



July-Dec 2026 Summer Edition

The Remnant's Walk



Rev 6:3-4 And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, Come and see. And another horse went out, red. And it was given to the one sitting on it to take peace from the earth, and that they should slay one another. And a great sword was given to Him.

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... is a Worldwide Ministry aimed at restoring the Faith once delivered by Yahshua of Nazareth to the Congregation at its inception close to 2,000 years ago. This restoration needs to take place in order to reach those with ears to hear and eyes to see the truth from the lies so that the good news of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations (*Matthew 24:14*).

We encourage all those who consider themselves to be true believers to ask: "Which congregation do I belong to? The true faith our Savior Yahshua the Messiah set down in the year 30 CE, or the false doctrine, drenched in paganism and sun worship, as set down by Constantine in 325 CE?" The two are vastly different and we cannot serve two masters (*Matthew 6:24*).

One was a Hebrew Congregation with a Hebrew Savior that was completely Torah observant. The other was and still is a counterfeit, lawless church, sealed by the decrees of Constantine and implemented for the sole purpose of deceiving and enslaving mankind (*Revelation 12:9*).

The articles contained in this publication are motivated by the Word of Truth, the Holy Scriptures, inspired by our Almighty Father Yahweh and Yahshua Messiah, His Son. Words made manifest through the power of the Holy Spirit (*2 Timothy 3:15-17*).

Some articles are reprint articles from the old Good News magazine and will say reprint. May you be blessed and grow in truth and Spirit In His wonderful name, Shalom ...

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Personal

by Don Esposito

Greetings Brethren,

And shalom in the wonderful names of Yahweh and Yahshua Messiah. I pray all are well and prospering in these end times that we are living in.

In this personal I want to focus on the second horse of Revelation chapter six, which is the red horse of war. We have seen the white horse of false peace and false religion for some time now, and even during COVID we saw the doctors promoting the false plandemic wearing white doctor coats.

But, in recent times, we have seen President Trump bragging constantly about bringing in false peace deals more than any political leader has done before. He has even started his own peace initiative to rival the United Nations, but again it is a weak enterprise with very little if any power behind it.

But we are ready now I believe, in the near future, to bring in the red horse with serious consequences for the world at large.

We already have Israel at war with its neighbors over the last three years with no conclusion on any front yet. We see America/Babylon fighting with Iran until recently when President Trump capitulated to just about every Iran demand and in their memorandum of understanding the USA has agreed to allow Iran to receive 300 billion dollars, and to also lift all sanctions from them.

And nevertheless, there is no real peace on the table yet with the parties involved, and fighting can erupt again at any time, and the Strait of Hormuz is closed again bringing in more economic instability.

Also, the war with Russia and Ukraine has taken a terrible turn with both parties bombing major cities in each one's countries and killing many people every week. And the talk over the last month is that there is a growing possibility of Russia attacking Europe as the fighting in Ukraine continues.

We know that world war is one of the elements that occur during the end times that we are living in, and the world has never been closer to World War 3 than they are today.

Both Russia and China are allies with Iran and have been watching the war with the US closely as they see America weakened in the eyes of the world and also weakened militarily by the war with Iran.

Only Yahweh knows the prophetic timetable and when this big war will happen, but as we are told to watch and pray always in these last days, we can only surmise that we are closer to this big end-time war than many would like to admit.

*B'Shem Yahshua
Elder Don*

What Is a Real **CHRISTIAN SOLDIER?**



What were the teachings of the apostles and the early New Testament Congregation? Was war under any circumstance permitted? How can a Christian “fight the good fight” and yet not kill?

REPRINT Article by L. Leroy Neff

THE APOSTLE JACOB, who wrote the Epistle of Jacob, was a *physical brother* of Yahshua. What did he teach about fighting?

He wrote, “The fruit of righteousness [obeying YAHWEH’s commandments (Ps. 119:172) *is sown in PEACE* [not war] of them that MAKE PEACE” (Jacob 3:18). You do not make *peace by making war!*

Cause of War Defined

This same apostle wrote in explicit terms the *true* cause of war: “From where come conflicts and fighting’s from among you? *Is it not from your lusts warring in your members?* You covet and yet you do not have. You murder, and are jealous, and are not able to possess. You fight and you strive, and you have nothing, because you do not ask. You ask, and do not receive, because you do not ask sincerely, you ask in order that you may satisfy your lusts” (Jacob 4:1-3).

The root cause of war as stated here is *lust, greed* and covetousness! That is not only the cause as written by Jacob. Since it is included in the Bible it is also the cause *as defined by Yahshua Messiah* who inspired Jacob to write!

Lust and greed are SIN as stated in the Ten Commandments, and the violation of this law is sin (1 John 3:4). The believer is supposed to *quit sinning* (Rom. 6:12).

Jacob sharply rebuked the twelve tribes (nations) of Israel (Jacob 1:1) for *participating in war*. He tells them how to keep from having war. It is too bad that the modern Israelitish countries do not heed his instruction. If they did, the world would be a much better place in which to live.

Did Peter Follow Yahshua?

Certain congregations believe that Peter was given the keys of rulership over the Congregation. Did *he* follow Yahshua, in teaching, that we are not to participate in wars? Or, as his claimed successors *have practiced*, should they *wage war*?

“For you were called to this, for even Messiah *suffered* on our behalf, leaving behind an example for us, that you should follow His steps” (1 Pet. 2:21).

This specific example given by Peter shows that we should suffer for the cause of Yahshua, *not cause suffering*. Peter followed Yahshua’s example. After his conversion, he did not take up arms against others. He *learned his lesson* on the Mount of Olives the night before Yahshua’s crucifixion.

Peter taught that we are to have compassion for others—to be courteous—to *have pity* on others (1 Pet. 3:8). HE COMMANDED BELIEVERS NOT TO RENDER EVIL FOR EVIL, *or railing for railing* (1 Pet. 3:9-12). On the contrary, we are to *bless* those *who do evil* to us, or who rail against us. YAHWEH has His eyes on the righteous and will take care of them when they follow this instruction (verse 12).

Peter did follow Yahshua! He taught that we were not to kill or harm others, just as Yahshua, his Master did. Those who claim to have succeeded Peter *have not* followed either Peter or Yahshua!

Did the Apostle John follow Yahshua in this teaching?

He taught that if a man says that he loves YAHWEH and yet *hates his brother—he is a LIAR!* (1 John 4:20). A person who is *even angry* with another has already committed murder in his heart (Matt. 5:22). *You cannot kill—EVER—in war, unless you have a sense of HATRED toward the enemy!*

John also taught that those who are begotten of YAHWEH *overcome* the world. But how do we overcome the world? By war? No, by FAITH (1 John 5:4)!

The whole theme of John’s writings is *love*, both to YAHWEH and neighbor. *All of his writings are contrary to hate, violence and warfare.*

Did Paul Preach a NEW Gospel?

Did Paul *really* follow Yahshua in teaching against war and violence, or did he in his “Pauline theology” teach a *different* doctrine from Yahshua and the other apostles?

Paul wrote: “Be imitators of me, *as I am also of Messiah*” (1 Cor. 11:1).

This scripture shows plainly that Paul followed or “imitated” (Revised Standard Version) Yahshua. He also taught the *same identical Good News that Yahshua did*—contrary to what many of the modern Biblical scholars claim. Let’s examine his writings to *really prove* that he *did follow Messiah*.

He preached a Good News of *peace* (Rom. 10:15) and commanded us to “live in peace” (2 Cor. 13:11). We are charged to follow this peace *with ALL men* (Heb. 12:14). How can you follow *peace* with all men if you are determined to destroy them in warfare?

Paul taught that we are not to take vengeance on others. That is YAHWEH’s *prerogative, not ours!*

“Returning evil for evil to *no one*; providing right things before all men. If possible, as far as it depends on you, *live in peace* with all men; not avenging yourselves, beloved, but *giving place to wrath*, for it has been written, ‘*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay*,’ says YAHWEH. Then if your *enemy* hungers, feed him; if he thirsts, give him drink; for doing this *you will heap coals of fire on his head*. Do not be overcome by evil, but *overcome the evil* with good” (Rom. 12:17-21).

This scripture is so plain and clear that there is no need for explanation. Any *honest* person can see by this *one* scripture that it is WRONG for a believer to go to war and fight against others.

A reading of the “love” chapter of the Bible, 1 Corinthians, chapter thirteen, shows that it is *impossible* for a person with *real agape* LOVE to fight in carnal wars. The Apostle Paul is *consistent* with the teaching of Yahshua in every aspect!

Paul stated that *Yahshua* lives within the believer (Gal. 2:20). It is only logical then that the person who has Yahshua living within him, *would DO just as YAHSHUA DID!* That would NOT *include* taking up arms against others.

Yahshua is the *same* yesterday, today, and forever! (Heb. 13:8). He *does not*, therefore, tolerate using violence in carnal warfare *now* in the lives of *today’s* TRUE Believers!

War Is a Work of the Flesh

Paul enumerated the *works of the flesh* (including hatred, wrath, strife, seditions, and murders) in Galatians 5:19-21. In making war with the nations of this world a person would be committing ALL of these WRONG “*works*.” No man can have *these works* and call himself a believer! The apostle to the Gentiles declares that people who do these things will not inherit the Kingdom of YAHWEH.

The Apostle Paul continues in this same passage to show that true *believers*, having Yahshua living within them, will have the “*fruits of the Spirit*.”

These include *love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness* and meekness. Such traits are DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED to any *participation in warfare!*

A person who is *really* seeking to do the will of YAHWEH can easily see from the writings of this apostle that he did not in any instance condone fighting or warfare or being involved in this world’s quarrels and fights. In fact Paul showed clearly that even though others do despitely use us, or do cause trouble and evil reproach to come upon us, *we must not return evil to ANY MAN!* (1 Thes. 5:15). That *most definitely includes* an opposing soldier in another army.

Ambassadors for Yahshua

Paul plainly states in many ways why *we cannot become member of ANY military organization*. One very important statement is that we are *citizens* of a heavenly KINGDOM—incorrectly translated *conversation*, from the Greek word *polituma*. As such, we *cannot* become a member in the armed forces of any *other kingdom!* (Phil. 3:20).

The kingdoms of this *present* world are *against* the rule and government of Almighty YAHWEH.

True believers are *Ambassadors for Yahshua* (2 Cor. 5:20). As *such we cannot fight for a foreign government anymore than the United States Ambassador to Russia can fight for Communism!* But we must show proper respect and honor toward our country as Romans 13 clearly shows. We *should* salute the flag, since it is a symbol of the nation, and is showing *proper respect*. It is not idolatry to show respect to government, or the symbols of government. A later installment will explain these things more completely, and show *how* we must be in obedience to authority.

The Apostle Paul proclaims *another reason* why it is impossible to serve in the military forces of this world. *A believer is already a soldier!* A believer is already in a war for another government and kingdom. But *it is not a physical war!* Anyone should know that it is illegal, unlawful, and punishable by death for a person to be a member of *two different armed forces* of different nations.

Our Warfare Is Spiritual

We are not fighting in the same way as those of this world and its governments. We do not use *physical weapons* because our weapons are ALL SPIRITUAL (Eph. 6:11, 18). We are not in a warfare with the *people* of this world but with *Satan* and his legions of unclean spirits. We are also at war against entanglements and weaknesses of the flesh.

He instructed the young Evangelist Timothy to “*war a good warfare*” (1 Tim. 1:18) and to endure hardness or trials as a good soldier (2 Tim. 2:3-4). He also said in this same place that we are soldiers of Yahshua Messiah and such a person cannot become entangled by the affairs of this life. Verse 24 states that such a person should not strive but be “*gentle unto all men.*” The apostle was also engaged in this same spiritual warfare and he “*fought a good fight*” (2 Tim. 4:7).

We cannot serve two masters—we cannot serve in two armed forces—else we will hate the one and love the other (Matt. 6:24). Our principal weapon is YAHWEH’s Word—not the physical weapons used by this world (Heb. 4:12). No physical weapons are necessary. YAHWEH is on our side and has *all power* and *authority* and can—and will—act on our behalf to protect and guide us. He is a consuming fire which will devour all *adversaries* (Heb. 12:29).

The Apostle Paul plainly *followed Yahshua!* He did not preach some new doctrine which “permitted” believers to take up arms in *defense*—or in *offence*. When we really come to understand the WHOLE BIBLE on this subject, we will find that *all Scripture* is actually *in harmony* on this subject.

Since the Apostle Paul has now been proved to have *forbidden* participation in warfare, let us see if the New Testament Congregation followed his instruction, the instruction of Yahshua Messiah and the original twelve apostles.

Yahshua’s Congregation Founded Amid War and Tumult

Flavius Josephus gives us a great deal regarding the conditions in Palestine during this same period. The last section of his historical book concerns the “*Wars of the Jews.*” In one translation of his work there are about 150 pages of text concerning this period of time which concern the *seditions, uprisings, wars and rumors of wars*. The period that we are concerned with, from the time of Yahshua to A.D. 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed, was one of almost *continual war and tumult!*

It was under these conditions that YAHWEH sent Yahshua Messiah to this earth. It was during this time that YAHWEH started *His Congregation* at Jerusalem. With wars and rumors of wars going on all around them, just *what did the believers do?*

If it were proper to participate in war, here certainly was an opportune time to do so! *Palestine was under the heavy Roman dictatorship*. Injustices were rampant.

Here was ample opportunity to try to overthrow the *tyrannical, dictatorial government* which SUPPRESSED *Christianity*. Many people in this time did continually try to throw off the Roman yoke. There was a group of people called the Zealots who bitterly and *sometimes violently* opposed this rule. Yahshua would have received much more favor from some of His countrymen if He had joined them as their leader *to bring freedom*.

If He had done this, many would have accepted Him *then* and there as the Messiah, since many of the people were looking for the Messiah Who would free them from the disliked *Roman yoke*. But Yahshua had nothing to do with violent or forceful overthrow of government.

Anyone who would like to read more about these perilous times can find ample information by reading the pertinent sections in Josephus.

Yahshua did not take part in trying to eject the “foreign invader” or “the infidels.” Neither He *nor any of HIS followers* did any of these things! He and His disciples very carefully stayed *completely away from participation in military service*, uprisings against the Romans, or even from *politics* of any kind. *Yahshua let Caesar run his own corrupt government*. He let Caesar fight his own wars and He let the Jews carry on *their own* uprisings without His assistance or *approval!*

Every true follower of Yahshua Messiah should practice this SAME WAY OF LIFE!

No Believer Fought—But Many FLED!

After the Congregation was founded on Pentecost, 31 A.D., the believers were right in the middle of these wars and trouble. But there is *not one shred* of evidence in the whole of the book of Acts—or the whole New Testament—that the believers had *anything* to do with these activities. The reason is that *they really followed Yahshua!* They OBEYED HIM rather than man (Acts 5:29).

“And *you will be hated by all on account of My name*, but the one enduring to the end shall be saved. But when they *persecute you in this city, flee to another*. For truly I say to you, in no way will you have finished all the cities of the House of Israel until the Son of Man will come” (Matt. 10:22-23).

The Congregation was hardly founded before the prophesied persecution came, some three and one-half years later. The first record we have of believers following this instruction is found in the book of Acts.

“And in that day a great *persecution* took place on the assembly which was in Jerusalem; and all were *scattered* throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles” (Acts 8:1).

If there ever was a time *to fight*, here was a time to do it—to “*defend the faith*.” Here was a time to *protest* for the sanctity and privacy of the home! But YAHWEH’s people left the *vengeance* to YAHWEH. *Instead of fighting, they fled to other places—as Yahshua instructed!*

The time is soon coming when *another persecution* will come against YAHWEH's true Congregation. In that time many of YAHWEH's people will again have to flee for their lives. Those who do not will be tortured or killed.

What About Cornelius?

Some may quickly bring up the point of the *soldier*, Cornelius. The Scriptures tell of his conversion in Acts 10. What about Cornelius? He was in the Roman army of occupation and yet he was a devout, religious man. The Holy Spirit was first given among the Gentiles to him and his house.

Peter did not tell him to sever connections with military service. He did not tell him that in order to be converted he must be discharged! These are arguments that many people bring up. There is *one error* in such arguments.

The Scriptures do not record the details of *all the instruction* that Peter gave Cornelius. Since Peter was obedient to the Scriptures, he would give the *same instruction* to this soldier that John the Baptist did (Luke 3:14). He would certainly give him the *same instruction* that Paul gave regarding people in such slavery (1 Cor. 7:21-23).

No Bible Record of “Christian Wars”

In examining the New Testament Scriptures, the plain truth is inescapable! There is no mention of ANY BELIEVER PARTICIPATION IN WAR!

These believers had not departed from the faith! They followed Yahshua! They did not have anything to *do* with the destruction and bloodshed of the carnal, warring world around them. *They* had COME OUT OF THIS WORLD! (Rev. 18:4).

These early believers knew very well from Yahshua's Olivet prophecy that during their time there would be wars and rumors of wars, but they also knew that they were *not to participate in them*. They knew things were going to degenerate to the point that they would finally have to *flee* for their very lives. *Yahshua prophesied that!* When they saw Jerusalem surrounded by the pagan Roman armies, they were *not to fight* for their lives or freedom. They were *not to participate in war* IN ANY WAY. Instead they were to flee to the mountains for safety. Instead of defending home, honor or country, by resorting to violence, *they were commanded to flee!*

Flee Invasion

Anyone who *follows Yahshua*, and who *refuses* to have any part in killing organizations is inevitably asked what he would do in case of invasion by foreign enemies of our beloved country.

In the first place, *if all* of the people of our country WERE OBEYING and *trusting* in YAHWEH, *it would never happen!*

Since our nations are not obeying YAHWEH, we know from prophecy that we will be invaded in a few years and our *country* WILL GO *into terrible slavery!*

When that time comes, YAHWEH has promised that those of His Congregation who have been watching and praying diligently will be *able to escape*. YAHWEH will provide *a way to escape* for His people.

The world might not consider fleeing from the enemy the *honorable way*—*but it IS the way YAHWEH has instructed His people to follow* when His remnant Congregation goes to a place of safety (Rev. 12:14).

At the time immediately before the final siege of Jerusalem the New Testament Congregation followed the instructions Yahshua gave them. They *did not participate* in the war, they *fled* for their lives.

Here are the instructions Yahshua gave about this same flight:

“And when you see Jerusalem being encircled by armies, then recognize that its destruction has come near. Then let those in Judea *flee into the mountains*; and those in its midst, let them go out. And those in the villages let them not go into her (Luke 21:20-21).

That is *exactly* what they did do. Eusebius, a historian and famous Catholic Church writer of the fourth century tells us:

“On the other hand, the people of the congregation in Jerusalem were commanded by an oracle given by revelation before the war to those in the city who were worthy of it to *depart* and dwell in one of the cities of Perea which they called Pella. To it those who believed in Yahshua *migrated* from Jerusalem, that when holy men had altogether *deserted* the royal capital of the Jews and the whole land of Judea, the judgment of YAHWEH might at last overtake them for all their crimes against Yahshua and His apostles, and all that generation of the wicked be utterly blotted out from among men” (*Ecclesiastical History*, Book III, Vol. 4).

We have now seen many *divinely inspired scriptures* and facts to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that *Yahshua taught us NOT to take part in the military services*—not to harm others in *any* way!

The original apostles in their writings *continued in the faith* and gave this same teaching. Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, continued to preach in his strong and unwavering letters this same truth. Yahweh’s Congregation, even during the time of severe persecution, and of wars and rumors of wars, did “*keep the faith*” and did not permit such perilous times to cause them to *disobey* YAHWEH by participating in these bloody uprisings and wars. They fled in the time of persecution, and when the final destruction came on Jerusalem they had already fled for their lives, obeying the instructions of their Master.

They kept the faith! They did not waver! But, did succeeding generations of the Congregation follow this same shining example? The Bible and secular history have the answer. It is *amazing* and *surprising* when the story is fully told.

Why Do the Jews Observe the Wrong Passover?



Why do the Jews hold THEIR Passover a day later than the Passover observed by Moses, Nehemiah and Yahshua? How and when did this change come about?

REPRINT Article by Ernest L. Martin

Why do the Jews have double Holy Days—keep Passover one day late—then Pentecost on Sivan 6? Why do they reckon only 5723 years from Creation? What is correct? Are the rabbis right?

Many in YAHWEH's Congregation have been puzzled over the Jewish interpretation behind the Holy Calendar and the Festivals. Since the Jews have been responsible for the preservation of YAHWEH's Calendar, why could they not also lead us in the interpretation of the Holy Days? Why is it that YAHWEH's Congregation does *not* follow the rabbis *in every point*?

The Jews Responsible for the Oracles of YAHWEH

In Romans 3:2 the Apostle Paul acknowledged, under YAHWEH's inspiration, that the Jews were responsible for the oracles of YAHWEH. The expression "oracles of YAHWEH" was a common Jewish term of the first century which designated "The Holy Scriptures"—our Old Testament (*Interpreter's Commentary*, article "Oracles").

These Scriptures enumerated the seven annual Holy Days which Israel was to keep (Lev. 23). These Holy Days, with the exception of Pentecost, were to be observed on set calendar dates each year. Without an official calendar, *there could be no Holy Day observances!* Correct calendar computations must as well have been given to the custodians of the Scriptures in order that *all* the oracles of YAHWEH could be kept.

So the Jews (specifically the priests) were responsible for preserving the Old Testament Scriptures—*plus the calendar*—which was necessary in correctly performing the Festivals. The certainty of this is found in the New Testament. Yahshua and the apostles always utilized the official Jewish day, week, month and year. The early Congregation also acknowledged the Jewish custodianship over the calendar as well as the Scriptures.

The Differences

While the Jews had the responsibility for *preserving* the correct calendar, the *interpretation* behind the calendar days was not to be determined by them. The reason for this is plain. Only YAHWEH retains the right to tell us what date on the calendar to keep His Festivals. No man has that right! In regard to the Passover, it is YAHWEH Who tells us to observe it on the evening of Nisan 14 (Leviticus 23:5).

This is the time Yahshua kept it. But some of the Jews in the first century observed the evening of the 15th. Even though the *correct calendar* was utilized by the Jews, *different DATES on that calendar* were used for Passover. It will be noticed that Yahshua and His disciples kept the Passover on the evening *before* the crucifixion (Luke 22:13-15), but the next day, some of the Jews refused to come into the judgment hall lest they be disqualified from observing the *Pharisee* Passover which occurred on the following evening (John 18:28).

This shows that Yahshua observed Nisan 14 (as the Old Testament commanded) but the Pharisees observed Nisan 15. The same practice of keeping Nisan 15 instead of the date commanded by YAHWEH *is still done* by all Jews today.

Why Nisan 15?

You would think that the rabbis need to learn to read their own Scriptures, for they seem to be illiterate in regard to the Passover. YAHWEH tells us, in the clearest of language, that the Passover is to be held on the evening of Nisan 14. Nowhere in the Bible does it state otherwise. But they keep Nisan 15.

Where did such a practice come from? The answer to this is found in the history of the Jews in the third century *before* Yahshua. From 301 B.C. to 198 B.C., the Palestinian Jews came under the control of Egyptians. These Gentiles imposed their philosophies and religious beliefs upon the Jews in profusion. Dr. Lanterbach, one of Judaism's greatest historians, admits that this period was one of religious *anarchy* among the Jews of Palestine (*Rabbinic Essays* p. 200). They accepted, on a very large scale, many *outright Egyptian customs*.

For example, Herodotus who visited Egypt in the fifth century before Yahshua, reported that the Egyptians would only drink out of pots and pans which had been scoured every day. They would religiously bathe themselves twice each day—they shunned all foreigners, especially Greeks, and would destroy any vessel or utensil which had been touched by a Greek. Such silly laws were inaugurated by the thousands by the Egyptians, said Herodotus (Book II, pp. 37-41).

Prior to the Egyptian domination of Palestine, the Jews possessed *none* of these absurd customs, but after that period of religious anarchy, the Jews began practicing, with utmost *vigor*, *those same* EGYPTIAN laws. See Matthew 15:2 and Mark 7:3-8. There can be no question of this.

But what about the Passover? It can be shown that prior to this Egyptian domination, the Jews always kept the Passover on Nisan 14. Notice especially Ezra 6:19-22. Here it shows Nisan 14 as Passover and Nisan 15 as the first day of Unleavened Bread (which it is), but *not* as the Passover day. Then, after the Egyptian period, the Jews began to observe Nisan 15 for Passover. *Why?*

Corruption From Egypt!

The answer again is found in Egyptian customs. The Egyptian day customarily commenced with sunrise (Wilkinson, Vol. II, p. 368). YAHWEH's day, however, begins at sunset (Lev. 23:32). This is where the trouble lay with the Passover reckoning *after* this period of Egyptian influence on the Jews.

While the Egyptians allowed the Jews to retain their ancient calendar, there was a change made in the beginning of the day—it became common to *begin* the day at *sunrise*. This custom was adopted, and persisted among the Jews even down to New Testament times (see *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, April, 1946). We have had personal information from the Hebrew Union College admitting this fact. (The proof of this is also given in *The Expository Times*, June 1948, pp. 250, 251.)

Notice how diabolically clever the above arrangement becomes when the day begins in the morning. With the 14th of Nisan supposedly beginning at sunrise, that puts what YAHWEH calls the evening of Nisan 15 as still *being on Nisan 14*. This is where the problem arises. Even later on, when the Jews finally got back to an evening-to-evening reckoning for the day, they refused to abandon what had become the traditional way of observing Passover. The principle, "What was good for my fathers, is good enough for me," was too strong for the rabbis to leave it. So, today, they are still one day out of phase with YAHWEH.

The Jews' Pentecost

The rabbis' error concerning this Festival was so many Jews were coming to faith because Yahshua perfectly fit the wavesheaf offering. Consequently, the rabbis changed the Shavuot count and the Reast of Firstfruits to the day after the first Holy Day instead of after the weekly Sabbath, as Scripture states.

The Double Holy Days of the Jews

Attention should now be called to, what have become known as, the Jewish "*Second Holidays*." It is today customary for many Jews to reckon the *first two days* of Unleavened Bread as Holy Day Sabbaths. This is followed by the next annual Sabbath—the last day of Unleavened Bread—on which they tack another Sabbath, making again two annual Sabbaths. This is repeated with Pentecost when two days are celebrated, not one. Trumpets is the same way. So is the first day of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. The Day of Atonement, on the other hand, is reckoned as only one day.

Where do the Jews get authority for doing such things? There is certainly nothing in the Word of YAHWEH to support these additions. Perhaps it will be best to let the Jews give their own explanation:

"At the time of the Second Temple [the time of Yahshua], when the Sanhedrin announced the beginnings of the months on the basis of observation, the communities living far from the seat of the

court could not be reached in time by its messengers [that is, they might not know when the New Year would begin]. Those communities, in doubt about the day of the New Moon and the Festivals, established the custom of celebrating *an additional day* for each of the major holidays. Thus, they were certain to observe the Festivals at the same time as their brethren in Israel, on the days sanctified by the Sanhedrin. Whenever the Bible had prescribed one day of holy convocation and prohibition of work, they celebrated two days except the Day of Atonement to avoid two successive days of fasting.

The second holidays were adopted by the entire Dispersed Jews, the communities living beyond the confines of Israel. Their observance was continued by succeeding generations for more than 2,000 years and became a generally accepted law.

In the land of Israel, then as well as today, the ‘Second Holidays’ are ordinary days” (Spier, *Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar*, p.11).

There you have it! Because the calendar computations were not then made public for all the Jewish communities, those outside of Palestine depended upon the direction of the Palestine Sanhedrin for the beginning of years. And even though the far-flung Jews (99 times out of 100) would have known the right day for the beginning of the New Year, they nevertheless put in the safeguard of an extra day. There is no need of these “safeguards.” The Jews plainly recognize that the “Second Holidays” are now non-essential. And in the nation of Israel they are not observed. Away from Israel they simply keep them for traditional reasons. They are NOT to be kept by YAHWEH’s Congregation for they represent an addition to YAHWEH’s law and this is prohibited (Deut. 12:32).

The Jewish Creation Date

Another point of apparent difficulty relative to the Holy Calendar, is the Jewish date for Creation. They say that our present year 1963 is 5,723 years after creation—they say Creation was 3761 B.C. This date is given in all Jewish calendars. But Bible chronology shows almost 6,000 years have passed from that time. Is there a discrepancy in the Bible and the calendar on this matter? The answer is NO!

Let us first understand what the calendar *is not*! It is *not* an instrument for measuring *historical* time! The calendar simply furnishes us with the length of any given year and the positions of the various days and months *within* that year. The computations nowhere tell us how many years have passed since Creation. They just tell us how to figure each year. If we want the full number of years which have passed from Creation to the present, we must go to the document which is intended to reveal that information—the Holy Bible, *not* the calendar.

The Creation date which the rabbis have set on their calendar year is of their *own manufacture* and has nothing to do with the calendar itself. It is an arbitrary date. It can be explained in this way.

Suppose Americans wanted to call attention to the founding-year of the Republic. This was 1776. All American calendars could be altered from A.D. dates to “Founding-Year” dates. Thus, 1963 would be reckoned on American calendars as year 188. However, the British may want to honor the Norman Invasion as their “Founding-Year,” i.e. 1066. This present year on their calendar would be 898. Now, we would all have the SAME CALENDAR without any changes, but different years on them according to what nation we lived in. So it is with the Jewish year from, what they call, “Creation.” It is clearly an arbitrary date chosen by them. The Bible does not support it.

Why A Late Creation Date?

We are told that the acceptance of 3761 B.C. as the Creation date by the Jews goes back no further than the 10th or 11th century (Spier, *ibid.*, p. 218).

But traces of this fictitious date can be traced back to the fourth century. But why this late date? The Bible shows plainly that Adam was created just over 4,000 B.C., not 3761 B.C.

The answer is simple.

The Jews in the time of Yahshua had a strong tradition that this present world would last for 6,000 years while the Messiah would reign for the last 1,000.

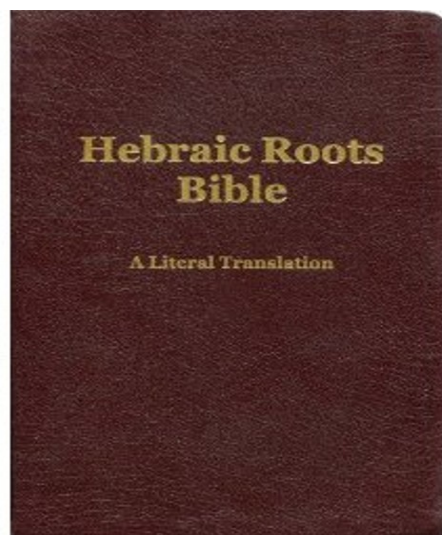
This teaching was true for the apostles tell us about it (2 Peter 3:8; Hebrews 4:1-10). But coupled with this belief, they felt that for the first 2,000 years the world would be without the codified law, then would be 2,000 years under the law, and finally 2,000 years when the Messiah would be known and worshiped (Schurer, *History of the Jewish people*, Div. II, vol. II, p. 163). In other words, shortly after the year 4000 from *real* Creation, the Messiah would appear. And *He did!*

This tradition in the first century put the Jewish rabbis on the spot, for they were saying the Messiah would come after 4,000 years. Yahshua did come but they were also *rejecting Him*. This led them to a novel invention.

They *arbitrarily* lowered the Creation date, disregarding the Bible, some 250 years. By doing this, they said that Yahshua *could not* be the Messiah for He appeared *too early*. This was a plain LIE! Of course, no Messiah came at the end of *their* NEW 4,000 years, but the Jews answered this by saying that the people were too *sinful* for Him to appear (Schurer, *ibid.*).

Thus, the Jewish late date for Creation was invented as a counteraction to the claims of Yahshua. By accepting it, they completely disregarded the chronology of the Bible. This Jewish date has *nothing* to do with the accuracy of Yahweh's Calendar. We can be thankful for *that!*

We can clearly see that it is YAHWEH's Congregation which is right after all—*not* the rabbis!



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THE WAR TO END ALL WARS?



The tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during those frightful days in 1945 were “in the interest of peace.” Yet, today, twenty-five years later, world peace still escapes us. We see only the prospects of war. WHY?

REPRINT Article by C. Wayne Cole

The scourge of war is almost as old as man! Every known means of exterminating an enemy either has been used, or is being stockpiled for use or developed for possible use against human beings! Where will it all end?

Has the horribleness of war—witnessed in the finality of World War II—now convinced man that war is indeed obsolete? Or is peace beyond the reach of man?

Remember Hiroshima

This past August was the *twenty-fifth anniversary* of the atomic bombings in Japan. Let’s go back for a moment to 1945—to Hiroshima.

August 6, 1945, began as usual in Hiroshima ... actually it might have been a little better than usual. The weather was warm. The sky was cloudless. People went about business normally. So far, they had been spared the agonies of destructive allied bombing raids that had laid waste so many of Japan’s cities.

It seemed no one had believed the leaflets the United States had air dropped over the city a few days before the bombing, warning that a new weapon of fantastic destructibility might be used for the first time in Hiroshima *if* the war didn’t end immediately.

No one in Hiroshima—a city of 420,000 population at that time—had the remotest inkling that a man-made tragedy of a horrendous magnitude unequalled in history was about to strike.

No one could possibly foresee that before the sun would reach high noon on August 6, the name “Hiroshima” would be ineradicably etched into the pages of history! And, indeed, into the minds of men everywhere!

The Bomb Is Dropped

At 8:15 am, August 6, 1945, three United States B-29's approached the city from the northeast. One of them, the Enola Gay, carried a single bomb—the new weapon which some derisively referred to as a “gimmick.”

Moments later the bomb was dropped—exploding in a great searing ball of intense heat and blinding white light. It proved to be anything but a “gimmick.” This atomic bomb—the first ever used against human beings—brought sudden death to perhaps 100,000 men, women and children. A slow, agonizing death from burns, radiation and irreparable wounds took 140,000 more lives. Another 100,000 were left alive, suffering from shocking mutilation and injuries. Estimates of total deaths range from 68,000 to 280,000. A painstakingly thorough survey now under way promises to reveal the most accurate figure yet.

Three days later another bomb was dropped over Nagasaki—a leading steelmaking and shipbuilding city of southern Japan. The bomb was dropped about a mile off center, and thus “only” about 40,000 perished. Then, five days later, on August 14, 1945, Japan surrendered. World War II was over.

As the three B-29's which took part in the August 6 “raid” flew back to base, one of the scientists on board wrote a letter to his four-year-old son.

He expressed the hope of much of mankind—that the terrible weapon man had created might bring the countries of the world together and help prevent further wars.

San Francisco, 1945

Actually, even before the nuclear explosions over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nations of the world were hopefully pursuing this same dream—the goal of world peace.

The United Nations Charter was drawn up and signed at the San Francisco Conference April 25-June 26, 1945. The opening paragraph announced the idealistic hopes of the signers:

We the people of the United Nations determine to *save succeeding generations* from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind ...

Right now—Twenty-five years after “Hiroshima” and the signing of the United Nations Charter—is a fitting time for us to STOP and THINK.

Has this goal been achieved? Has peace become a reality? Living now—in the decade of the 70's—do we actually see the countries of the world brought together in peace? Is the world really enjoying the fruits of peaceful coexistence? *Hardly!* And, where can you look to find *hopeful* signs that the problem of “making peace” is finally about to be solved?

A Brief History of War

Since Hiroshima and the United Nations Charter, there have been fifty military conflicts classified as wars. Even as you read this article, war rages in Vietnam, Cambodia, and is on-again-off-again in the Middle East. There are many other world “hotspots.”

Yet, that is just the way it has always been. The *greater* part of man’s existence has been devoted to *preparing* for, *waging*, or *recovering* from war—believe it or not!

The same is happening today! The nations of this world are engaged in the most costly, sophisticated and nightmarishly deadly arms race ever waged.

The weapons today are nuclear war-heads—any one of which is greater than all the explosive power used by all parties in World War II. And what are the chances this won’t end in war? By the law of averages, 1 in 100—perhaps, in fact, much less than that. If we base our calculations on the historical record, chances of averting a nuclear war are slim indeed!

Man Today More Civilized?

But aren’t we more civilized today? Surely man today has progressed, through education, to the point he can finally abolish war. Hasn’t man learned that war doesn’t pay, that negotiations—“dialogues” between nations—are now the only way to solve international disputes? Hasn’t war become obsolete in the latter half of this twentieth century?

The answer is quite obvious.

Witness Vietnam, Cambodia, the Middle East, Biafra, the Sino-Soviet border dispute, the constant India-Pakistan quarrelling, the China-India border dispute, not to mention the Turkish-Cypriot struggle, the Northern Ireland religious riots, plus the unending wave of violence with rioting, malicious demonstrations and outright anarchy occurring on a global scale. The latter more often than not being perpetrated by *educated* university students—the product, if you please, of modern “enlightenment.”

But notice further facts about the history of “man at war!”

The 21st International Congress of the Red Cross was told late last year that more than 90 million people have been killed in wars *since this century began*.

Further evidence of the *increasing*—not decreasing—trend towards war in recent years is given by Mr. Quincy Wright in his book *A Study of War*.

He draws attention to the increase in the length of battles and the number of battles fought during a century. He reveals that there were 231 major battles in the 17th Century, 703 in the 18th, 730 in the 19th, and 882 in the 20th Century—up to 1940.

There is absolutely no foundation of any kind to support the notion that better and more widespread education results in man utilizing a more “civilized” means of settling disputes. An intensive study of history reveals the opposite.

The truth is that “civilization” just makes wars more sophisticated, deadly and expensive. Better education, especially more sophisticated scientific and technological skill, has simply enabled man to develop infinitely more complex and destructive weapons with which to wage war.

Stockpile of Arms

Witness the stockpiling of nuclear weapons today! So massive are national arsenals that the term “overkill” is used to describe the capacity to destroy all human life more than once.

The U.S arsenal in late 1969 consisted of 3854 thermonuclear warheads.

Since it is estimated that the U.S. needs only 250 nuclear warheads to “kill” the Soviet Union—to utterly destroy 50 of the USSR’s largest cities—the U.S. has 15 times the number of warheads needed to completely devastate the USSR. This illustrates the meaning of “overkill.”

Estimates today indicate that the USSR has sufficient nuclear power to overkill the U.S.A. by 8 ½ times.

And on the stockpiling goes. With a new delivery system called MIRV (Multiple Individually Targetable Reentry Vehicles) which enables a single missile to carry from *three to twenty* warheads, each aimed at a different target.

Economic Burden of War

Do you know how much the world is now spending on such military armaments?

The latest figures are for 1969. They were compiled by the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in cooperation with other U.S. government agencies and several international bodies. Their report shows that by 1969 the combined military budget of all nations had reached over \$200 billion annually. The combined U.S. and Soviet Union military budgets account for about three fourths of this figure. (*Today, in 2026, the US accounts for over 1 trillion in military spending each year alone*)

Let’s use an illustration or two to more clearly visualize just how much 200 *billion dollars* is.

Let’s say your \$200 *billion* was in silver dollars. If you dropped one silver dollar at the rate of one per *second*, it would take 6,350 years for the last of the dollars to drop. Or, expressed another way, if stacked one on top of another the silver dollars would reach to the moon and on past it for another 76,000 miles.

Let’s figure the cost of war another way. While it is gruesome to think of the cost of war in terms of how much it costs to kill an enemy soldier, it nevertheless gives a graphic illustration of the spiraling economic burden war imposes.

Authorities estimate that in the days of Julius Caesar it cost about 75 cents to kill an enemy soldier. Inflation, more sophisticated technology and greater armaments spending brought the cost per death up to about \$3,000 during the days of Napoleon.

Since then, the costs have skyrocketed. During World War I, the United States spent about \$21,000 for each enemy killed. In World War II the costs rose to over *ten times* the amount in the first World War.

Already the war in Vietnam is costing the United States \$170,000 per enemy death and it is estimated the total may exceed half a million dollars when all costs including veterans’ benefits, war debts, etc. are included.

Where do the world's priorities lie? Perhaps this will answer the question. In 1966 the world spent 35 percent more for military purposes than it did on public education. While at the same time 300 percent more was spent on military budgets than on maintaining public health.

It is almost beyond comprehension what could be accomplished if the staggering sums of money now being spent on military operations could be used for constructive and peaceful benefits for mankind.

Collective Security and the Balance of Power

As the arms race continues and the world becomes ever more deadly as a place for man's habitation, the "brightest hope" in the eyes of many for achieving peace lies in collective security and maintaining a balance of power.

Are these attempts to maintain peace *new, modern*, twentieth-century inventions? Is there any reason from the past to believe that such attempts will ultimately be successful today?

On page 179 of his book *The Myth of International Security*, Mr. A.V. Levontin wrote, "the concept of the international balance of power is not new." He further states that the principle was known at least as early as the Greeks and is frequently referred to in Greek writings.

In the book *Preface To Peace—A Symposium* Herbert Hoover and Hugh Gibson wrote, "From time immemorial, nations have marked the end of their wars by the signature of treaties of 'perpetual peace' and solemnly promised its continuance" (p. 169).

But there has been no perpetual peace.

Is our present-day United Nations a new concept? Hardly! As early as the 14th Century a plan for a League of Nations was considered. A Council of Nations was to arbitrate all quarrels. And just as surely as any former attempts at such "united" arbitration failed, so is the U.N. failing today.

From the Middle Ages to the present, plans strikingly similar to what we see today have been designed in an attempt to avert war and maintain peace. There have been plans for federations, leagues of nations, collective security, mutual assistance and sanctions against an aggressor. NONE has kept the world from the tragedy of war.

Hans Morgenthau in his book *Politics Among Nations* wrote, "While nobody can tell how many wars there would have been without the balance of power, it is not hard to see that most of the wars that have been fought since the beginning of the modern state system *have their origin in the balance of power*" (p. 204, Fourth Edition).

Putting it very bluntly, A.V. Levontin wrote in *The Myth of International Security*: "The empirical verdict of history on the efficacy of the balancing technique is not in doubt. The *balance does not work*" (p. 181).

After the balance of power failed to stop the use of Fascism, the United Nations came into existence in 1945 to avert further global wars. Putting it succinctly—the U.N. *has failed as a peace-keeping body!*

The United Nations is observing its 25th anniversary this year amid warnings that it must shape up or collapse.

Today we witness SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) between the U.S.A and the USSR—also called the Geneva Talks. They have gone on for so long we've all forgotten about them. More recently, the Paris peace negotiators have attempted to negotiate a settlement to the Vietnam War. Then there is an almost endless list of pacts, treaties, conferences, etc. to avert war. While at the same time “preparations” for war continue on a massive global scale.

The Way of Rome

But this has *a/ways* been the case. Noted historian Edward Gibbon wrote of a sobering parallel from ancient Roman history. “The negotiations of peace were accompanied and supported by the most vigorous preparations for war” (*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Edward Gibbon, Vol. I, p. 734).

Can the United States indeed learn a lesson from ancient Rome?

Dr. Robert Strausz-Hupé, Director of the Foreign Policy Research Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, made this interesting observation on the position Rome occupied as “military policeman” of the ancient world and the effect this eventually had on her peoples. What Dr. Strausz-Hupé has said about Rome is particularly relevant to the U.S. today as she is so heavily committed to the role of “international policeman.”

He said: “Rome was the ‘policeman’ of the ancient world. Her people grew weary of this assignment...shortly thereafter, Rome’s hostile neighbors turned more aggressive...for a while, appeasement of her enemies bought Rome peace. Then her strongest allies defected, and her enemies, encouraged by Rome’s limp response to their provocations, renewed the attack and proceeded to ravage Rome’s home territories, Italy and Gaul” (“The Lessons from the Roman Fall,” Dr. Robert Strausz-Hupé, *L.A. Herald-Examiner*, Feb. 9, 1969).

The parallels between Rome and the U.S.A are so obvious they hardly require comment.

But Why Wars?

Everyone wants, it seems, PEACE. The United States wants peace. So does the Soviet Union. Placards throughout the nations—in many languages—proclaim the desire for peace and that men may live in harmony.

Religious leaders want peace.

Statesmen, politicians, world leaders since time immemorial have sought peace. But only war came. Why? Why has the world sought peace and been unable to find it?

The observations, studies, reports and analyses of men, bound in the books that line our library shelves, provide a means of insight into the causes of peace and war. The best-seller of all time—possessed by more people than any other and probably studied least—has this to say about the subject of *peace*. “When a man’s ways please YAHWEH, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him” (Proverbs 16:7).

The conclusion? Since there is no peace, then the *ways of man* in this world *don’t please* the Almighty!

This same book has this to say about the subject of *war*. Jacob wrote: “From where come conflicts and fightings from among you? Is it not from your lusts warring in your members? You covet and yet you do not have. You murder, and are jealous, and are not able to possess. You fight and you strive, and you have nothing, because you do not ask” (Jacob 4:1-2).

Notice another authority:

“Practical men have, then, usually thought of war as a manifestation of human nature with its complex of ambitions, desires, purposes, animosities, aspirations and irrationalities.” So wrote Quincy Wright in *A Study of War*.

He continued: “Men or governments want something—wealth, power, social solidarity—and, if the device of war is known to them and other means have failed, they use war as a rational means to get what they want” (p. 107, Phoenix Books edition).

Notice the words—*aspirations, animosities, irrationalities, a desire for wealth, power, etc.*

Sounds just like the Apostle Jacob, doesn't it!

Hans Morgenthau expressed it this way: “Men do not fight because they have arms. They have arms because they deem it necessary to fight. Take away their arms, and they will either fight with their bare fists or get themselves new arms with which to fight. What makes for war are the conditions in the *minds* of men which make war appear the lesser of two evils. In those conditions must be sought the *disease* of which the desire for, and possession of, arms is but a *symptom*. So long as men seek to dominate each other and to take away each other's possessions, and so long as they fear and hate each other, they will try to satisfy their desires and to put their emotions to rest” (*Politics Among Nations*, 4th ed, p 392).

If you have two aggressive children, you have undoubtedly witnessed personally on your own living room floor what Mr. Morgenthau has described. Each child is possessive of his own toys. And as soon as he senses someone trying to take what is his, he's ready to meet the situation with whatever resistance seems necessary—if that means fight, then fight it must be, unless you quickly intervene. And what is necessary to overcome this? Training, right education and a change of the human spirit.

Sound like lofty ideals?

Perhaps, but absolutely necessary—and recognized by some of the world's greatest authorities.

Another great leader—a military man himself—also saw why mankind goes to war and what it will take to bring world peace. Standing before a joint session of American Congress on April 19, 1951, the late General Douglas MacArthur said: “I know war as few other men now living know it, and nothing to me is more revolting. I have long advocated its complete abolition, as its very destructiveness on both friend and foe has rendered it useless as a means of settling international disputes ... Men since the beginning of time have sought peace ... Military alliances, balances of powers, leagues of nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be by the way of the crucible of war. The utter destructiveness of war now blocks out this alternative.

We have had our last chance. If we will not devise some greater and more equitable system, Armageddon will be at our door.”

MacArthur summed up by putting his finger on why war has ravaged this earth. He said, “The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence, an improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature, and all material and cultural developments of the past 2,000 years. It must be of the Spirit if we are to save the flesh.”

The Way to PEACE

What then, is needed to insure a lasting *peace*? A CHANGE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT AND CHARACTER!

Any nation is merely the sum of its citizens. That is why an INDIVIDUAL improvement—change—in human character is necessary if nations are to change. To date, humans have operated on the wrong premise—on the philosophy of *self-centeredness*. One nation wants to control another. It seeks another nation’s natural resources, its population, a corridor to the sea, its harbors, its strategic location. That nation will take by violence what it wants.

Its actions are based on the SELFISH way of getting instead of giving; taking and acquiring instead of sharing; the way of envy, jealousy, hatred instead of outgoing concern toward others—the way that causes all of this world’s ills.

Wars to end all wars have been fought throughout history. They will continue to be fought as long as men are incapable of peace. Secretary-General of the U.N. U Thant warns that the threat of nuclear warfare is increasing every day. The die is cast. Will the next war *end war*—OR WILL IT END ALL LIFE? It isn’t a happy thought.

Yet today, twenty-five years after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, *no* change of human spirit and character is in sight.

Is there a solution? A plan for a peaceful, happy tomorrow? Dare we hope for the impossible?

ONE FINAL PLAN

There exists only one source that purports to have such a plan for world peace—a practical, workable plan. It speaks of how a peaceful tomorrow will demand a new philosophy of life—insists that greed and war must be supplanted by CONCERN FOR OTHERS.

This plan demands a world government on this earth based on a new dimension of rule, on unselfish love—OUTGOING love. The successful citizen, we are told, must individually follow and practice this way of giving, sharing and helping others.

This government of tomorrow CANNOT function as a United Nations composed of **DIS**united nations. It must be united through the bond of mutual cooperation and purpose.

There is only ONE SUCH PLAN for world peace. It has been available to world leaders for nearly 2,000 years. But they haven’t understood it.

The only answer is the Bible and the coming Kingdom of Yahweh. Without the Spirit of Yahweh, mankind with his corrupted, selfish human nature will always look toward war and force to achieve his will over other human beings when he can.

ASK THE AMISH



Ask The Amish is a section of the Remnant's Walk with reprint articles and letters from the Amish community from a publication called "*Family Life*", which started back in 1967. Some original authors are listed in the publication, some are not. If there is an author listed, they would be listed at the end of the article with an original publishing date. Some Amish chose not to put their names on articles they write.

YIELDING TO REPENTANCE by Wayne E. Miller

Unrepentant man is in a sorry state. In Amos 5 we read, "For thus sayeth Yahweh Elohim ... Seek ye Me, and ye shall live." Israel was in an unrepentant state of mind. Though Elohim smote them time and again, they turned not to Him. Verse 14 advises them, and us, "Seek good, and not evil ... {Why?} ... So that Yahweh Elohim of Hosts shall be with you, as ye have spoken."

In Amos 4:12 is a verse often quoted in funeral messages as a fitting warning, "Prepare to meet thy Elohim." Chapter 6, verse 1 states, "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion" (today, to those in the congregation) pride is often the reason we are unrepentant. It robs one of seeing the need to repent. Nagler gives a very good description. Translated from the German it reads thus: "An overestimation of oneself; a self-deception in this that man is not what he thinks he is." Yahshua reminded Peter of his fallibility. Peter had been sure he would never forsake his master. It is exactly what he ended up doing, denying his Elohim. No, not for a moment would we think of denying our Master. We are convinced of our faithfulness, but like Peter, we often have need of repentance (Luke 22:31-34, 55-62).

Peter wept bitterly. He had unintentionally denied his Master. He was so sorry! John 21 tells us of Peter's reinstatement by the Sea of Galilee. Three times he renewed his commitment to Yahshua. Sin does not go away by itself; it must be repented of. "He that covers his sins shall not prosper but whoso confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

Repentance means to change one's mind; to feel sorrow, regret or contrition for the state of affairs one is found in. The Apostle Paul, while yet Saul, was convinced he was right, being a strict Pharisee, he kept the law. He thought he had everything down pat; but one day while on the road to Damascus to persecute more Christians, a very bright light shone from heaven and Saul fell to the earth. A voice spoke saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutes thou me?" And he said, "Who are thou?" And Elohim said, "I am Yahshua who you persecute: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." Ananias helped him to repentance. He was no longer Saul the persecutor, but Paul, a humble man of Yahweh.

What does repentance do? It seeks to make restitution, making wrong things right. In Luke 19:8, Zaccheus a repentant tax collector, stood and said to Yahshua, "Behold, Elohim, the half of my goods I give to the poor and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him four-fold." Salvation had come to Zaccheus' house. A beloved leader of the flock, now deceased, made this statement, "The best testimony to repentance is ceasing from sin." This is certainly true, but the void must be filled with good things that glorify Yahweh; fruits of repentance.

There is a statement quoted in the past that said, "For almsgiving delivers from death, and it will purge away every sin." These come from the book of Tobit and are not counted as Scripture. No money given, as alms or otherwise can purchase salvation.

A verse, possibly misunderstood, in 2 Corinthians 9:9 says, "As it is written He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remains forever." This is speaking of Yahweh's goodness to man. Verse 10 speaks about how Yahweh will "multiply your seed sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness."

An older teenager had the following experience. He often felt the frustrations of the youth and struggled with a very real anger problem. On a Tuesday morning in the spring, he was heading toward the upper barn to throw down hay for the cattle. Walking inside, he saw his father doing the chores. Feeling led by an invisible hand, he went over to his father. Breaking down, he confessed his trouble and sins. The father was also in tears. This resulted in a restored relationship, and peace of mind for the young man.

Hidden sin is a hard master. But when Yahweh sees a person's desire to live a life dedicated to Him, he will not leave us in a sinful state but will work conviction till a confession is made.

One week the church services were held at a young minister's residence. The young minister felt the need to yield to the call of repentance. Today, he decided, will be the day of confession. His desire was to be loosened from his burden. In tears, he confessed his sins. He also said he'd be willing to take the ban upon himself if need be. The ministry said, "No, that is not necessary since you confessed it all to us and will also make a public confession before the congregation." Later others also made confessions, desiring to be more careful in the future.

My own father once advised me, "If you cannot attain peace by confessing your sin(s) personally to Yahweh, bring it before the congregation." What peace! What joy of being released from the condemnation of sin (Romans 8:1)!

Another shepherd of the flock (now deceased) told how the congregation was going through difficulties. One day he was cultivating corn. His mind was troubled by what he believed were inappropriate actions of others. As the corn zipped on underneath his seat, his frustration mounted. All of a sudden, a thought occurred to him. Maybe he himself was also at fault. Feeling a dire need to clear himself before his Maker, he stopped the horses, got off the cultivator, knelt down between the rows, and with tears confessed his incompleteness in understanding his own faults.

When Yahweh cleans out our closet, and the beam is removed out of our own eyes, it makes for a different vision. Salvation is rescue from sin, and its consequences. When one is alienated from Yahweh,

through repentance one can again become reconciled with Yahweh. We can be at peace. Thanks be to Yahweh.

Dear brother, sister and friend, if you are laden with secret and even obvious sins, allow the call of Yahweh to bring you to repentance. This is the peace of Yahweh which surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

A certain man challenged a minister why he continually preached that the blood of Yahshua cleanses us from all sin. "Just how, tell me, does His blood cleanse us?" The minister pondered a bit, and then asked the man, "Tell me, how does water take away your thirst?" The man thought and then said, "I don't know why but I know it does." The minister replied, "It is the same with Yahshua's blood why it altogether cleanses I cannot tell, but I know it does!"

We know and believe it does! Paul writes to the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 15:57, "But thanks be to Yahweh which giveth us the victory through our Elohim Yahshua Messiah." "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with Yahweh through our Elohim Yahshua Messiah: by whom we also have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in the hope of the glory of Yahweh" (Romans 5:1-2).

When we believe our sins are forgiven when we confess to a merciful Elohim—this is faith! A certain sister shared how she had confessed her sin a thousand times to Yahweh. Her listener advised that it would be better to confess her sin once, and thank Yahweh a thousand times for His forgiveness.

Yahshua said to the father of a stricken son, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." With tears the father answered, "I believe, help my unbelief" (Mark 9:23,24).

Yahweh will give power and strength to rid us of habitual sins if we are willing, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but Yahweh is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above what ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Many issues today in churches, marriages, schools, neighborhoods, and other social matters would be solved and settled if guilt-ridden souls would come before their Maker in repentance and live in the spirit of restitution and the Golden Rule.

When the clouds part and the great Shepherd of the sheep shall appear, our consciences will immediately tell us where we stand. Do you think we can live in sin and still escape judgment? There is something like having the conscience seared in as with a hot iron, being convicted over and over until the voice of the Holy Spirit is no longer heard and obeyed. One then becomes deaf to Yahweh's goodness that would lead us to repentance. In Romans 2 Paul writes about judging others, "For thou that judge another do the same thing." Do we despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and long suffering that Yahweh extends to others, not knowing that it is the goodness of Yahweh that also leads us to repentance?

We have mostly dwelt on the initial starting points, much as John the Baptist and Yahshua preached, "Repent! For the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Repenting and forsaking the sin of evil works will lead us toward the measure of the stature of the fullness of Messiah (Ephesians 4:13). May Yahweh's mercy and grace become a reality to all.

Covetousness—A Needless Sorrow

What really is covetousness? How do we define it? How seriously does Yahweh view it? In the Scriptures it is listed among the gross sins, and in Ephesians 5 it is called idolatry.

Is it a rare temptation for man, or is covetousness something that is very near to most of us? Someone once said that some form of it is present in most community and congregational problems.

How many forms do we find, and what are related sins that often go with covetousness? Words such as envy, lust, and love of money come to mind.

Let's look carefully at the danger of covetousness, in a way that each one of us can examine himself, and then we'll look at solutions or prevention.

We may not easily be tempted to the coarser forms such as stealing, or damaging someone's property, but what about wishing to also have things, or damaging someone's honor through slander? We can covet things other than wealth; for example, we can envy someone's position, reputation or honor.

In 1 Timothy 6 we read about wanting to be rich, and the hurtful lusts and drowning effects of wealth. We might think that this is a danger only for the rich, but it applies to us all; the poor can covet what others have.

Can we better examine ourselves if we consider whether our hearts have the "many sorrows" that come from coveting? DO we have needless sorrow and anxiety that keep us from rejoicing in Yahweh as we should?

In Numbers 11 it says that the people lusted and their sorrow was so great that they wept. Was it wrong to desire the healthy food that they were used to? **They were not desiring something wrong in itself, but it was not available, and instead of being thankful for what Yahweh was providing, they wept.** It was so displeasing to Yahweh that many died. Jacob 4 ad 5 also warn about lusting and not obtaining, or consuming it in lust, or living in pleasure wantonly.

In Galatians 5:26 we get an impression of envying or competing with each other. Perhaps this could include envying others' opportunities in life.

Simon, the sorcerer, offered money to "also have the power" but was sharply rebuked for the thought of his heart. The Scriptures give dishonesty as Ananias and Sapphira's greater sin, but likely there was also covetousness for honor.

In what subtle ways can covetousness be found among us in our day? If someone gets a new piece of equipment, or remodels his house or upgrades somehow, do I need to? Do I suffer sorrow if I cannot keep up with the Joneses?

Can we be liberal in giving without worrying that others may have more to give? Do those needing help and those giving it easily overlap, with those receiving feeling that they have received more than they need and those giving feeling as if they should do more? There can be danger on both sides.

Do we suffer sorrow when an inheritance is divided? If it is divided by lot or by choosing things in turn, are we easily satisfied with what we get? If it is sold in auction, do we give extreme prices, or do we sorrow if it is sold too high for us? How dear are earthly things to us? Do we know in our hearts that we

have a better substance in heaven (Hebrews 10:34)?

Do we give ourselves needless sorrow and care because we want an income that allows us to “also have” all that anyone else has, or can we be content with a simple life?

In our land of plenty, it is often difficult to measure by actual need, instead of by what others have. It is good when older families can be an example of contentment, not owning all they could afford, and when young couples are content to not own as much as a family with children, or strive for an income equal to older families.

Let’s consider Isaiah 5:8-9. Yahweh was mourning that the people were claiming more than their share of land and houses and were crowding out others. Let’s be careful not to crowd out our brother, be it in land or house or marketing crops. In Isaiah it also mentions “great and fair houses.” Does it point to man’s weakness to covet larger and nicer houses than actual need? Isaiah prophesied that the houses would become empty. Yahweh was saying the men of Judah would be carried away into captivity.

Do we see a version of this happening today? Perhaps we can successfully own many acres and nice houses, but when the children are grown, they covet more of this world and leave the faith. Then the house, in a sense, will be empty of faithful people. How sad if we as parents were at fault by desiring too much of the wrong things! Let me again point out that not only are the rich in danger, but also the poor who covet. Both will be giving a message to their children.

Surely, we can find much advice in the Scriptures to help us resist these temptations. In 1 Corinthians, we read that charity does not envy. This should prevent many sorrows. Next comes not being puffed up. This points us to humility; we are glad to see others honored. Yahweh can lift us up; we do not need to lift up ourselves.

“Love seeks not her own.” Elsewhere, we are told to not seek our own, but others’ wealth and welfare to edification. I so well remember when as a young man in a new community, another man went out of his way to help me market my crops. This is love “in deed and in truth” when we see such opportunities to help each other.

Next comes, “thinketh no evil.” Here is a place to start; to not even think covetous thoughts. Thoughts can cause us many regrets, or they can cause us so much gratitude and thankfulness, if our hearts feel free. Freely you have received, freely give.

In 1 Timothy 6, Paul tries to give us a vision of righteous contentment. Because we brought nothing into this world and take nothing out, we should be doing good, laying up a good foundation that we may lay hold on eternal life.

This teaches us to look on what is really important and not allow earthly things to cause us sorrow or to err from faith. Would’nt these things be easier in our lives if eternity seemed more real to us?

How You Could Be Tempted Without Knowing It



REPRINT Article by Leroy Neff

You may right now be tempted of Satan—and yet be totally unaware of it. You may even have yielded to this temptation—be sinning—and not knowing it!

Here's How

Deceived people do not know they are deceived. Believers are warned not to be deceived. This warning would not be necessary if believers never could be deceived. But this warning is necessary because you may be caught off guard and get into a wrong spirit or attitude without knowing it!

Before we were believing Satan had deceived each one of us in one way or another. In fact he has deceived the whole world (Rev 12: 9) and has blinded the minds of all unbelievers (2 Cor. 4:3-4).

Just how has he done this? Not only by the false religions of this world that appear right. Or by politics and worldly governments. Or by secret societies, lodges, fraternities and by “false science.”

But above all, he deceived each of us by appealing to our vanity, to our lusts and our carnal desires. He, before we believed, led us to accuse our neighbors, to talk behind the backs of others! Or the Devil let us become rejected, discouraged, seduced us to want to quit living! Yet he made it appear to be the right thing to do. We have all done what seems right to a man (Prov. 14:12).

But has Satan found since our conversion that he is no longer able to deceive us? No! Many of you, unaware of Satan's devices and wiles, are perhaps being caught off guard and yet you may not even know it! We need to learn of these Satanic devices, and not be ignorant of them. The Apostle Paul was not ignorant of Satan nor his devices, as we read: “For we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Cor. 2:11). Yet some believers still are!

Everyone has problems. At times some blame Yahweh or even brethren in the Congregation for these problems. We are not in a physical battle only but in a spiritual battle. The Apostle Paul explains it in Ephesians 6:12: “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness (that is wicked spirits) in high places.”

The Apostle Paul recognized Satan's devices and he knew when Satan hindered him. We have an example of this in 1 Thess. 2:18. Here Paul mentions that "Satan hindered us." When Satan hinders us today, we often blame physical conditions only. Some who are delayed or prevented from going to services on Sabbath, or to one of the Holy Days, blame the weather, financial problems, car trouble, or a host of other things. Satan is not recognized as a hindrance.

Yet Satan is angry with our congregation as the Apostle John reveals in Rev. 12:12. "Here is the body of Yahshua that keeps the commandments of Yahweh, and has the testimony of Yahshua." Satan is not angry with those who are still deceived by his many devices, but he is angry with you and with me. He is angry with the believers. He knows that he has but a short time left. He will do all he can to hinder this work, to hinder any of those in Yahweh's Congregation. It is his desire to sift us as wheat too (Luke 22:31), or to divide us against each other.

Signs of Satan

Just what are the signs or fruit of Satan's work? We can recognize the work of Yahweh by the fruits. They are the fruits of the Holy Spirit of Yahweh. But the fruits of Satan are entirely different. One of the "fruits" of Satan is found in Rev. 12:10. He is here called the accuser of the brethren. He accuses the saints before Yahweh day and night. But Satan does not stop there. He also accuses us to each other.

An example of Satan's accusation is found in Zech. 3:1. "And he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before Yahweh, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him." In this place, it means "accuse." A Lexicon will bring out this fact. Satan was here, not only resisting Joshua the high priest, but he was accusing him. Here was Satan at his annual business of accusing the brethren.

Satan does not appear in bodily form to accuse us before our brethren. If he did, believers would not be deceived by his devices. They would then know that the lies were coming from Satan. Instead, Satan puts thoughts in the mind against a brother. They appear very logical and right in every aspect. The thought of accusation seems entirely correct, and yet it has been devised by "the Father of Lies." He has twisted the facts in our minds so that they appear logical and right. Yet in almost 99 times out of 100, these accusations are completely wrong, and without actual basis.

Here is another example of Satan and his accusations. Why back in the Garden of Eden, he said (Gen 3:1), "Has Yahweh said?" Here Satan accused Yahweh. He was imputing wrong motives to Yahweh. He wanted Eve to think that Yahweh had made a mistake, or was unreasonable, or had not given due consideration to the problems of Adam and Eve. It appeared right in every respect to Eve. She was deceived, and yet she was wrong!

Has a thought ever come to your mind about a brother, "Has your brother said certain things?" If so, he had a wrong motive, your mind will reason—influenced by Satan or his demons. He was sinning. Satan may even use Scripture as he did to Yahshua in the fourth chapter of Luke. He may twist Scripture in accusing your brother before you.

You may think it is impossible for Satan to put such thoughts in your mind, but let's see what the Scriptures say about this. Notice 1 Chr. 21:1. "And Satan stood up against Israel." He is standing up against you and me! Satan provoked David to number Israel, a great sin in Yahweh's sight. And how did he do it? He first had to put a thought in David's mind. This thought appeared right and logical to

David. It was a way that seemed right to him. There were probably 1,001 reasons why it was the right thing to do, and yet it was wrong; it was sin.

Satan still does this today! Are you aware of such devices? Another example is in John 13:2. Notice—Satan put it into the “heart” of Judas. It must have seemed logical and right to Judas, so Judas too was deceived by the lies and logic of Satan the Devil.

When accusations come to our mind against a brother, they appear logical and reasonable. Satan would not make them appear any other way. We may have such accusations come to our mind against a brother, against Yahweh’s ministers, or against the Congregation as a whole. But they are almost always wrong.

Satan or his demons put wrong thoughts in our minds. Instead of putting these thoughts out immediately, some continue to think about it and dwell upon it. Then this idea within us grows and brings forth fruit—sin and evil. Instead of bringing every thought into captivity, our thoughts take us captive (2 Cor. 10:5).

If a thought of accusation comes to your mind against a brother, you should put it out of your mind immediately, unless you are certain that the person involved is sinning. Then if you believe that the person is sinning, you must go to him and point out his fault immediately (Matt. 18:15-17).

Another very effective device of Satan is discouragement. If we are obedient to Yahweh in everything and yet become hopelessly discouraged, Satan has won his battle. He has caused some to come to the point where they no longer even wanted to live—where they felt it would be better to die, since that would give them rest from their problems, than to continue on under such a terrific load.

The book of Job gives us some valuable lessons on this. Notice what happened. In the first chapter it is recorded that Satan appeared before Yahweh. Yahweh asked Satan if he had considered His servant Job. Yahweh pointed out the good points in Job, how that there was none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man that feared Yahweh and shunned evil. Is that the way we do, when we look at our brother in the Congregation? Do we look at the good points, or do we follow the example of Satan? He accused Job, saying, “Does Job fear Yahweh for nothing?” Here was Satan at his job of accusing!

You know the result of this accusation. Satan afflicted Job with severe boils or ulcers, and this, after he had taken everything away from Job. Now if you were in the place of Job, what would you say? Would you say, “Yahweh is punishing me?” Or would you say, “Satan is hindering me?” When troubles beset you, are you quick to blame Yahweh for it instead of acknowledging that Satan and his demons are fighting against you, or that you may be suffering from your own carnal sins?

In the third chapter of Job we find how discouraged Job became. He was sorry for the day that he was born, wishing he had never been born. He said that he would like to receive death, since in death there is rest.

Have you ever felt like that? If so, you can be sure that Satan was at work. But, if this has ever happened to you, did you think it was Satan that caused it, or did you blame the physical circumstances involved only? It is time to be aware of these Satanic devices.

It is absolutely necessary that we recognize the works of Satan and his demons. Otherwise, how can we fight against them? Then, when we recognize that our warfare is with these unclean spirits, we should follow the examples and instructions given in the Bible. Yahshua commanded Satan to get behind Him (Matt. 16:23).

Most of us are afraid of Satan and his demons and yet the exact opposite should be so! Notice Jac. 4:7: "Submit yourselves therefore unto Yahweh. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." Have you resisted Satan when he came against you? Or did you shrink back in fear, letting Satan win the victory?

How to Fight

The Apostle Paul actually says the same thing, notice Eph. 4:27: "*Neither give place to the devil.*" In other words, don't give in, or fall backward in your warfare against Satan. Satan is going about as a roaring lion seeking whom he can devour, and he is devouring many by his deceit, by his accusations, and by his lies. Peter tells us, "*Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*" (1 Pet. 5:9). Are you resisting, and are you steadfast in the faith?

Finally, we must put on the whole armor of Yahweh (Eph. 6:13). Do you have the whole armor of Yahweh (Eph. 6:14-18)? Do you have the truth of Yahweh, or are you still somewhat deceived by your former teachings? Do you have the righteousness which is obedience to Yahweh? Do you have the "true gospel," which is the gospel of peace, or one of strife and trouble? Do you have faith? You must have it in order to fight off these wicked spirits. You must have the helmet of salvation, or complete repentance of your sins, baptism, and Yahweh's Spirit. Then you must have the sword of the Spirit which is the word of Yahweh, not just by carrying your Bible with you, but making Yahweh's Word a very part of your being. You must study and learn what it says and then obey it.

In addition to all of these things, you must pray always—and watch! You must watch world events; you must be ever watchful for the work of Satan and his demons. The only way that you will be able to recognize these works are by the fruits of what is happening. With this armor, and firm resistance, you will win your battle over Satan and his demons. If you lack in any of these "weapons," cry out to Yahweh, ask Him in faith believing and He will supply what you lack or need.

You need to be aware that the accusations which may come to your mind, are probably used by Satan or his demons. You need to put these wrong thoughts out immediately, bringing them into captivity. Do not become discouraged through the work of Satan. As you look back now, you may see where Satan has used you, with his lies and accusations.

You may have falsely accused your brother in your mind, even possibly telling others. That is behind now. You should not be deceived any longer. You should recognize this Satanic device and not be deceived by it again.

Can you now say with the Apostle Paul—"We are not ignorant of Satan or his devices?"

Improvement Begins with an “I”

Relationships between fathers and their children is something that seems to be lacking in a lot of our homes. Before his passing, my brother wrote a saying on our barn door that applies very well here: “Improvement begins with an ‘I.’” We need to understand there is no way to have a good relationship with our children if we ourselves are not respectful and submissive to our heavenly Father. We have nothing of ourselves, but we give to our children what we receive.

One of the first steps is to recognize and admit that we have shortcomings. I had the privilege of talking with someone about their inner struggles, and I was told, “I never heard my dad apologize. I never heard him say he was sorry.” We know there is no such thing as a perfect dad who never makes mistakes. How can we teach our children to apologize if we don’t show them in practice. Our actions speak so loudly that they can’t hear what we say.

Let me relate some experiences of my own. I am not proud to admit that one of my challenges is with impatience, often followed by anger and frustration. This is one way that many children’s hearts are wounded. Someone brought to my attention this very real problem, this thorn in my flesh, and I earnestly sought answers through fasting and prayer. I pled with Yahweh to show me what this problem looks like to Him. Is it something that I will be able to overcome with Yahweh’s help, or do I need to seek help from someone else? I cried out to Yahweh and was helped to realize a few things. Our enemy is a serpent, seeking ways to destroy us through many different methods. He can come through people who influence us in a wrong way. This brings out another point that is very important to me. Yahweh hates sin in any form, but He still loves the sinner.

How can I prevent my struggles from being passed on to the next generation? I asked Yahweh to just take my struggles away, and His answer was no. I realized that each time I slip, it is my choice to either shift the blame to circumstances or to some other person, or I can admit that I sinned and that it was wrong for me to react this way once I admit that I can apologize. Every time I apologize and a wrong is made right, another victory is won and I am given more strength to resist evil. Every time that happens, the strength of the serpent will ebb away. Until finally he will have no strength left, that means victory!

It is humbling to apologize to our own children and spouse, but it is a great help every time we go through another trial to put to death our carnal nature and feel that relationships have been strengthened. I meet up with many people, and it is sobering how many people view Yahweh. Most times you can ask a person what kind of relationship he has, or had with his dad, and you will have a good idea what his view of Yahweh is like.

We fathers represent Yahweh to our little children, whether we realize it or not. We are called to be representatives of Yahshua. Our children will subconsciously view Yahweh as being like their father. There are times when the mother can create damage in a child’s heart, but you will also find that somewhere there was also a father-child relationship that was lacking.

Is this trying to put the blame for our shortcomings onto our fathers’ shoulders? No, but in order to be able to improve anything, it helps to understand what caused the problem. We will need to take inventory of our hearts and try with Yahweh’s help and discernment to get a picture of what our hearts really contain, what do we have to pass on to the next generation? We all have something. Study 2 Corinthians 3-5. Every battle that the Israelites fought while traveling through the wilderness is now

being replayed in our day, but in a spiritual sense. We walk in flesh, but our war is not in the flesh. The weapons of our warfare cannot be with sword and shield; they have to be mighty through Yahweh to the pulling down of strongholds that Satan has in people's hearts, generation after generation. Only one power surpasses the power of our enemy, and that is the power of Yahweh.

We will need to cast down every high thing that exalts itself against Yahweh and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Messiah. We need to turn the battle over to Yahshua and only listen and act according to His commands. If you desire a good relationship between yourself and your family, consider the saying, "Improvement begins with an 'I'."

Remember when Yahshua came into the Temple and it was changed into a real marketplace. What did Yahshua do? He made a whip, went in amidst the din, and drove them out! The Temple had to be cleansed. There was no way they could have a worship service in the middle of such confusion.

We can also read in the Scriptures that we are considered the temple of the Holy Spirit. If we take a closer look, we will probably find things in our temple that are not fruits of the Holy Spirit. We are human; all have sinned and come short of the glory of Yahweh. The first step is to recognize what is in our temple. Do I feel afraid, anxious, depressed, suppressed, unappreciated, unloved?

Why didn't Yahshua send his disciples into the Temple to do the dirty work of driving out the people? It was because nobody else had the authority except Yahshua Himself. That still is the way it is. Once we recognize issues in our temple, we will need to ask Yahshua to pick up His whip, search our hearts and drive out the evil. Let us say with David, "Create in me a clean heart, O Yah, and renew a right spirit within me." We are asking Him to create in us a clean heart. This might include a process that doesn't exactly feel good to us, but if that is what Yahweh sees it takes, then it's what we need. Ask Him to replace the wickedness with the fruit of the Spirit. Ask for a heart that is filled with love and compassion.

Have we ever considered the damage caused by toxic relationships? Do we have any idea how many people struggle through life because of a poor relationship with their father and mother, father and son, or father and daughter? Maybe it is time we take a good look in the mirror and ask ourselves, "Would we be satisfied if Yahweh treated me the way I treat my son or daughter?"

Fathers, you will give your families what you are, whether it is good or bad. If you struggle, quit blaming your problems on your parents. It may be true that through the example you saw while growing up will have a huge impact, but as long as we blame our shortcomings on others, we will be stuck in a rut with no hope of anything different.

I believe we are dealing with many strongholds in our day and age. Let us take heart from the passage in Luke 4:6. Satan offered to give Yahshua the power and glory of the world, if Yahshua would bow down and worship him. Satan told Yahshua, "It is mine, and I give it to whomever I want." In obedience to Yahweh, Yahshua rejected Satan's offer. Yahweh had something much better. If your dad had habits that you recognize were not good, it is up to you to take responsibility and with Yahweh's help, reject what Satan offers and choose a better path. Fathers, let us join hands and fight the good fight with the full armor of Yahweh surrounding us. Let's always remember, "Improvement starts with an 'I.'"



Answers to Your Questions

Q) If the technical time for the equinox was after the technical time for the New Moon for the first month in 2026, why did the COYJ not add an extra month?

A) In 2026, the equinox occurs on the first day of the new month, and although the new moon is a few hours before the technical time of the equinox, since it happens on the **same day**, that would be day one of the new year and month of Aviv as the **“DAY”** of the equinox is the first day of spring, and from sunset when the day begins the old winter is over.

Remember, as where the conjunction happens for a few minutes as the moon continues to move just like an eclipse, the equinox is a much slower movement, and even though web sites put an exact time for the equinox, this is not accurate and it is really a one-to-two-day movement to really see a potential move, which takes place once a year to divide winter from summer. The modern definition they use is manmade.

The equinox is really a **matter of a day more than the matter of a few minutes**, and the day of the equinox is the first day spring/summer. So if it's also the first day of the new month, it would have to be Aviv. Otherwise, adding an additional month would throw off all the agriculture cycle for the entire year having Passover in May and Sukkot in November.

In ancient times, people would not have known today's technical definition what is claimed as the exact time of the equinox, (which they have changed over the years). However, they would know the **signs of the “DAY” of the equinox** with no shadow to the sundial and observers at the equator will see the sun directly overhead at noon. Also, on the DAY of the equinox the sun rises due east and sets due west for all people on the earth to witness!

All these physical signs for normal people show that the day of the equinox is the turning of the year from winter to summer. In a perfect world, one would think that **every year on the day of the equinox would be the first day of Aviv and the New Year** since winter has ended, but we know the calendar and the earth's wobble have changed.

Since this changing of the equinox from winter to summer happens on day one of the new month, that month would have to be called Aviv, as winter has passed and summer is now here.

With the equinox, which cycle runs for a whole year, the overlapping time is the whole day of the equinox. Again, the modern technical definition of the equinox is when the exact center radius of the sun passes the equator. However, since **the sun is moving so slow, the process of the actual sun passing the equator will take several days. To the naked eye, one could not tell the difference for at least one full day.** For this reason, that is why the equinox is a once-a-year **daily** event. Likewise, although the moon cycle also has a technically actual time to the minute for conjunction, in reality there is also about a 15 to 20 minute overlapping time to the naked eye that also has to be taken into account.

If the equinox happened the next day after sunset (day two of the new month), you would add the extra month. However, as long as **the equinox and new moon happen on the same day**, it would have to be Aviv 1, since that new moon day was also the day of the equinox.

Stand by the roads,
look, and ask for the
ancient paths, where
the good way is; and
walk in it, and find rest
for your souls.

Jer. 6:16

