDITIONAL obedience.

1 Samuel 15:12 “12 When Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, he was told, Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up for himself a monument or trophy [of his victory] and passed on and went down to Gilgal.”



Saul is given the opportunity to have a resounding victory over the Amalekites, which would mean that generations of descendants would walk in SHALOM.

Saul fails to walk in obedience ... BUT, importantly, we see that it's not just a case of being disobedient ... there is also the very real choice that Saul's actions are all about his honour/ glory/position.

When Saul is confronted, it says in Hebrew that “he set up a Mtzib” – this root word can have two meanings:

- An ALTAR,
- Or a MONUMENT.

We see that it's the latter that reflects the heart of Saul. He set up a monument “to himself”.

If you build what seems to be an ALTAR, but what is in reality a MONUMENT to YOURSELF, you will never fulfill YHVH's Word in your life.

where is all of this taking us?

We are not under the sun, but under the Chuppah, GOD's Cloud of Glory. Paul tells us that the Feasts are a shadow of the REAL:

Colossians 2:16-17 “16 Therefore let no one sit in judgment on you in matters of food and drink, or with regard to a feast day or a New Moon or a Sabbath. 17 Such [things] are only the shadow of things that are to come, and they have only a symbolic value. But the reality (the substance, the solid fact of what is foreshadowed, the body of it) belongs to Christ.”

There are those who will compare the use of the word “shadow” with that found in other Books:

Ecclesiastes 6:11-12 “11 Seeing that there are [all these and] many other things and words that increase the emptiness, falsity, vainglory, and futility [of living], what profit and what outcome is there for man? 12 For who [ilimited to human wisdom] knows what is good for man in his life, all the days of his vain life which he spends as a shadow [going through the motions but accomplishing nothing]? For who can tell a man what will happen [to his work, his treasure, his plans] under the sun after he is gone?”

Psalms 144:4 “4 Man is like vanity and a breath; his days are as a shadow that passes away.”

IN FACT, in some of the translations we find the word “MERE” added – “mere” shadows. **Shadows, as associated with man’s endeavors**, creates the impression of man’s poor/ineffective/unsuccessful attempts.

The word used in Colossians 2:17 is SKIA, and points to the Hebrew word “TZEL”. Coming from the root word “tzalal”, it means “hovering over”.

The Feast is therefore a symbol of that which is “hovering” over us:

Psalms 17:8 “8 Keep and guard me as the pupil of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings,”

Song of Solomon 2:3-4 “3 Like an apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved [shepherd] among the sons [cried the girl]! Under his shadow I delighted to sit, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. 4 He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love [for love waved as a protecting and comforting banner over my head when I was near him].”

NUGGET – If you are not inside of the shadow, you are not under the Covering of GOD!

It’s vital to understand the difference between the Greek and the Hebrew understanding of SHADOW.

- GREEK “under the sun”:
 - We have an image,
 - We have a shadow cast by that image.
 - Greek thinking refuses to look at the shadow ... even though we cannot see the image we continue to visualize the form. We will try to spiritualize every thing that happens to us. We will battle to fit GOD spiritual image into the physical domain.
- HEBREW “under the cloud”:
 - We have an image,
 - We have a shadow of the image.
 - We continue to look at the physical shadow at all times.
 - We apply GOD’s Revelation Knowledge to this physical image in order to apply it to the spiritual truths.

- As we better understand/see the physical, we are able to interpret the outflow of the Holy Spirit.
- As we walk in the truth of the physical/commandments we see the blessings in the spiritual.

NUGGET – Only the shadow reveals the reality of the redemption. Only the shadow gives a visible outline of the invisible.

Conclusion

The Feast calls for you and me to live in a booth – in a dwelling with the roof open to the sky/stars. The lesson hidden away for us is this ... we cannot be “transformed” for intimacy with GOD.

We have to see it!

The Hebrew word which is used for “SEE” is:

- R-(a)-A-(a)-H:
 - **Resh** = Head.
 - **Aleph** = Ox, strong.
 - **Hey** = What comes from.

The sentence that we make to describe the meaning of the word looks something like this ... “out of the strength of the head”.

A revelation of God’s Purpose will leave an imprint on the mind that will cause you to be unwavering in your pursuit of it. At the giving of the Commandments, the Torah says that the people “saw” what GOD had said. It’s the same principle.

We get the lesson from the story of Moses:

Exodus 34:34-35 “34 But when Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, vhe took the veil off until he came out. And he came out and told the Israelites what he was commanded. 35 The Israelites saw the face of Moses, how the skin of it shone; and Moses put the veil on his face again until he went in to speak with God.”

After he had spoken with God ... it says his face “glowed”. The word used here is Q-(a)-R-(a)-N, meaning Moses gleamed – it also means (Strong’s H7161), “horns of him” ...

We find this word used to describe the “**horns of an ox**”. If we **combine** the two passages we see that the word does not really mean “to glow” but to create the following picture ... “**of rays of light that come off of Moses’s face**”.

NUGGET – If you and I spend time in the booth, looking up, we will see the visible representation of the WORD that GOD has spoken.

You will know that you are set apart, royal priests, and a holy nation ...

How do we turn this from VAPOUR into something REAL?

we SH'MA HIS word!

For sons of GOD whose hearts are pure, there is always a place/time/season:

Ecclesiastes 1:13 *"13 And I applied myself by heart and mind to seek and search out by [human] wisdom all human activity under heaven. It is a miserable business which God has given to the sons of man with which to busy themselves."*

Ecclesiastes 3:1 *"TO EVERYTHING there is a season, and a time for every matter or purpose under heaven."*

... under HEAVEN.

We are taken from under the SUN (Egypt) to Canaan under HEAVEN! To be FREE!



*The Holiness
of Sukkot*

The question I want to pose is this ...

Why, when the Ark was returned by the Philistines, did the ISRAELITES not take it back to the TABERNACLE?

We are approaching the Feast of Sukkot, a time when we should be extremely glad that we can come before YHVH. The Feast speaks of a time when we declare our absolute reliance on His Faithfulness ...

We live in temporary shelters:

- To allow YHVH an opportunity to speak to us.
- To build our faith in the fact that HE is our Source of all provision.

It's a time when we reach out to each other, to renew relationships – in a sense knowing that this is also the pathway to learning how to restore our relationship with Him.

We are called to follow:

- The GOD of Abraham,
- The GOD of Isaac,
- The GOD of Jacob,

Why is it set out in this manner?

We serve ONE GOD ... but somehow we find that the fathers of our faith reveal a unique attribute of father-ship.

- **Abraham knew YHVH at the mountain:**



Genesis 22:14 “14 So Abraham called the name of that place *The Lord Will Provide*. And it is said to this day, *On the mount of the Lord it will be provided.*”

Abraham came to the mountain to find a GOD that was prepared to give with selfless love, Who made a prophetic declaration that the “price” of ultimate reconciliation, had, and will be paid.

- **Isaac knew YHVH in the field:**

Genesis 24:63 “63 And Isaac went out to meditate and bow down [in prayer] in the open country in the evening; and he looked up and saw that, behold, the camels were coming.”

Isaac came to the field to find GOD. It was here that he found the still small Voice of God as he lived as a disciple of the Most High God. Isaac was at rest and peace in the land of Canaan, and never left its borders.

- **Jacob knew YHVH by Name:**

Genesis 32:27-29 “27 [The Man] asked him, What is your name? And [in shock of realization, whispering] he said, Jacob [supplanter, schemer, trickster, swindler]! 28 And He said, Your name shall be called no more Jacob [supplanter], but Israel [contender with God]; for you have contended and have power with God and with men and have prevailed. [Hos. 12:3-4.] 29 Then Jacob asked Him, Tell me, I pray You, what [in contrast] is Your name? But He said, Why is it that you ask My name? And q[the Angel of God declared] a blessing on [Jacob] there.”

Jacob came to the point of no return in his pilgrimage, and at a stream, wrestles with God, demanding to know HIS Name. It is here that he starts to understand the meaning of real LOVE.

Is it not interesting, that we see THE PATTERN of the Tabernacle even here?

The Tabernacle as a SHADOW

We know that all things are given to us for a purpose – to show/define the Shadow-Maker.

The church on the other hand, seems to think that they can define Y’shua by the power, the healing, the grace, and therefore do NOT need to look at the shadow.

Not SURPRISINGLY, the rabbis of old perceived something different ... and many years before Paul came to teach. The sages taught that the service in the Temple is not arbitrary, but meant to symbolize spiritual truths. The Temple’s physical structure and service are a map for the spiritual journey. The spiritual journey is really the restructuring of your soul ... if you build your spiritman on the structure and service of the Temple, you will have made your spirit a Tabernacle where YHVH can dwell. The physical destruction of the Temple mirrors with precision the destruction of a mans awareness of YHVH.

In this, the sages quote:

Ezekiel 43:1-12 “AFTERWARD the man [an angel] brought me to the gate, the gate that faces east. 2 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the east and His voice was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with His glory. [Rev. 1:15; 14:2.] 3 And the vision which I saw was like the vision I had seen when I came to foretell the destruction of the city and like the vision I had seen beside the river Chebar [near Babylon]; and I fell on my face. [Ezek. 1:4; 3:23; 10:15, 22.] 4 And the glory of the Lord entered the temple by the gate facing east. 5 Then the Spirit caught me up and brought me into the inner court, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple. 6 And I heard One speaking to me out of the temple, and a Man stood by me.”

*"7 And He [the Lord] said to me, Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever; and My holy name the house of Israel shall no more profane, neither they nor their kings, by their [idolatrous] harlotry, nor by the dead bodies and monuments of their kings, 8 Nor by setting their threshold by My thresholds and their doorposts by My doorposts, with a mere wall between Me and them. They have profaned My holy name by their abominations which they have committed; therefore I have consumed them in My anger. 9 Now let them put away their [idolatrous] harlotry and the dead bodies and monuments of their kings far from Me, and I will dwell in their midst forever. 10 Son of man, **show the temple by your description of it to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and let them measure accurately its appearance and plan.** 11 **And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the form of the temple and the arrangement of it—its exits and its entrances and the whole form of it—all its ordinances and all its forms and all its laws. And write it down in their sight so that they may keep the whole form of it and all the ordinances of it and do them.** 12 This is the law of the house [of the Lord]: The whole area round about on the top of the mountain e[Mount Moriah] shall be most holy, separated, and set apart. Behold, this is the law of the house [of the Lord]."*

The Tabernacle, like the SPIRIT, pick up the changes in YHVH's flow of revelation knowledge – the Tabernacle is a reflection of YHVH's dimensions of space and time.

- **TIME**

- The cycle of Feast Days form a pattern in time – a cycle that gets repeated at regular intervals so that we can stand still and "return" to YHVH. Each one of these times has a place/function at the Tabernacle.

- **SPACE**

- The form of the Tabernacle reveals YHVH's dimension of space. The form and the utensils all point to the Shadow-Maker.

The Tabernacle is the center point of focus – we should understand, that as mankind, we see with the physical eye ... while on the other side, YHVH sees with the spiritual eye.

QUESTION – do you look at the RITUAL? Is YHVH somewhere "outside"? Or are you able to hear His still small Voice?

The Tabernacle PATTERN and the FEASTS

Let's take a look at the Tabernacle in relation to the series of Feasts.

1. The OUTER Court

This part of the Tabernacle, in the physical, is represented by the altar for sacrifices and the laver for washing – this part is therefore most closely associated with the Feast of Pesach.

It speaks of the transformation from “death” to life – and also about the restoration from a slave to a free man, when the evidence of the bondage is washed away by the mikvah at the Red Sea.

In the spiritual domain, we find two wonderful pictures of this restoration:

- During the time of Y’shua’s walk on earth, we see HIM attend this Feast. He tells us the story of the water carrier and the donkey. The donkey is a reflection of a choice to chose life – to serve the KING of KINGS. That choice demands that all things that represent the kingdom of death must be dealt with ...
- The water carrier is a reflection of my choice to washed in the water of the Word/ Torah, in order to wash away the evidence of the bondages.

John on the island of Patmos sees a vision of the end times. In this Book of Revelation, we see the first image of the returning Messiah. HE stands amidst the Menorah, ready for the final deliverance, and goes on to speak to each of the seven churches.

HIS questions are to challenge us to see how
much of Egypt is still clinging to us!

2. The HOLY PLACE

The holy place is described as that place where the:

- Altar of incense,
- The Table of Shewbread,
- And the Menorah is to be found.

This part of the Tabernacle is associated with the Feast of Shavuot – the Feast that represents the (1) giving of the Commandments/Torah, and (2) the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In the physical domain, we find the description of the JOURNEY through the wilderness, during those first few days. In fact, you will find no fewer than seven trials/miracles that are performed for the children of YHVH, but still we see that they yearn back to the things of the world/Egypt that held them in bondage all of those years.

In the spiritual domain, John (in Revelation) also speaks of a cleansing time for the Body of Messiah. He goes on to describe the messages to the seven churches, where he shows that the things of the world/Egypt are still clinging to those who should be walking in victory.



Break in the STORY!

We are on the way to the Feast of Sukkot. The entrance to this Feast is the very last act that takes place in the Holy Place everyday. The daily work in the Tabernacle was allocated by the casting of the LOT. The most sort after “lot” was the third one – the one that indicated who would burn the incense and offer up the prayer of thanksgiving/petition.

Luke 1:9 “9 As was the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter [the sanctuary of] the temple of the Lord and burn incense. [Exod. 30:7.]”

Here we read of such an allotment. The priest Zacharias (the man who would be the father of John the Immerser) was chosen to perform this task that particular morning.

- **The FIRST Lot:**

- Their function is to go into the Tabernacle, to clean all of the utensils, to pack fresh wood, and prepare the fire.

- **The SECOND Lot:**

- Their function is to clean the Menorah, Altar of incense, and to kill the sacrificial offer.

- **The THIRD Lot:**

- The priest would choose two helpers – they would enter the Holy Place and take of the coals and place these on the Altar of incense, and then withdraw leaving the priest alone before the altar. The priest now puts the incense onto to coals:

Revelation 5:8 “8 And when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders [xof the heavenly Sanhedrin] prostrated themselves before the Lamb. Each was holding a harp (lute or guitar), and they had golden bowls full of incense (fragrant spices and gums for burning), which are the prayers of God’s people (the saints).”

Psalms 141:2 “2 Let my prayer be set forth as incense before You, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. [1 Tim. 2:8; Rev. 8:3, 4.]”

Where he waits in total silence, for the signal that first light has been seen. We find this imagery described by John:

Revelation 8:1-4 “WHEN HE [the Lamb] broke open the seventh seal, **there was silence for about half an hour in heaven.** 2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. 3 And another angel came and stood over the altar. He had a golden censer, and he was given very much incense (fragrant spices and gums which exhale perfume when burned), that he might mingle it with the prayers of all the people of God (the saints) upon the golden altar before the throne. [Ps. 141:2.] 4 And the smoke of the incense (the perfume) arose in the presence of God, with the prayers of the people of God (the saints), from the hand of the angel.”

... where there is silence in heaven for about one half hour. When the signal is given, the high priest will offer up prayers of (1) thanksgiving, (2) petition, (3) shema.

- **The FOURTH Lot:**

- Their function is to take the prepared offer and put this on the altar, at which point in time the priest from the third lot will declare the priestly blessing.

Numbers 6:24-27 “24 The Lord bless you and watch, guard, and keep you; 25 The Lord make His face to shine upon and enlighten you and be gracious (kind, merciful, and giving favor) to you; 26 The Lord lift up His [approving] countenance upon you and give you peace (tranquility of heart and life continually). 27 And they shall put My name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

יְבָרֶכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ:
יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶנֶךָ:
יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ
וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם:

The message of a sacrifice is this – on one side of the curtain, man brings an offer, with a prayer of thanksgiving/petition ... on the other side of the curtain, YHVH accepts the offer and responds.

It's NOT about the offering
– it's about YOUR HEART!

3. The HOLY of HOLIES

We find within the domain the following:

- Ark of the Covenant/ Testimony,
- The Tablets of Covenant,
- The Rod of Authority,
- The golden bowl with manna.



This part of the Tabernacle is associated with the Feast of Sukkot. This Feast speaks of a marriage, an everlasting covenant, a celebration of intimacy ...

We have seen the pattern that each part of the Tabernacle is closely associated with one of the Feasts. More importantly, we have seen that the ***utensils used in each one of those sections of the Tabernacle reflect on specific attribute that you and I need to have in order to “serve” in the Tabernacle.***

We have all too often judged a man who has blemished his body in the physical, with tattoos ... HOWEVER, with the spiritual understanding, you and I are also blemished if we fail to develop those attributes which are needed at a particular stage in life/ministry.

And so the question is asked ...

Are you ready to appear before YHVH in the Holy of Holies?

In order to put some context to this, let's look at the Hebraic understanding of the word “HOLY” – it's the Hebrew word KADOSH:

- **Kof** = Back of the head, follows.
- **Shin** = Thresh.

In a sentence, the letter-picture describes “what follows the threshing – i.e., NO chaff”.

To answer that question you need to review how your life measures up to the standard of the utensils of this place. Mostly, we tend to see the Tabernacle as YHVH's Answer to man's sin of the golden calf. We tend to read from Exodus 31:18 and onwards, noting what follows in Exodus 32 – the story of the golden calf – to form an opinion that YHVH realized that man needed a physical outlet to worship and therefore gave the Tabernacle as a means whereby man could express their Creator in a physical way.

In reality we see in Exodus 25:1, that YHVH command us to build the Tabernacle BEFORE the sin of the golden calf. Rather than filling man's need to see/have an image, we see that the Tabernacle is YHVH's Way of providing a flow of continuous revelation to HIS people.

To highlight this, let's look at the Hebrew word for Tabernacle, “o-hel”:

Aleph + Lamed = GOD
Hey = Behold, revealed.

This word really says it like this “the heart of GOD revealed”.

The ARK of the Covenant/Testimony

Exodus 25:16 “16 And you shall put inside the ark the Testimony [the Ten Commandments] which I will give you.”

Numbers 10:33 “33 They departed from the mountain of the Lord [Mount Sinai] three days’ journey; and the ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them during the three days’ journey to seek out a resting-place for them.”

1 Samuel 3:3-4 “3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was lying down 4 When the Lord called, Samuel! And he answered, Here I am.”

Spiritually the ARK is a manifestation of YHVH's Presence, as is seen under the guise of either the cloud or the pillar of fire. This cloud is replicated at Yom Kippur with the cloud of incense that the High Priest takes in with him when he enters the Holy of Holies (Leviticus 16:13).

The ARK is a HOLY Place.

YHVH uses this to help us with the following circumstances:

- An indication of when to STOP.
- An indication of when to MOVE ON.
- An indication of when to GO TO WAR.

How strange it seems, but many believers do all of these actions, but fail to understand that they should be standing right in front of the ARK when they make these decisions.

Let's take a look at the Hebrew word for ARK – “TE-VAH”:

- **Tav** = Sign
- **Bet** = House
- **Hey** = What comes from.

The letter-picture describes “the house of the Sign/cross”!

Is this the reason why we so often find ourselves up some or other creek? We have chosen to stop, go to war, move on ... BUT not stood in front of the ARK!



BUT of greater importance – the Ark is a REFLECTOR as well. We are told the we must chose between the:

- Holy/unholy,
- Clean/unclean.

1 Samuel 6:19-21 “19 And the Lord slew some of the men of Beth-shemesh because **they had looked into the ark of the Lord**; He slew eeseventy men of them, and the people mourned because the Lord had made a great slaughter among them. 20 And the men of Beth-shemesh said, *Who is able to stand before the Lord, this holy God? And to whom shall He go away from us?* 21 And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kiriath-jearim, saying, *The Philistines have returned the ark of the Lord. Come down and take it up to you.*”

In the Book of 1 Samuel, we read how the Ark is captured by the Philistines, and how some time later, they decide to return it to the Israelites.

BUT the men of Beth-Shemesh do not have a sense of the AWE of YHVH. As a result of a certain action, we see that they are simply killed “for looking INTO the Ark”. This act speaks of being “unholy”. UNHOLY acts are those things which soothe the human EGO.

When the sons of Aaron, in a similar example, bring foreign flames into the Tabernacle, we see that they are destroyed – it speaks of being “unclean”. UNCLEAN things are when we break a Commandment knowingly.

Looking at the ARK will REVEAL the content of your heart!

The Hebrew word for *testimony* – E-DOOT is:

- **Ayin** = Eye, to see.
- **Dalet** = Door
- **Vav** = Hook/nail.
- **Tav** = Sign

We see the letter-picture describes “see the door and the sign” . In other words, “firsthand knowledge of what happened”.

- If we accept that we must stand before the ARK to hear when to go, stop, war ... then how can we carry on with what we are doing,
- If we did not have firsthand knowledge of what happened, how can we proceed based on the prophetic word of others?

Lets look at another word quickly, priest – KOHEN:

- **Kaf + Nun** = Yes, surely.
- **Hey** = Behold, revealed.

The job of a priest is to reveal the heart of “YES” – GOD and HIS Ways are YES.

Believers, it seems to me, that if we want to stand before the KING and enjoy intimacy ... then we need to be sure that all that we have done in the past year can be covered under the statement that we **have done just what HE asked us to do**.

AND, anything else would need to be burned up in a prayer of repentance!

The Tablets of the COVENANT

Exodus 40:18 “18 Moses set up the tabernacle, laid its sockets, set up its boards, put in its bars, and erected its pillars.”

Deuteronomy 10:5 “5 And I turned and came down from the mountain and put the tables in the ark which I had made; and there they are, as the Lord commanded me.”

We see that the Tablets are put into the ARK. Clearly, YHVH judges by what has been set down in the covenant terms ... we have seen the picture of Moses with the two stones. Mostly, the drawings/pictures show that Five Commandments are written on the one Tablet, while the other Five are written on the Second Tablet.

The rabbi's will argue differently, and with reason. They say that all Ten Commandments were written on each stone – in other words, a duplicate set. This is so that by the mouth of TWO witnesses, we can verify the Truth.

The Truth of YHVH's Word, and the terms of the Ten Commandments can NEVER differ.

Believers, if we want to stand before YHVH in intimacy, we need to ensure that our words, actions, and values are aligned to the Word of GOD. MORE IMPORTANTLY, have the silent sins, of slander/gossip, and so forth, all been dealt with?

Time to REPENT!

The ROD of Aaron and the Golden Pot of MANNA



In the Book of Hebrews (9:4), Paul tells us that the ROD and the POT of Manna were IN the ARK ... HOWEVER:

Exodus 16:32-34 “32 Moses said, This is what the Lord commands, Take an omer of it to be kept throughout your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness when I brought you out of the land of Egypt. 33 And Moses said to Aaron, Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up **before** the Lord, to be kept throughout your generations. 34 As the Lord commanded Moses, Aaron laid it up before the Testimony to be kept [in the ark]. [Heb. 9:4.]”

Numbers 17:10 “10 And the Lord told Moses, Put Aaron’s rod back **before** the Testimony [in the ark], to be kept as a [warning] sign for the rebels; and you shall make an end of their murmurings against Me, lest they die.”

The verses above make use of another description – that these items are placed BEFORE the ARK. I submit, when we cannot be sure WHY there is a difference – I accept the Old Testament version as first source.

The ARK and the Tablets are YHVH’s REPRESENTATIVE items, and go together. They are always in alignment.

The Rod of Aaron and the Pot of Mann are SYMBOLS that are provided so that MAN can see what YHVH did.

Believers, you and I are given a ROD of Authority.

- We can choose to exercise this authority WISELY,
- OR, we can capitulate and give over to the works of satan.

QUESTION – Can you show that there has been new buds of life (FRUITFULNESS) from your rod of authority? Can we see the choices that you exercise (DAILY MIRACLES OF FAITH) are in alignment with YHVH’s Word?

Psalms 23:4 “4 Yes, though I walk through the [deep, sunless] valley of the shadow of death, I will fear or dread no evil, for You are with me; Your rod [to protect] and Your staff [to guide], they comfort me.”

This verse expresses a wonderful concept – YHVH’s ROD provides COMFORT because it’s always the same – there is consistency.

In the fight for POWER, the rods of all of the tribes were put on an even platform. Only one rod was chosen. The lesson learnt here is this ...

- **Does my rod contain any aspects/ambition which comes only from my own heart?** (In the physical, this is represented by the phallic symbol, as being of the opposite spirit.)
- OR, do I only have YHVH’s Will at the center of my core, where we see a humble and contrite spirit?

Believers, you and I are given a handful of TALENTS and GIFTS (Manna) ... we can use these to build a place on earth that reflects the Attributes of YHVH. Manna represents the purpose of your life ... we tend to talk of “bread”:

- But before bread there was flour,
- Before flour there was a mill,
- Before the mill there was wheat,
- Before wheat there was a sower,

- Before the sower there was the sun and the rain,
 - Before the sun and the rain there was YHVH's WILL.

Exodus 16:4-5 *"4 Then the Lord said to Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from the heavens for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in My law or not. 5 On the sixth day they shall prepare to bring in twice as much as they gather daily."*

The word used here is "MAHN", from the root "mah-nan", and means to "divide/portion". So the children of Israel literally called it "a portion of Him".

In the following verse, we see it says that we will see the "Glory of YHVH":

Exodus 16:7 *"7 And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, for He hears your murmurings against the Lord. For what are we, that you murmur against us?"*

If you have a portion of HIM, then I should see the Glory of the YHVH (Y'shua) in your daily walk. The question is ...

- What have you done with these this year?
- Have your gifts been hidden?
- Or have they produced life?
- How do you present these before YHVH?
 - Can you return the ARK to the Tabernacle?

You would ask – why such a lot of detail?

Surely we can just have a joyous time under the sukkah?

The Feast is a time of real joy. We will gather to make music with the instruments that YHVH has given us – the harp, cymbals, flute ... we will celebrate with friends and family.

Music and INTIMACY go TOGETHER

We have been discussing the protocol that I need to observe ... how focused I should be on being "clean/holy" as I pass through the Tabernacle. But I also need to have the ability to sing, dance, and make music. There are many examples where the ARK and a set of musical instruments go together:

- **Harp, lyres, tambourines, cymbals:**

1 Chronicles 15:16 *"16 David told the chief Levites to appoint their brethren the singers with instruments of music—harps, lyres, and cymbals—to play loudly and lift up their voices with joy."*

- **Harp of ten:**

Psalm 144:9 “9 I will sing a new song to You, O God; upon a harp, an instrument of ten strings, will I offer praises to You.”

- **The lyre:**

Psalm 98:5 “5 Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody.”

And each time we see this type of phrase
“the Israelites CELEBRATED with all their might”!

2 Samuel 6:3 “3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.”

1 Chronicles 13:7 “7 And they carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio [his brother] drove the cart.”

1 Chronicles 15:15 “15 The Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles, as Moses commanded by the word of the Lord.”



Psalm 57:7-8 “7 My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is steadfast and confident! I will sing and make melody. 8 Awake, my glory (my inner self); awake, harp and lyre! I will awake right early [I will awaken the dawn]!”

One of the very first examples where we see the intimacy and the worship with music coming together, is when MOSES leads the people through the Reed Sea ... MOSES starts to sing (Exodus 15:1), and Miriam leads the people to join in (Exodus 15:21) a song to the LORD, with a consequent phrase – which we would call a “chorus” today.

Let's RECAP

The primary function of the Tabernacle is to be the central repository/house for the ARK of the COVENANT. A select group of people – the LEVITES – could enter into and perform service to YHVH.

The LEVITES had different functional works and different levels of access to the Tabernacle – a part of that function was to worship YHVH.

JOHN on the island of Patmos, sees an end-time vision ... a time when we truly, fully live in intimacy with YHVH, where we see that the 144, 000 redeemed play the harp and sing before Him:

Revelation 14:1 *“THEN I looked, and behold, the Lamb stood on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 [men] who had His name and His Father’s name inscribed on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of great waters and like the rumbling of mighty thunder; the voice I heard [seemed like the music] of harpists accompanying themselves on their harps.”*

“3 And they sang a new song before the throne [of God] and before the four living creatures and before the elders [of the heavenly Sanhedrin]. No one could learn [to sing] that song except the 144,000 who had been ransomed (purchased, redeemed) from the earth.”

We must consider the “old story” – that Hebrew into English is not always perfect.

Hebrew makes a distinction between the:

- Vocals,
- And the instrumental aspects of music.

The Hebrew word “**sher**” means “song”, as used in “I will sing”, and is normally translated quite accurately. HOWEVER, the Hebrew words that define instrumental music are:

- **Z-M-R**,
 - To melody,
- And **N-G-N**
 - To play.

The agricultural meaning to **ZMR** is “to remove the grapes from the vine, i.e., to prune”. This action of pruning is reflected in the same action when I pluck at the strings of a harp!

Normally (as in **Psalms 144:9**) we see the translation “with an instrument of ten (harps) will I sing praises” – HOWEVER, this should be – “with a harp of ten, I will play”.

This may sound unimportant and immaterial ... HOWEVER, in the following verse, it makes a BIG DIFFERENCE!

Psalms 66:4 *“4 All the earth shall bow down to You and sing [praises] to You; they shall praise Your name in song. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!”*

In HEBREW, “All the earth will bow down to You, and they will play to You, they will play YOUR NAME”! David lives this out in:

Psalm 9:1-2 *"I WILL praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth (recount and tell aloud) all Your marvelous works and wonderful deeds! 2 I will rejoice in You and be in high spirits; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High!"*

The Torah tells us of a PARALLEL story – that of a fiery furnace ... In DANIEL 3 we read the story of a king of this world ...

Nebuchadnezzar ...

In opposition to the KING of
KINGS,

Who gathers all the leaders,
the "protectors of the realm",

In opposition to the FATHERS
of the living Tabernacle,

And commands that when
they hear the sound of the
horn, flute, harp, lyre, and
singing, the people are to fall
down and worship
Nebuchadnezzar ...

In opposition to you and I
praise YHWH with all of these
instruments.

And whoever fails to do so will be burnt in the fiery furnace!

So here we see the exact copycat of YHWH's Commandment – the very same set of musical instruments are used in the kingdom of darkness. BUT, this was not the first time ... way back in the Wilderness, YHWH's people use these same musical instruments to worship the golden calf!

Exodus 32:17-19 *"17 And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. 18 But Moses said, It is not the sound of shouting for victory, neither is it the sound of the cry of the defeated, **but the sound of singing that I hear.** 19 And as soon as he came near to the camp he saw the calf and the dancing. And Moses' anger blazed hot and he cast the tables out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain."*

And in Revelation, we read that Babylon is filled with the sound of this music:

Revelation 18:21-22 *"21 Then a single powerful angel took up a boulder like a great millstone and flung it into the sea, crying, With such violence shall Babylon the great city be hurled down to destruction and shall never again be found. [Jer. 51:63, 64; Ezek. 26:21.] 22 And the sound of harpists and minstrels and flute players and trumpeters shall never again be heard in you, and no skilled artisan of any craft shall ever again be found in you, and the sound of the millstone shall never again be heard in you. [Isa. 24:8; Ezek. 26:13.]"*

Back to the story from the Book of Daniel:

Daniel 3:4-8 “4 Then the herald cried aloud, You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 That **when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, dulcimer or bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.** 6 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall that very hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. 7 Therefore, when all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, dulcimer or bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 8 Therefore at that time certain men of Chaldean descent came near and brought [malicious] accusations against the Jews.”

Music from the same set of instruments can either be used to worship an earthly kingdom or the KING OF KINGS ... what does this tell us?

You and I are meant to worship YHWH. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and words of empowerment. What we do with this can either:

- Build the Kingdom, and be acts that are HOLY,
- OR, build our own ego/agenda, and be actions that are UNHOLY/UNCLEAN.

We are neither one or the other, and knowing this requires that we **STOP** and **reconsider**. The time of ELUL is given to us for a reason – to cleanse our hearts, minds, and attitudes from anything that does not fit into YHWH's Pattern/Plan.



Nebuchadnezzar/Babylon will raise before you a golden pillar – something that will be standing right in front of the living Tabernacle ... in front of YOU!

The music that you hear will sound familiar!

Take note of the opposite spirit ... man in YHWH's Presence bows down in worship ... BUT man in the presence of the idol, is raised up!

Spurgeon once said (paraphrase), there is a furnace that ...

Men prepare ...

YHWH can deliver us,

Satan prepares ...

We have to make a CHOICE,

YHVH prepares ...

YHVH can sustain/strengthen
us.

WE make this choice by the lifestyle that we role-model through difficult circumstances. The EXPERIENCE of the attack from the kingdom of darkness will seem like a FIERY FURNACE ... and the opposition could get a lot worse as well.

Again, note the copycat approach ... the Tabernacle, when filled with YHVH's Presence, used FIRE as the means to judge an UNHOLY/UNCLEAN spirit. Here we see the reverse, man's fire is used to judge men who walk in YHVH's Pattern and Will. The actions of the three men reveals a very interesting pattern.

- We don't need to answer you!
- We don't have to defend ourselves!
- We know that YHVH will deliver us!
- We know that every time we are obedient to one of HIS Commandments, we experience HIS Blessing.
- We know that whatever happens is YHVH's Will ... life is not always fair, but we prophetically declare that we trust HIM!

Job 13:15 "15 [I do it because, though He slay me, yet will I wait for and trust Him and] behold, He will slay me; I have no hope—nevertheless, I will maintain and argue my ways before Him and even to His face."

Daniel 3:16-18 "16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, it is not necessary for us to answer you on this point. 17 If our God Whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up! [Job 13:15; Acts 4:19, 20.]"

what do we so often say?

- It does not matter this once,
- Everybody else is doing it,
- We are not living in Israel,
- We are now in the New Covenant!

What is the LESSON? Just as these three men – do not let an excuse cross your lips ...

Another lesson from the physical DOMAIN

We find a king who is prepared to carry the ARK back into the Tabernacle.

David decides to move the ARK to its rightful place (read the two accounts in **2 Samuel 6:12-18** and **1 Chronicles 15:1-16:2**).

- We find a small group of three singers:

1 Chronicles 15:17, 19 “17 So the Levites appointed Heman son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari their brethren, Ethan son of Kushaiah; 19 So the singers Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were appointed to sound bronze cymbals;

- We find eight harp players:

1 Chronicles 15:20 “20 Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah were to play harps [resembling guitars] set to Alamoth [probably the treble voice];”

- We find six lyre players:

1 Chronicles 15:21 “21 Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah were to lead with lyres set to Sheminith [the bass voice].”

And if we look carefully, we can also surmise that the song sung that day was Psalm 136. It's tempo is that of a CADENCE, a marching beat. Its consequent phrase is REPEATED at the end of every sentence. Let's picture the moment ...

- As the men carrying the ARK start to march,
- The singers sing,
 - Give THANKS to YHVH for He is GOOD!
- And the men carrying the ARK respond,
 - Because His FAITHFULNESS is everlasting!



I suggest that our willingness to lay down our own agendas/life/choices, and produce the FRUIT of the Holy Spirit, is the offering needed in order that you can bring your ARK back to the Tabernacle of Sukkot.

These are not spiritual deeds, but practical deeds of obedience, loving your neighbor as yourself. BUT, we don't always act like that ... even family members of another tribe don't always open their hands and their hearts:

Judges 8:4-8 “4 And Gideon came to the Jordan and passed over, he and the 300 men with him, faint yet pursuing. 5 And he said to the men of Succoth, Give, I pray you, loaves of bread to the people who follow me, for they are faint, and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian. 6 And the princes of Succoth said, Are Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hand, that we should give bread to your army? 7 And Gideon said, For that, when the Lord has delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I will thresh your flesh with the thorns and briers of the wilderness! 8 And he went from there up to Penuel and made the same request, and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had done.”

Gideon has taken up the battle against the forces of darkness, the enemy is on the run. He comes to the leaders (fellow-Israelites) and asks for bread, so that they can continue in the battle.

The men of Succoth refuse!

The questions are:

- Why are you not fighting along side your brother?
- Are you one of those that does not believe in spiritual warfare?
- Why are you not operating in your gifts?

Those who are in war need to hear the (1) words of wisdom, (2) the words of knowledge, and (3) the word of prophecy. This is critical/essential for those who do not have time to stop and hear from GOD.

In today's MEDIA, we hear stories daily of horrific things to come.

JOHN tells us that the redeemed saints, will be unblemished, those that wear the “white robes”:

Revelation 6:9-11 “9 When the Lamb broke open the fifth seal, I saw at the foot of the altar the souls of those whose lives had been sacrificed for [adhering to] the Word of God and for the testimony they had borne. 10 They cried in a loud voice, O [Sovereign] Lord, holy and true, how long now before You will sit in judgment and avenge our blood upon those who dwell on the earth? [Gen. 4:10; Ps. 79:5; Zech. 1:12.] 11 **Then they were each given a long and flowing and festive white robe** and told to rest and wait patiently a little while longer, until the number should be complete of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed as they themselves had been.”

Read the whole Chapter – below is an excerpt:

Revelation 7:9-10 “9 After this I looked and a vast host appeared which no one could count, [gathered out] of every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. These stood before the throne and before the Lamb; they were attired in white robes, with palm branches in their hands. 10 In loud voice they cried, saying, [Our] salvation is due to our God, Who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb [to Them we owe our deliverance]!”

The story from the Book of Daniel highlights two clear attributes:

- **The fire had no power over them.**

They were fully submitted to the Will of YHVH – they knew the Truth of the Promise of the Covenant.

John 16:33 “33 I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]”

- **There was NO smell of the furnace on them.**

Their deliverance was complete!

On a recent trip to JERUSALEM, Amanda walked into a jewelry store. While she looked at rings, I studied a MENORAH. Each lamp was shaped as a Levite priest – the main lamp was the high priest.

The uniqueness of the MENORAH was this – the high priest was the conductor of an orchestra, each priest played an instrument.

A lifestyle of giving/reflecting HIS Light is a song that will accompany your ARK to the Sukkot Tabernacle.

MANY blessings to you and your family!

The Priestly Blessing ...

Numbers 6:24-26

“²⁴ The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: ²⁵ The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: ²⁶ The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

The Priestly Blessing ...

Hebraic Translation²

"YHVH will kneel before you presenting gifts, and
He will guard you with a hedge of protection,
YHVH will illuminate the wholeness of His Being
toward you, bringing order, and He will provide
you with love, sustenance, and friendship, YHVH
will lift up the wholeness of His Being and look
upon you, and He will set in place all you need to
be whole and complete."

² Translation by Jeff A. Benner, for more information, please see http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12_blessing.html

The Priestly Blessing¹

יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ:

and may he guard you the LORD may he bless you

May the LORD² bless you³ and keep you⁴

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶנֶךָ:

and show you favor on you his face the LORD May he shine

May the LORD make His face⁵ shine⁶ upon you and be gracious⁷ to you

יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם:

peace for you and establish on you his face the LORD may he lift up

May the LORD lift up⁸ his face to you and give you peace⁹

¹ This blessing is (ritually) recited (by the kohanim) during synagogue services during *Nesiat Kapayim* ("the Raising of the Hands"), though it is also recited over children on Friday night before the start of the Shabbat meal or as a bedtime blessing.

² The name *YHWH* (יהוה) represents God's attributes of love and mercy (*מִדַּת הַרַחֲמִים*), in contradistinction to the name *Elohim* (אֱלֹהִים), which represents God's attribute of justice and power as our Creator.

³ *בְּרַכָּה* (*b'rachah*). Jewish tradition considers this both material and spiritual prosperity. Pirkei Avot 3:15 says, "If there is no flour, there is no Torah," by which is meant that material benefits are intended to help you pursue study of Torah. The first occurrence of the word "blessing" in the Scriptures pertains to *pru urvu* (פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ), "be fruitful and multiply" (Gen. 1:22).

⁴ *שָׁמַר* (*shamar*): To guard, protect, heed, as in the exercise of diligent care. Only God has the power to secure the conferred blessing and keep it from turning sour or from fading away.

⁵ The word for "face" (*פָּנִים*) is plural with the 3rd person singular ending. It is considered metaphorical since God is incorporeal. The plural form is thought by some to indicate God's revealed and hidden attributes in creation.

⁶ The hiphil verb (*יָאֵר*) comes from the word "light" (*אֹר*), and is thought to refer to God's wisdom. "May God enlighten you" with His wisdom, i.e., the Divine Light that preceded the work of creation (Gen. 1:3).

⁷ May God grant you grace or favor (*חֵן*), i.e., to understand the "breadth and length and height and depth" of God's love (Eph. 3:18). Grace refers to the bestowal of an undeserved gift. The blessing is bestowed even though unearned or unmerited.

⁸ Since one's face is an indication of the heart's attitude, Rashi says that this means God will suppress His anger by "looking at you" (if God is angry at you, He "turns His face away" and refuses to admit your presence). The "lifting of face" also pictures God lifting you up as a father might lift up his child in joy. The "showing of face" indicates spiritual intimacy.

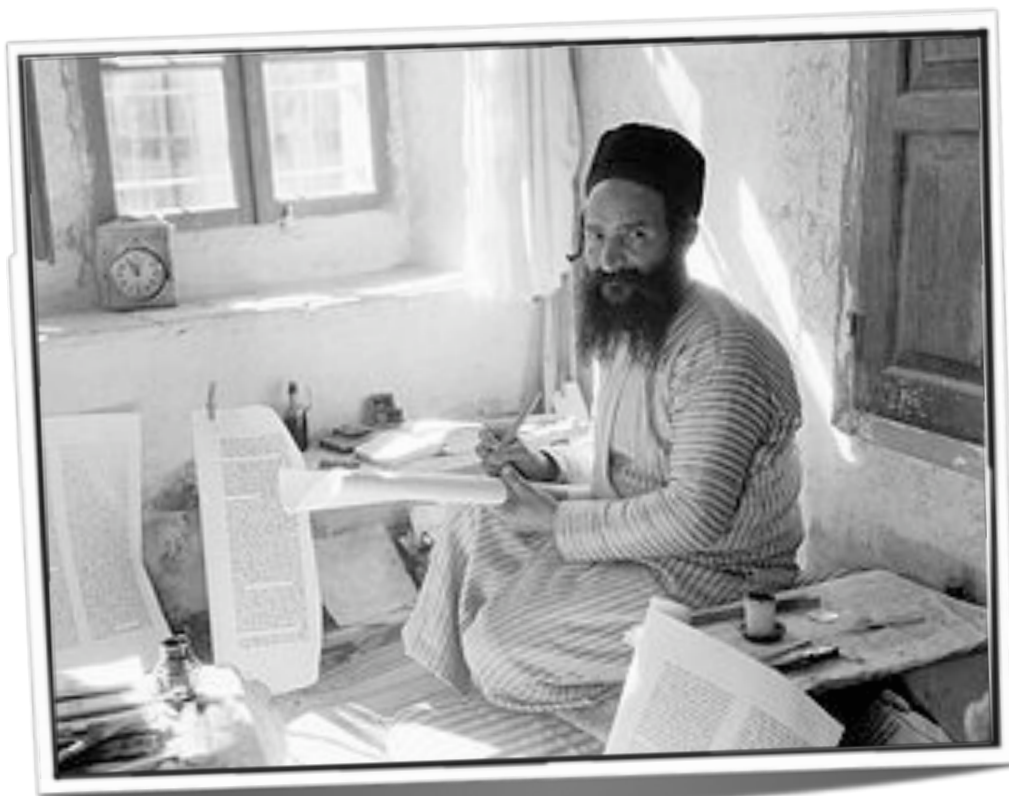
⁹ All of the other blessings are useless without the establishment of inner peace, and therefore it is the seal of the blessing. *Shalom* (שְׁלוֹם) is not simply the absence of strife, but a balance and harmony between the finite and infinite, the temporal and the eternal, the material and the spiritual realms. *Shalom* is a gift from Sar Shalom (שַׂר שְׁלוֹם), the Prince of Peace.

The Hebrew Language

The Hebrew Language ...

What's the context? It is so important to ask – and answer – this question, particularly when studying the Scriptures. We need to know what the meaning, understanding, culture, and value system of the text was in the language and time the text was written. Our modern-day mindsets cause us to define words within today's meanings, understanding, culture, and value systems ... however, this is often quite a way off from what was the original – and intended – understanding.

The Scriptures were written thousands of years ago in HEBREW, and in an Eastern-Semitic culture. If this is truth, then can we come to a different interpretation of any given passage?



In order to expand our study and understanding of the Word, we need to have a “crash course” in the original language the text was written, ancient Hebrew.

Ancient Hebrew has an alphabet of TWENTY-TWO letters. Obviously, words are written using a combination of these letters [note, there are no vowels]. However, what makes this language even more of an “adventure” is that each individual letter of the alphabet has a unique meaning, picture [symbolism], and number. This means, you can study and understand the plain text as is ... and you can study further by delving into the individual symbolism of the letters. Often, doing this kind of study brings out further meaning and richness to the passage. You will find that we have used this type of study – examining the picture-meaning of the Hebrew words – throughout our materials. We have found this such a blessing in our own understanding of the Scriptures, and trust you will enjoy it just as much! Truly, God's Word is ALIVE!

Ancient Hebrew³

Ancient Hebrew						
Early	Middle	Late	Name	Picture	Meaning	Sound
			El	Ox head	Strong, Power, Leader	ah, eh
			Bet	Tent floorplan	Family, House, In	b, bh(v)
			Gam	Foot	Gather, Walk	g
			Dal	Door	Move, Hang, Entrance	d
			Hey	Man with arms raised	Look, Reveal, Breath	h, ah
			Waw	Tent peg	Add, Secure, Hook	w, o, u
			Zan	Mattock	Food, Cut, Nourish	z
			Hhet	Tent wall	Outside, Divide, Half	hh
			Tet	Basket	Surround, Contain, Mud	t
			Yad	Arm and closed hand	Work, Throw, Worship	y, ee
			Kaph	Open palm	Bend, Open, Allow, Tame	k, kh
			Lam	Shepherd Staff	Teach, Yoke, To, Bind	l
			Mem	Water	Chaos, Mighty, Blood	m
			Nun	Seed	Continue, Heir, Son	n
			Sin	Thorn	Grab, Hate, Protect	s
			Ghah	Eye	Watch, Know, Shade	gh(ng)
			Pey	Mouth	Blow, Scatter, Edge	p, ph(f)
			Tsad	Man on his side	Wait, Chase, Snare, Hunt	ts
			Quph	Sun on the horizon	Condense, Circle, Time	q
			Resh	Head of a man	First, Top, Beginning	r
			Shin	Two front teeth	Sharp, Press, Eat, Two	sh
			Taw	Crossed sticks	Mark, Sign, Signal, Monument	t

³ http://elshaddaiministries.us/hebrewalphabet_old.html

Modern Hebrew⁴ ...

MARK	NAME	PRONOUNCED	TRANSLITERATION
א	Aleph	Silent letter	‘ (or none)
ב/בּ	Bet / Vet	b as in boy (no dot: v as in vine)	b / v
ג/גּ	Gimmel	g as in girl	g
ד/דּ	Dalet	d as in door	d
ה	Hey	h as in hay	h
ו	Vav	v as in vine; “consonantal vowel”	v
ז	Zayin	z as in zebra	z
ח	Chet	ch as in Bach	ch (or h)
ט	Tet	t as in time	t
י	Yod	y as in yes; “consonantal vowel”	y
כ/כּ	Kaf/Khaf *	k as in kite (no dot: ch as in bach)	k / kh
ל	Lamed	l as in look	l
מ/מּ	Mem *	m as in mom (sofit form)	m
נ/נּ	Nun *	n as in now (sofit form)	n
ס	Samekh	s as in son	s
ע	Ayin	Silent letter	‘ (or none)
פ/פּ	Pey/Fey *	p as in park (no dot: ph as in phone)	p / ph
צ/צּ	Tzade *	ts as in nuts (sofit form)	ts / tz
ק	Qof	q as in queen	k (or q)
ר	Resh	r as in rain	r
ש/שׁ	Shin/Sin	sh as in shy (s as in sun)	sh / s
ת/תּ	Tav	t as in tall	t

* Has a different form when it occurs at the end of a word (sofit).

⁴ www.hebrew4christians.com