

**SWORD OF YAHUAH**  
**An End-time Story of Hope**  
Gilbert W Olson

To all who want to be what Yahuah created them to be, and to do what he created them to do, especially in these last days as Messiah is preparing his bride for the rapture.

I thank my pastor, Douglas A. Morris, for his teachings that are the inspiration for this story. I thank my wife, Beverly, for her input and proofreading.

Some of the songs and poems in this writing are the author's, but most are adapted from anonymous sources. Whoever you are, thank you.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotes are translations of this author. Some notable differences are using Elohim for God, Yahuah for the LORD, Yahushua for Jesus, Master for Lord, favor for grace, set-apart for holy, and stake for cross. Scripture quotes that are noted are used by permission.

This is a work of fiction with a spiritual message. Any resemblance to persons living or deceased is coincidental. Any error or misinterpretation of doctrine herein is the sole responsibility of the author.

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### **Your destiny**

“I’m the captain of my fate,”  
the foolish sailor cried.  
A wave arose and swallowed him whole,  
and thus our sailor died.  
Life’s not our own  
to do with as we please.  
Heaven above’s our eternal home.  
Only there we’ll be at ease.  
But if we follow our desire  
to do as we would please,  
then our fate is eternal fire,  
where there is no ease.

### **Born again not enough**

“I’m born again and good to go,”  
said the virgin by the sea.  
“Not so,” said He. “More’s required of thee.”  
So left behind was she.  
Had she prepared to deeper go,  
a relationship sweet and whole,  
loving Him with all her heart,  
then for sure she’d go.  
The foolish maid, selfish was she,  
thinking religion is all.  
But what our Savior wants  
is our all-in-all.  
The maid who’s wise prepares to go  
by loving with all her heart.  
A relationship is what we need,  
so’s never to depart.  
Matthew 25:1-13

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*“Do not think that I came to send peace on the earth. I did not come to send peace, but a sword.” Matthew 10:34 (NASU)*

*“The word of Elohim is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from his sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” Hebrews 4:12-13*

### **One: Olaf’s Fish House Bible Study Fellowship**

**M**ONDAY! Jacob Starr crawled out of his bed in his third-story two-bedroom apartment and looked at himself in the bathroom mirror. A forty-year-old face wearing a day’s growth of mouse-brown stubble on a tall athletic frame peered at him with sleepy eyes. The mop of tousled hair on his head added to his mood of self-pity.

*Today I am forty years old, and what do I have to show for it?* he said to himself. *I own a business that’s doing well, so well that I’m not needed. I could expand and make more money. That would keep me busy, but what’s the point? I could sell the business and retire, and do what? Is this my midlife crisis?*

He shook himself, showered and shaved—he liked smelling nice and having a clean-shaven face—and went into his other bedroom which served as his home office. His joy was his guitar. For relaxation he would lean back, strum some chords, and sing whatever came to mind in his rich, baritone voice. Aloud he said, “I’m going to sell my company, get me a wife who can also play guitar and sing, buy a house, and change my life.” Jake put his business expertise to use.

Once he had a goal, he was persistent in it until it was achieved. None of his female acquaintances fit what he wanted, so he searched the web; and in the process an ad popped up that grabbed his attention. It said, “Filipino women wanting to marry Americans.” *This sounds interesting*, he thought, and the more he read, the more interesting it got. The program matched you with those having similar interests. So he advertised himself on the site with his picture and a video clip of him

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singing while playing his guitar: “Tall bachelor wanting a wife who likes singing and playing the guitar. Send video showing your ability.”

He was surprised at the number of matches. Evidently guitar playing and singing were popular in the Philippines. How well they could do it was the question. Of them all, the clip sent by Maria dela Cruz grabbed his heart. Her looks were average, but her singing with the guitar and with the electronic keyboard was like angels from heaven. The fact that she was ten years his junior didn’t bother either of them. Thus began their courtship via the internet.

One month later: “What did you say?” asked Milt incredulously, a sandwich halfway to his mouth. He, with other supervisors of Five Starr Moving and Storage, were having their lunch break. Jake smiled, pleased with their reaction. “I said, I’m going to the Philippines to get a wife. Her name is Maria dela Cruz, ten years younger than I, and works as a CPA with a USA firm and is fluent in several languages. I only know English and Spanish. After coming here she wants to start her own CPA business. I also have a buyer for my company: Lincoln Movers. They’re expanding and say they’ll keep you on.”

“Did you order her from Amazon?” laughed Lenny.

“I know this is a surprise to you all,” Jake said. “I’m leaving in two weeks. December and January are the coolest months, highs in the mid-seventies. It’s also the dry season. The wedding is planned for the Saturday after Christmas. This is my Christmas present to myself.”

“Do you love her?” asked Lenny.

“Yes, very much so. She has a large family, and the wedding will be there.”

Another said, “I heard that it’s common for Filipino women to marry Americans just so they can get to America, then they divorce after two years.”

“We talked about that,” responded Jake. “She said her plan is for life, unless something happens that destroys the marriage—the bubble pops, as she put it. I’m in the process now of moving out of my apartment and buying a house. I have a picture of her in my cell phone. Take a look.”

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“Welcome to the Philippines,” said Maria after Jake had passed through customs. The airline had brought him in about midnight local time. “In

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our language we say ‘*Mabuhay*,’ which means ‘live.’ This is my brother, Gabriel. He’ll help with the luggage.”

“Pleased to meet you,” said Gabriel. “She’s said a lot about you.”

“We got the car rental you wanted,” said Maria. “How was the flight?”

“Flights, plural, would be more accurate. One to Los Angeles, the longest to Narita, Japan, and then to here. All in all, close to twenty four hours counting layovers. I’m thankful for first class, so I slept much of the air time. It could take a week to overcome jet lag, but I’ll do my best and try to stay awake during the day.”

Gabriel did the driving from the airport through the chaotic Manila traffic to the hotel Jake had booked, then left them to return to his home in the mountains. Maria had advised this one on Roxas Blvd. for its security, swimming pool and view that overlooked Manila Bay.

“*Maganda umaga*,” said Maria the next morning at breakfast. “That’s Tagalog for ‘good morning,’ or, in Ilocano where I’m from, *Naimbagna bigat*. Today’s schedule is to show you the sights in Manila and some of the cuisine. One thing you have to try is balut, a Pilipino delicacy.”

“You told me about it,” Jake said. “A boiled duck embryo. You eat it bones, feathers and all. It should be interesting. You do the driving. Where I’m from the streets are quiet and orderly.”

“I don’t want to tire you out,” she said, “so we’ll just go to a few places: a couple of parks and a mall. Tomorrow we’ll go to Pagsanjan Falls, a busy must-see tourist attraction, especially this time of year. I’ve already made reservations for the canoe ride. You’ll want to be wearing a swimsuit and have an umbrella.”

The next day Jake learned why. The canoe was motorized, and the river in December was still deep enough over the rapids so the guides didn’t have to get out and push the boat over the rocks, and he was glad for the umbrella to keep off the fierce noonday sun heat. Several villages lined the river, with children playing in the water and women washing their clothes in it.

Finally their canoe reached the landing for the falls and they joined several others tied to the pier. A short walk up the stone steps brought them to the pool carved out by the falls.

“Do you want to swim first,” asked Maria, “or wait for our turn to take the raft ride through the falls to the cave behind it? The water coming down seems crushing.” He chose to wait.

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After a few days in the Manila area, they headed for the mountains to the north and Maria's home village. Maria stayed there while Jake lodged in a hotel in the city located in the valley. After Maria introduced Jake to all her many relatives, she introduced him to the pastor. "This is Pastor Ryan," she said. "He's new since I left and will do the ceremony."

"Pleased to meet you," said Ryan. "I'm happy for Maria. May your marriage and children be blessed."

Food for the wedding feast was plentiful, which included pork and dog meat. Two days later they were honeymooning at a beach resort on the South China Sea with its bathtub-warm water, and its tiny invisible jellyfish. "Vinegar will help if you're stung," informed Maria. "Most of these resorts are run by Australians. Foreigners can't own property, so they marry Pilipinas who can."

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"Darling," said Maria, "two ladies are coming to the door carrying something." They were in America in their new home in one of the many suburban subdivisions that Middleton had to offer.

"Good evening," said one of the two ladies when Jake opened the door. "We've come to welcome you to our neighborhood and give you a little gift. I'm Margaret Banner and this is Sofia Schneider."

"Please come in," said Maria. "We are still in the process of moving in, so please excuse the mess. I'm Maria Starr and this is my husband Jake. What is this gift?"

"It's some cookies I baked," said Sofia, "and some coupons and information about our community. We have no official welcoming committee, but we do our best." Both ladies looked to be in their late fifties or early sixties. Soon the four were seated around the dining table with a large picture window looking out on the back yard. A recent snowfall had flocked the evergreens and blanketed the lawn. Footprints of some quail and squirrels gave evidence of life looking for food. Maria had fixed coffee for the three and had tea for herself.

"Nice cookies," said Maria. "Tell us about the coupons."

Margaret laid them out on the table: a free car wash, two burgers for the price of one, two free coffees, and a discount at the cleaners. "Besides these coupons," she said, "this is a list of churches in the area, and this is an invitation to Olaf's Fish House Bible Study Fellowship."

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“Tell me about this fellowship,” said Maria. One of her plans was to be involved in as many groups as possible. She wanted to know the people and for them to know her. She was an outgoing, vivacious people-person; a five-foot, two-inch slim, brown-skinned, black haired, dark-eyed bundle of energy, looking for potential contacts for when she started her business.

“It meets at Olaf’s Fish House on Sunday evenings,” answered Sofia. “There’s a banquet hall at the back overlooking a garden and fishpond. The garden, of course, is covered with snow now, but a heater in the pool keeps the fish active. Everyone brings a Bible and we talk about different subjects that interest us.”

“Is there a leader?” asked Jake, becoming involved. “And what about the relationship of this fellowship to the various churches?”

“We are totally independent,” replied Margaret, “not officially connected with any church or organization. This way we are free to talk on any subject without being forced into one particular church doctrine. Those who attend are from various churches, and some from none. We do have a leader, though, or moderator: Brother Abe. His real name is Aaron Ben Eker, so ABE are his initials. He’s a real character, as black as ebony, as old as the hills, and attends Bible Assembly of Middleton, a Pentecostal church. Because of the initials, some people call those who go there Bammers. Do either of you go to a particular church?”

“I don’t,” Jake said. “I’ve never been to one; never saw the need. What about you, Babe?”

“Filipinos are mostly Catholic,” said Maria. “But that’s in the lowlands. In the mountains, where I’m from, most who are Christians are Protestants. Headhunters kept the priests away during the Spanish occupation, but when America took over after the Spanish American War, Protestant missionaries came. I was raised a Methodist, but stopped going to church when I went to college in Manila. I’m very much interested in seeing what this fellowship is like. Thanks for the invitation.”

“What do you think?” asked Maria after the guests were gone. “Are you game to go?”

He looked at her fondly, debating how to answer. “I’m not ready. But you go and tell me about it. The problem is, I know nothing about Christianity or what’s in the Bible. So I want to do some research first. We’ve never discussed religion before; it seems now is the time. I have no

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problem with you being a Christian and being involved in Christian activities, which, evidently, stopped when you left home and went away to college. This tells me, it seems to me, that it wasn't important to you, that it wasn't really a part of your life, that it was just a religious activity. Am I right?"

Maria was startled. She had never seen him this serious before; it had always been fun time. Her face clouded as she thought about the question. *Will this cause the bubble to burst?* She had been told that religion can either make or break a marriage, and that a believer should not be unequally yoked by marrying an unbeliever. *But am I truly a believer? Evidently I'm not, for, if I were, then I wouldn't have stopped.* Finally she answered: "You're right. It was just a family religious thing, doing tradition."

"Tell me about it," he said.

So long ago! She pulled her mind back into time. *What was it like?* "Most of the mountain people are pagans" she said. "That is, they do rituals to spirits to keep evil away. They used to be headhunters, but not anymore. That made us Christians different, because we don't do pagan rituals. We believe in Jesus, that he died for our sins so we won't be sent to hell; and if we believe in him, then when we die we go to heaven. So I believed in him. But I see now it was just intellectual and cultural."

"What were the meetings like?"

"Pretty much like the wedding," she answered. "Singing a few songs about Jesus and God, announcements of activities coming up, giving an offering of money, a sermon or message from the Bible, and then a closing song. I mostly remember stories from the Bible. The big plus was learning the morality God requires. This kept me from drugs, alcohol, tobacco, stealing, and sex before marriage. ... Oh! I remember, I was baptized after I accepted Jesus as my savior. I think I was thirteen at the time."

"Tell me about the baptism, the purpose and such."

"I remember the water was cold. I stood in the water up to my chest, and the pastor pushed me backwards into the water while I held my nose, and he said, 'I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,' then pulled me upright again. It symbolizes that my old life is dead and buried and my new life has begun. ... So, come to think of it, I am a Christian, but a lukewarm one, which is worse than not being a Christian at all. Definitely I'm a backslidden Christian. Come to think of it, if I'm backslidden then I'm better than being lukewarm, which is going



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through the motions of being a Christian—going to church and such—but living as the rest of the world.”

“Why is lukewarm worse than not being a Christian at all?” he asked.

“Jesus said it is better to be cold or hot than lukewarm, because if you’re lukewarm you know more but aren’t following through. The more you know, the more God requires of you, and if you don’t do the more you know, then your eternal judgment will be worse. But, come to think of it, I do know more, so I guess I’m lukewarm also.”

“Do you still believe all that?” he asked, eyebrows raised.

“I don’t know. I haven’t thought anything about Christianity since I left home to go to college.”

“Why do you want to go to this fellowship?” he probed. “Is it so you can renew your faith?”

“You sure know how to get to the root of the matter! To be honest, no. It never entered my mind. I was thinking of making friends and contacts for future use when I start my CPA business—purely selfish. ... Yawn! ... It’s getting late. What say we get ready for bed and talk about it again tomorrow.” With that she jumped up to leave.

“Not so fast, Babe,” he said. “One more thing. This is serious, really serious. If what you say is true, if this has eternal consequences, if there is a heaven and a hell after death, then we need to discuss what changes we need to make in our lives. I’m not talking just about going to that fellowship. I’m talking about a whole life focus. ... Okay, you can go and I’ll join you in the shower.”

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“What are you thinking, Hun?” asked Maria the next morning. They were eating their usual breakfast of orange juice, sausage links and French toast topped with maple syrup.

“Let me tell you more about myself,” he said. “Religion was not part of my growing up. None of my relatives I know, nor any of my neighbors, went to church. Church was just a club where some people went, but most didn’t. We did have moral principles, though. My dad was a hard worker. I am an only child. The day after I graduated from college with a business major, both my parents died in an auto accident—one of the graduates who had been partying too much. The large life insurance they had and the large settlement from the accident insurance helped me start my own business.

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“Whatever I do,” he continued, “I try to excel in it. You are the same way. You set a goal, and go for it. When I decided to get married, I determined to excel in it, to be the kind of husband a wife would want. I’m not content with just being married. I want it to be a good marriage.

“Now, as to this fellowship thing,” he said. “I’m going to investigate what Christianity is. I was surprised at the list of churches given to us. It seems like a car dealership choosing what fits you best. If Christianity is true and the Bible is true, then why the variety? You’re a Methodist, or was one, and spoke of being different from Catholics. What’s the difference? I need to buy a Bible. I’d like you to help me choose; and you will need one also. I didn’t see any in your stuff. Then I’m going to start reading it, and check online for comments on what I read. When I have enough understanding, at least of the basics, then I’ll check out the Fellowship, and perhaps some of the churches. If I decide this Christian thing is the real deal, then I’m going for it all out. Also, I would like you to go to the Fellowship and let me know what you think. How does that sound?”

### **Two: Born-again and Spirit-filled**

**T**HE FISH TASTES DIFFERENT,” Maria observed to her husband. They had come early to Olaf’s Fish House to eat before the Fellowship meeting.

“I believe this is cod,” he replied, “and the seasoning they use. Notice the lack of bones. Your milk fish are terrible—many unconnected tiny bones throughout all the flesh. Tasty, though,” he added.

“So this is your bride,” came a hearty voice.

“Olaf!” replied Jake, seeing the large Swede. “It’s been awhile. Maria, this is Olaf Swensen, the owner of this restaurant. Olaf, meet Maria, my bride from the Philippines.”

Olaf reached over and shook her small hand with his large meaty one. “Welcome to the United States of America, my dear. You have conquered the heart of a confirmed bachelor. I heard that you two might be coming to the Fellowship tonight, and glad you could make it. You are here for the meeting, right?”

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“Just my wife this time,” laughed Jake. “The confirmed bachelor has fallen. So you’re the sponsor of this Fellowship. Are you perchance a confirmed Christian?”

“I am indeed! Confirmed at confirmation in the Swedish Lutheran Church, and now a confirmed born-again believer. You need to get out more, Jake, and discover a whole new world of living. The door to the banquet room is open, so you can go in any time. Did you like your dinner?”

“Very good,” said Maria.

“This is Swedish cooking,” he replied, “and I bet it tasted quite a bit different from your Filipino cooking, right?” She nodded assent. “Come again for other dishes. We have a variety. And Jake, your dinner is on us, a wedding present for you two.” As he left, he muttered, “Who would have thought Jake a married man?!”

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“How was the meeting?” asked Jake when Maria returned. He had remained at his table getting to know his Bible.

“Brother Abe is a lively person,” she said. “He was sort of like a moderator. It was a follow-up of last week’s meeting. On the basis of what was discussed last week, they were to look up certain verses and come back with their conclusions. The topic was marriage, what the Bible says about it, how husbands and wives are to treat each other, and how to act in the case of failure on one part or the other, or both parts. You should have come, then we could discuss how it applies to our marriage. ... No, I change that. I should have said, ‘I wish you had come.’ Saying ‘you should have come,’ might be construed as a complaint or a blame.”

“Very interesting,” he replied. “I suppose it depends on the tone of voice being used, whether it’s a wish or a blame or a pleading or whatever. I will observe what you do and how you act, and you tell me whether it could be better or it’s just fine. How does that sound to you?”

Because she was silent for a bit, thinking of how to answer, he continued, “Was there any reference to how their answers fit with Christianity?”

“All the discussion was based on the Bible, which is the basis of Christianity. I discovered that this is a private fellowship, by invitation only. There is an emphasis on harmony. Differences of opinion are allowed, but only when presented in a polite way, like discussing what

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the weather might be the next day—agree to disagree—that sort of thing. No acrimony or trying to force your idea on another. ... To change the subject, how was your Bible reading? Did you find anything you want to share?”

“Very interesting,” he said again, a common reply of his. “The more I read, the more I wanted to read. It’s not like reading a novel, not even close. It’s telling a history of what God did with his people, starting with creation. Do you believe he did it in six literal days? More to the point, do you believe this is God’s book for mankind, that it’s all true?”

“I don’t know. It’s getting late. Let’s go home, do our bedtime routine, and talk tomorrow.” She could feel herself getting angry, angry at him and at the questions, just what she was supposed to *not* do, according to the fellowship discussions.

“I’m sorry,” he said. “I didn’t mean to upset you. I’m just asking questions, like discussing the weather. There’s so much I don’t know, and I’m hoping you can help me.” They talked no more on the way home, and their intimacy that night was a sweet relief, all tension gone.

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“Get up, sleepy head,” called Maria cheerfully. “Waffles, links and fried eggs on the menu this Monday morning. Topping choices are butter, syrup, honey, applesauce and whipped cream.”

After small talk at the table she opened the subject. She knew from last night at Olaf’s that Jake wasn’t going to say anything, and she so much wanted to talk about it. “I’m sorry for being testy last night,” she said. “Forgive me?”

“Of course. I guess I’m used to thinking academically without emotion, not considering how the subject might affect others. I’m not locked into the subject of Christianity enough to be emotional about it, but I can tell that you are. Tell me about it. I want to know what you’re feeling and, if you can, why.”

“Let’s finish eating and take care of the dishes first,” she said, “then sit in the living room.”

“How to start?” she began, leaning forward when they were seated by the fireplace. “The fellowship meeting last night at Olaf’s brought me back to that little Methodist church in the mountains where I grew up. Memories of playing, laughing, singing and praying swept over me. Of commitments I made, of wanting to please my Savior in all that I do. Of

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Nanay—that's Tagalog for Mom—praying for me when I went off to college. How could I have strayed so far from the path?!"

She paused to blow her nose and wipe her tears. "I was all torn up inside in that meeting, struggling with my life's choices, and still struggling when you asked me those questions. I wasn't yet ready to answer them. But I am now.

"After you fell asleep I went into my office and prayed, recommitting myself to God, to be and do whatever he wants me to. Yes, I believe the Bible is true, all of it, including the six literal, 24-hour days of creation. I believe Jesus is the Son of God who came to die for our sins so we may have our sins forgiven and be reconciled to God, and that by belonging to him—the old life dead and the new life begun—we are born again, are in his kingdom, and are required to further his kingdom. How this will play out in our marriage and in my career plans for the future I don't know, but God knows and will lead me."

After a pause, she continued, "There; that's it. I'm ready now for any questions you have and will answer them to the best of my ability. You are my husband, and I will support you in whatever way you want, so long it's not against God's will." She sat back, waiting for his response.

After a long pause, thinking of what to say, he said, "Thank you for being up front about it. So I have a born-again, Bible-believing wife now! What will you do if I don't join you in your belief? I'm not saying I won't, just asking."

"It won't change anything. I will love you regardless and will be to you what God wants me to be. And, of course, I'll be praying that you do join me, and that my life will be such that you will want to join me. One thing I won't allow, though, is abuse or adultery, which includes pornography. I don't expect it, but in the event it does—no one knows the future—it's divorce. That's the burst bubble."

"Maria, I love you, and I like you being so honest. Some questions come to my mind, though. First, will you start going to church again, which one, and why that one? There seem to be many choices besides the Methodist. Second, connected to that, what are the differences between the churches, and why the differences? Finally, and this is the big one, I want to be able to ask you questions about what I'm reading in the Bible, and I plan to read through it all. You mentioned born again. I want to understand what that means."

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“I’ll do the best I can,” she said. “And I’ll be reading also, especially where you are reading. Actually, my knowledge of the Bible is very small, so I’ll be learning with you. And, just as a reminder, I leave at ten for my appointment with Donner Accounting Services, and then I go in for my CPA test. What’s on your docket today?”

“Bible and business. How do you like your Ford Mustang?”

“Love it! Driving here isn’t nearly the challenge as it is over there. Here, though, I have to remember to wait for oncoming traffic when following someone who’s turning left. I should be back sometime in the afternoon and have dinner ready by six.”

“You asked last night,” said Jake, “what I was reading in the Bible. The Bible I got is NIV and has study notes in it and an index for certain topics. I looked up two passages under creation. I have them bookmarked so I can find them easily. The first is in Psalm 19.” He turned there and read:

“ ‘The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.’

“This is talking about the stars and everything else we see in the sky. The other passage is in Romans chapter one, verses eighteen to twenty-five:

“ ‘The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God

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for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

“ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.’

“Finally, which makes a third passage, this verse hit me. It’s in Psalm 14:

“ The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.’

“So after you leave, I’m going to pray and make some decisions. What those verses say makes sense, which means the whole evolution thing is just science fiction. I’ve always known it was, for everything in that belief goes against the laws of nature. Life cannot come from nonlife: a scientific impossibility. The same with the Big Bang: also a scientific impossibility. Truly, the one who says there is no God is a fool and is deceiving himself.”

As soon as he saw his wife driving down the street he got on his knees and prayed: “God, I am a sinner. I know you are real. I’ve always known you are real. But I have pushed you aside so I can live my life my way. No more! I give my life to you through your son who died for me and rose again. I surrender all. Thank you.”

What happened next overwhelmed him. He felt a weight lift off him he never knew he had and joy flood his being. He started praising God for his goodness, his mercy, his kindness, his patience, his love, his being who he is—and then it changed into praising in tongues, sounds that made no sense to him, but he knew it was from God, the experience he read about in the book of Acts.

Later in the afternoon when Maria returned he asked, “How did it go?”

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“I’ll tell you about it after we eat,” Maria replied. “And from the looks of you, you have something to tell me also.”

It was their agreement not to talk business or anything serious while eating. This evening it was roast beef with baked potatoes and garden salad, and Rocky Road ice cream for dessert.

In their chairs by the fireplace Maria began: “The CPA exam went well. In fact, I’m sure I aced it. That’s the good news. Not so good at Donner Accounting Services. The promise for a job while I was in the Philippines was a ‘maybe,’ not a certainty. I put my application in at a few other accounting companies and came home. It was rather disappointing. Your turn. You’re smiling like the proverbial cat that ate the canary. “

“It’s too good to be true,” he enthused, “except it is true. After you left this morning I got on my knees and accepted Jesus as my savior and master. Darkness has fled, and light has flooded my soul. It’s not just a belief—it’s a relationship, it’s the real deal; it’s what we were created for! You are looking at a new man, Maria.. I’m not the same as I was before you left. Thank you for opening the door for me, getting me to think about God and eternity. And thanks to Margaret and Sofia for inviting us to that fellowship.”

Jake’s enthusiasm startled her. She was used to calm Christianity, not enthusiasm. Was I ever that enthusiastic? she wondered. Maybe I was when I got baptized, but I can’t remember. “Is there more,” she asked.

“Well, I expected you would be rejoicing. But you seemed, shall I say, somewhat alarmed?”

“Your enthusiasm startled me, that’s all,” she answered. “I do rejoice. I’m glad we’re in harmony about being born-again Christians. It is easy, though, especially when newly born-again, to get over-enthusiastic and fanatical. You wouldn’t want that. Is there more?”

*If she’s alarmed at that, he thought, how will she react to the more? Well, here goes.* “God’s presence was powerful—the joy, the peace—words cannot describe it. So I began praising him for his goodness. It just came out of me spontaneously. And the next thing I knew I was praising in tongues, just like the people did in the upper room in the Book of Acts. I was unaware of time passing.”

*What do I do with this!?* Maria thought, somewhat alarmed. *This Christianity is far beyond where I am! I know this is real. My spirit witnesses that it’s real. But do I want to go there? Do I want this in my life? In my church I was told that speaking in tongues had passed away, that it was*



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*only for the early church, and those who did it today were fanatics, or worse, it was of the devil.*

“You’re awfully quiet,” observed Jake.

“Oh, I’m sorry. I was just thinking of how to respond. I didn’t expect this. Speaking in tongues is frowned on in most churches, including the one I grew up in. But it is in the Bible, and I believe you, that it’s real. And since it’s real, that means God wants it for me, too. I resign myself to it.”

“Resign yourself, as though you’re going to some horrible fate?” he asked. “Or resigning yourself to God in joy for him to do in you all that he wants to do?”

“Well, it should be the latter, but I feel like the former. This is a whole paradigm shift in Christianity, and it takes getting used to. So bear with me.” After a pause, “Is there more you want to tell me?”

“Do you believe God is in control of everything?” he asked.

“Of course. He’s God.”

“Are you thankful for what he’s doing in your life?” he continued.

“Naturally. He’s been very good to me.”

“Are you thankful your job seeking fell through?” he pressed further.

“Oh! I didn’t look at it that way. I looked at it as though he let me down. Okay, I’m thankful that I’m still jobless. ‘God is good all the time; all the time God is good.’ He must have a reason, and it’s for my good. Do you have more questions? You’re making me think in ways I’ve not used to.”

“Why did God create marriage,” he asked. “And what is the role of each in marriage? I believe that was your topic at the fellowship last night.”

“Was that just last night?” she asked. “It seems like ages ago, so much has happened since. Let’s see. Eve was created to be Adam’s helper, so that is the role of the wife. He leads, and she follows, the two working together as a team. ... I see where you’re going with this. We are to be a team. Where you go, I follow. What you do, I’m there to support you in it, assuming, of course, you are being led of God in where you go and what you do.”

“I will do the best I can,” he said. “The heavier responsibility is on me, for God is my boss, and I am your supervisor. I’m not used to having a boss over me, so I’ve got to learn how to hear his voice, and that requires prayer, lots of time in prayer. If Jesus, who never sinned, prayed a lot, sometimes all night, in order to know what to say and do what he was supposed to do, then definitely I need to pray a lot. Not only did he pray

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a lot, but he asked his disciples to pray with him. That's when he was in the garden before his arrest, and did not want to do what the Father wanted him to do. Paul also, in his letter to the Ephesians, asked them to pray for him in his ministry.

"Did you know," he continued after a pause, "that God has works prepared for each of us to do? That's also in Ephesians. We're saved by faith, not works; but once we're saved, we're supposed to work."

"I think what you're saying is," she said, "that the reason I didn't get a job is because my job is to support you in what God has for you, and I need to be free to do it." She sighed. "All my plans to be a CPA are out the window, blown away by the wind. But that has changed since I rededicated my life to Jesus. As Jesus said, if you want to live, you have to die to self. He has to be all-in-all. Okay, I surrender. What's next? What is it I have to be free for?"

"Bible study, together, as much as possible," he replied. "I don't know what I'm supposed to do with it, whether to be a Bible teacher, a pastor or whatever, but I am driven—an urgency if you will—to know the Bible, and that means to know it in the original languages, and that means Hebrew first. There are so many translations. Although I suppose they basically say the same thing, there are differences, otherwise there would be only one translation. When I was doing research in college, constantly we were told to go to the primary sources, the originals, and not depend on the secondary sources. All the other sources can do is give you their opinions, and that's subjective."

"To know a language well," she said, "you have to be among the people who speak that language. Are you saying we're going to Israel?!"

"That's the plan. A company I know will take care of our house and yard for however long we're gone, and an accounting firm will handle any finances I can't do from Israel. Also, I've found an apartment in Tel Aviv we can rent. Adventure, my dear, adventure."

"Can we do sight-seeing on the way?" she asked eagerly.

"We can do whatever we want. We are not bound to any schedule, and can take as long as we like. Although I'm not super-rich, I have enough to do this. But it is all from God, and we are accountable to him for how we use it, and also how we use our time. We're not our own; we belong to him."

### Three: A New Leader

MARIA THREW HERSELF ON THE COUCH, sighed, and said in Hebrew, “It’s good to be back from Israel. And I’m thankful for first class seating in the airplane, and thankful for that company that took good care of our property while we were gone. You would never know, by the look of things, that we were gone at all.”

“Amen to that,” replied Jake, also in Hebrew. “It’s mid-September already, and we left the end of January, a little over seven months. I say let’s leave the unpacking until tomorrow. Shower and then a long sleep.”

It was afternoon the next day before they could settle down and talk about their experience and what would be next. “The big thing I got from being in Israel,” began Maria, “is word change. English translations of the Bible have really messed things up, especially with respect to names and titles. Because of Jewish superstition, they have entirely removed the name of our Creator, Yahuah, and replaced it with the words ‘the LORD.’ Yahuah means ‘he is.’ He is the self-existent one. And they messed up the name of our Savior. It isn’t Jesus, but Yahushua. His name contains the name of Yahuah, plus the word for salvation or savior. And then there’s the matter of the word God. It means deity in English, but Hebrew has no word for deity. They mostly use *Elohim*, which means strong one. But it doesn’t mean deity, for it can apply to humans and angels and false gods as well.”

“I know what you mean,” replied Jake. “It’s become natural for us to use Yahuah, Yah, Yahushua, Elohim and Ĕl instead of the traditional English words. It took a while to remember to pronounce El as Ĕl, which rhymes with mail. I don’t even like the English words anymore, for they give a wrong meaning. The word God comes from the German *Gott*, which was the name of their pagan sky god.”

“It’s too bad that they still don’t use the name of Yahuah,” she said, “but use Adonai instead, which means Lord. And they use the shortened form Yeshua instead of his full name, Yahushua. I’m glad we found someone brave enough to use Yahuah and Yahushua. Remind me of the vision you had and its significance.”

“It was unusual,” answered Jake. “I was meditating on the sword of Yahuah—in English translations, ‘the sword of the LORD.’ In Jeremiah it

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speaks of a blood-bath of judgment on the nations. And in Matthew 10, Yahushua said he didn't come to bring peace, but a sword. The sword in this case brings division in families, dividing those who follow him from those who don't. It applies not only to blood-related families, but also to the family of Elohim—the church, separating those who want to follow truth from those who prefer tradition instead. There's also, in Ephesians, the sword of the spirit which is the word of Elohim; and in Hebrews, the double-edged sword referring to the word of Elohim.

"As I was meditating," he continued, "I had a vision. I saw a sword, a double-edged one, then saw the words, 'Sword of Yahuah,' and the vision ended. This means, I believe, I am to have a ministry with that name, and to bring truth which will divide people. Well, truth always does, so that's nothing new."

Jake's phone rang, the caller ID showing Olaf's name. The two had been in regular contact while they were away. "Hello, Olaf my friend. You didn't waste any time to call after we got back. We're still unwinding from the experience and the air travel. What's up?"

"Welcome back!" came the hearty reply. "You know what's up, your involvement in the Bible Study Fellowship. I need a new leader. When can you share your experience in Israel? You said you would pray about it. Have you?"

"Yes, I have," Jake said. "There may be a problem, though, and we need to talk about it. Can you and your wife Hilda come over for lunch or supper next week? I know you're busy at your restaurant, but we need to talk, and I need input from you both."

"Lunch this Monday will be best," Olaf said. "I can have it catered if you like, then your wife won't have to prepare anything."

"Lunch it is, then. But Maria wants to cook it. It's an Israeli favorite, called Shakshouka."

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"This is good!" said Olaf, reaching for a second helping. "Right, Hilda?"

"Yes, very good. What's in it?" She had the same large frame as her husband.

"This is typically eaten for breakfast," replied Maria, "but it's good any time. The word Shakshouka comes from the Arabic word *shakka*, meaning to stick together. It's made by sticking together poached eggs, tomatoes, chilies, paprika, onions, cumin, pepper, and coriander. It was

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introduced into Israel by Jewish immigrants from Tunisia in North Africa.”

After eating, Hilda helped Maria in cleaning up the kitchen, then all four sat in the living room. “Okay, Jake,” said Olaf, “what’s the problem about the Bible Study Fellowship?”

“Olaf,” replied Jake, “I didn’t say the Fellowship had a problem; I said there might be a problem with me being the leader of it. In Israel I visited several Bible Study fellowships. Some I liked; some I didn’t. Those I liked had a leader who led, and if an opinion was given that didn’t agree with scripture, then the leader would explain why it was wrong. Those I didn’t like had a moderator, and let people talk their ideas, and each idea was considered okay, so no one would be offended. Those fellowships aren’t led of Elohim, the most common Hebrew word for God.

“Elohim,” continued Jake, “has a goal he wants believers in him to reach; that goal is to become like him in his character. He wants us to be an image of him, so that when people see us, they see him, his character. He inspired the scriptures to lead us to that goal, and he chooses leaders to help followers on that journey. In effect, then, a leader is a pastor, whether he has that title or not, and those who attend are his flock. Flock refers to sheep, and sheep are known to be unruly and wander away. That’s why a rod and staff are needed to keep them in line, and to protect them from false practices and ideas, which are wolves. Do you know where I’m going with this, what I’m leading up to?”

“I think it’s obvious,” Olaf replied. “You want the Fellowship to be a church with you as the pastor.”

“No! That’s not what *I* want. The question is, what does *Elohim* want, and how does he want to do it? It’s great that you got a fellowship going. You got people of different church backgrounds to come together so they wouldn’t feel they had to be tied to a particular doctrine. You got them outside their church boxes. Now what? Are they to stay in this new box of each opinion being valid before Elohim? Or is there a standard of truth to compare their ideas with, and then make changes if necessary. Paul wrote to the assembly in Ephesus concerning this very matter. Let me read it to you. Ephesians 4:11-16, reading from the NIV. You brought your Bible. Look at it while I’m reading:

“ ‘It was he (referring to Messiah) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be

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pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.’

“Olaf, who appoints, man or Messiah?” asked Jake

“Messiah.”

“Is there a goal, Olaf?”

“Yes. Preparing God’s people for works, unity in the faith, maturity, attaining to the fullness of Christ.”

“Is moderator mentioned in the list of offices that Messiah appoints?” Jake pressed further.

“No.”

“Therefore,” concluded Jake, “if I am to lead this fellowship, if Messiah appoints me to do it, then I am in charge, under Messiah, not you. I cannot operate wondering if I’m offending you in what I do or say. That would be fear of man, not fear of Elohim. Please understand. I’m not saying I want to do this. I’m only saying that if you want me to lead, then you turn the Fellowship over to me, no strings attached. I own it—under Elohim, of course—not you. That’s problem number one, the issue of authority.

“Maria, could you get me some water? Thanks. Anyone else want something to drink? No? Okay. Now to the next problem: doctrine and practice. You, Olaf and Hilda, have had some experience in various churches with different backgrounds. I’ve asked Maria to give her assessment of today’s Christianity, based on our experiences in Israel. Then I want to hear from you if you agree it is the same here. Go ahead, Maria.”

“It was a great learning experience,” she began. “My first general comment is that Christianity today is almost an entirely different religion from when it started. We’ve tacked on tradition after tradition, just as the

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Jews did. So, how do we begin now that we're back home? People love their traditions. They think they are from God, and it would be sacrilege to change anything."

"Any comment, you two," asked Jake.

Hilda nodded agreement. Olaf said, "Name some traditions."

"Let me ask you this," Jake replied. "The church began with power. Yahushua—that's the Hebrew name for Jesus—won the crowds not by his words, but by power. He healed the sick and lame, cast out demons, and raised the dead. In John 10:37-38 he said to the Jews, using the NASU:

" "If I do not do the works of my Father, do not believe me; but if I do them, though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

"This is how the church began, with power. Read the Book of Acts. That's how the gospel spread so fast—the evidence of power that only Elohim can do. Paul wrote the same thing in First Corinthians 4:20, NIV: *'For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.'* One more passage, Yahushua's commission in Mark 16:15-18 to believers after he rose from the dead. He said, again in the NIV:

" "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

"Now I ask, Olaf. Did God change, or did the church?"

Olaf took time to consider his answer, looking at his wife, his hosts, the room, the fireplace, then answered, resignation in his voice: "God cannot change, so it has to be the church. It seems, if you become the leader, that it's going to be a whole new thing, and we will be Pentecostals."

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“In the broad sense of the word, yes,” answered Jake, “but likely not what you think. They have their traditions also. I made a decision to follow truth wherever it leads, regardless of what may happen to me or how people react. That’s what Yahushua did, and they killed him for it. And that has happened to countless Christians over the years. That’s all I’m asking. Pray about it, Olaf, and let me know your answer. If it’s ‘yes,’ then we’ll be at the Fellowship next Sunday evening.”

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“Thank you all for coming,” said Olaf. He had sent word to the usual attenders that there would be a special speaker, one recently back from Israel, and guests would be welcome. “I want to introduce to you Jake Starr and his wife Maria. Jake, it’s all yours.”

“Hi,” Jake said. “And ‘hi’ to you especially, Margaret and Sofia. You’re the reason we’re here. Because of you, Maria rededicated her life, and I became a believer and we spent time in Israel to learn Hebrew. Thank you. Olaf asked me to be your new leader when we got back from Israel. Well, as you can see, we’re back.” Laughter from the audience.

“I asked him a question, though, whether you want me to be your new leader. That’s what we’re here to find out. As a leader, I will lead. Whether you follow is up to you, and whether you believe what I bring is up to you, for what you do and believe is between you and the Father. I’ll be just a messenger. You are responsible to him, not to me; he is your judge, not I.

“There will be changes,” Jake continued. “One change is vocabulary. For example, the name of our creator, Yahuah, with the accent on the last syllable. English speakers tend to put the accent on the first syllable. It means HE IS. Following Jewish superstition, English translations have deleted his name from the Bible and replaced it with the words ‘the LORD.’ That’s horrible. In Exodus 3:15 Yahuah says, *‘This is my name forever, this is my memorial to all generations.’* It will be awkward at first when others hear us using his name, but it can lead to a conversation.

“Another is the word ‘God.’ It means deity. But Hebrew doesn’t have a word for deity, nor does Greek. The most common Hebrew word translated as ‘God’ is *‘Elohim’*; again, accent on the last syllable. It means ‘strong one,’ and is used for others besides deity, such as angels, false deities, and even humans.

“Another is the name Jesus. That’s not his name at all; it’s Yahushua, accent on the next to last syllable. It means ‘Yahuah is salvation,’ or ‘Yahuah savior.’ It’s the same name transliterated as Joshua. When you



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read in the New Testament, the Greek for Joshua is the same as for Jesus, but English translations spell them differently. Also, neither Hebrew nor Greek has the letter 'J' in their alphabets, nor did English until about five hundred years ago. Whenever you see a name in the Bible with the letter 'J,' it's actually 'Y.' In Europe today 'J' is often pronounced as 'Y.' The name spelled 'J A P,' for example, is pronounced 'Yawp.' So, to honor his real name, I'm going to use Yahushua. You can use the traditional words, of course. But in these meetings, these are the words I'll use. Any questions so far?"

"Why the big deal?" someone asked. "I'm fine with things as they are."

"No problem," Jake replied. "I just said what I'm going to do, because it is a big deal to me, and it's a big deal to me because I believe it's a big deal to Yahuah. Let me ask you, what is your name and what is your occupation?"

"John. I'm a grocery store clerk."

"Okay, John. How would you like it if people called you George or clerk and never used your real name? Yahuah said that is his name forever. He wants us to use his name. And the name Yahushua has his Father's name as part of his name. Even in his high priestly prayer, John 17:11, in the NIV, he prayed, *'Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one.'*"

"I get your point," he replied.

"I'm asking all of you," Jake continued, "do you want to be one with the Father in the same way that Yahushua is one with the Father? That was his prayer. If you do, then I will endeavor to lead you there, and it will involve many changes in your lives, and mine. If you don't, then I can't help you. I can tell you with certainty that no one in this room, including me, is yet what Elohim wants us to be. It's a life-long journey, ever upwards and onwards.

"One more thing," Jake said. "I believe divine healing is for today, that we are commanded to heal the sick in the name of Yahushua. This is not so you can be well, but for Elohim to show that he is real. So healing the sick, if there are any, will be a part of the meetings.

"Okay, Olaf, they're all yours. We will leave now so you can decide whether you want me to be your leader. If you do, we'll be back next week, bring some teaching, and heal the sick. Elohim said it, I believe it, and he will do it."

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“What do you think it will be?” asked Maria when they arrived back home.

“Olaf said he’ll call tonight or tomorrow, depending on how late the meeting goes. I could tell he was a bit uneasy over the whole idea. It’s like giving up your baby for adoption. The Fellowship has been his baby. He gets self-worth from it, and to give it up can seem like failure. The question is, does he want to keep it a baby, or does he want it to mature into an adult that does things for the kingdom? I’m glad I’m not in charge, that Yahuah is.”

“Or,” added Maria, “that Yahushua is in charge, for Yahuah gave all authority to him.”

“True, but just as he did on earth, he does only what the Father gives him to do. An interesting concept, though. In his earthly body he could only be in one place at a time. Now, in union with the Father in his spirit body, he can be everywhere at the same time, working in the lives of people all over the globe at the same time. An amazing thought. What will it be like when we are there? Will we be able to be in many places at the same time and communicate with many at the same time? We’ll have to wait to find out.”

“Your phone,” she said when it rang. “If that’s Olaf, then it was quick.” It was.

“Olaf,” Jake answered, “that was quick.”

“It was really up to me,” he replied. “I knew it, and they knew it. They said it was for me to decide, so I decided. It’s either you in charge, or that was the last meeting. I want to be what God—or Elohim—wants me to be, and I’m nowhere near that. So next Sunday evening will be the answer. That means you are now the leader, or pastor, for whoever shows up. I expect a full turnout. They want to see if it’s real that you, or God through you, will heal the sick. They know, theoretically, that God can heal the sick, but will he? We’ll see what happens after that.”

## Four: Miracle Power

IT WAS A FULL HOUSE, meaning seventy-five people, the maximum occupancy for the banquet room. Olaf had put flyers on each table of his restaurant advertising the meeting, and had encouraged the Fellowship members to invite their friends. At 6:30, the time the hall doors opened, recorded music started playing: *“Only believe. Only believe. All things are possible. Only believe.”* It was still Olaf’s show, as it were, so he got the meeting started. Jake and Maria were sitting in the front row.

“Welcome to Olaf’s Fish House Bible Study Fellowship,” Olaf began. “Thank you all for coming out. What we are doing tonight is unusual, for me as well as for the Fellowship. Jake Starr and his wife Maria are friends of mine and have recently returned from Israel. While there they studied Hebrew so as to better understand the Bible and the scenes where Bible events took place, especially the life of Jesus, whose Hebrew name is Yahushua. They also visited many churches there and learned about the persecution Christians face from fellow Jews. Further, they were privileged to be used of Yahuah Elohim, the Hebrew words for ‘the LORD God,’ to heal the sick. Welcome Jake Starr, the meeting is yours.”

As Jake stood up, Olaf started clapping, and the people stood up and joined in.

“Thank you, thank you,” Jake began. “Please be seated. I say the word *Shalom*. That is the Hebrew word for peace; but more than peace, for it includes well-being of any kind. You hear the word ‘*Hallelujah*’ all the time, as an exclamation of joy when something wonderful happens. Few understand its meaning. It is a command for you, plural, to praise Yahuah, Yah being the shortened form of Yahuah, the creator of heaven and earth, and the creator of each of us. Are you glad that he created you, that you are alive on this earth? If so, stand up and say with me, ‘Hallelu-Yah. Praise Yahuah. Hallelu-Yah. Praise Yahuah.’”

It took a while for all to join in; a few had frowns on their faces and stayed seated. “Okay, you can be seated,” said Jake. “Yahuah is worthy to be praised. When you look at the sky on a clear night, what do you see? Is all you see specks of light in different imagined formations? Perhaps you are wondering if there are aliens living on other planets out there. Or perhaps you realize how small you are compared to its vastness. Or

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perhaps—and this is what you should be thinking—you are overwhelmed with the greatness of Yahuah Elohim who just spoke the word and they all came into existence. This is the mighty Elohim who created us. Elohim created this earth to be inhabited, and this planet only. The day will come—a little over a thousand years from now when the purpose of man on earth is completed—when he will speak again and this universe will be no more. This is what it says in 2 Peter 3:3-14. I am using the personal name Yahuah instead of the substitute title ‘the LORD,’ and the title Elohim instead of ‘God,’ and set-apart instead of ‘holy,’ and reverent and irreverent instead of ‘godly’ and ‘ungodly’:

“ ‘First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires, and saying, “Where is the promise of his presence (referring to the rapture)? For since our fathers died, everything continues as it has from the beginning of creation.

“ ‘For they deliberately forget that long ago by Elohim’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of irreverent men. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With Yahuah a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

“ ‘Yahuah is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of Yahuah will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

“ ‘Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live set-apart and reverent lives as you look forward to the day of Elohim and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

“ ‘But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every

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effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.' 2  
Peter 3:3-14

“Wow! That’s kind of heavy, isn’t it? But it’s the truth. We have a Creator, a spirit being of infinite power, wisdom, goodness and love. He loves us unconditionally and longs to put his nature of goodness and love and mercy and longsuffering in us. But he will not force himself on us. Oh, no! He is a gentleman. We have to want him. Not for what we can get from him, but because we love him in return and want to be like him. Although he loves unconditionally, having a relationship with him has conditions. One condition is recognizing you are a sinner, a person who has lived his life his own way apart from Yahuah, and that you deserve to be separated from him forever in eternity, called hell.

“But Yahuah has made a way for your sins to be forgiven. That way is through his precious son, Yahushua, a man who never sinned, a man who was always in complete obedience to his Father because of his love for him. Elohim loves us so much that he gave his perfect son, this man, to be impaled on a stake as a slaughter-offering for our sins, then raised him from the dead. That is the price of how wicked and irreverent our sins are, and shows the great love he has for us. All he requires of you—and this is the second condition—is to confess your sins to him, ask him for forgiveness, believe on Yahushua his son, that he died for you and rose from the dead, and commit your life to him to be your savior and master. You are no longer your own; you were bought with a price.

“Some of you have made this commitment; some of you have not. Yahuah is calling you to come. Come forward to make that commitment. I will lead you in prayer and you will be born-again into a new life of relationship with the Almighty. But it isn’t a one-time deal. It is a growing relationship, or it will die, just like in marriage. If any of you want to make a renewed or deeper commitment to Yahuah, you also come forward.”

Ten people came forward, and Jake led them in a prayer of commitment and rededication. “Welcome to the family of Elohim,” Jake said. “Now we move on to the healing part of the meeting. Let me explain why Yahuah wants to heal. It isn’t for you to get well. It is to show that he is real, that he exists. Only Elohim can heal; man cannot. Even Yahushua didn’t heal by his own power, but by the Father in him doing it. So it is with every person that Yahuah uses to heal. There are no great men or women, only a great Elohim. He wants us so joined to him in heart and

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spirit—our will so one with his—that as he moves, we move. He gets all the credit, but it gives him pleasure to work with us. That is why he created us.

“There is a difference between a healing and a miracle. A healing takes time—minutes, hours, days, or even weeks; a miracle, on the other hand, is instantaneous. If you have a severe headache, for example, or joint pain, and it gradually goes away after prayer; that is a healing. If it goes away instantly; that is a miracle. Suppose nothing happens? Well, you’re no worse off than when you came. But suppose something does happen? Then you have a testimony to tell others of the wonderful thing Yahuah has done for you.

“There is something, however, that can hinder a healing or miracle—a big something. That is unforgiveness. If there is anyone you have something against—be it relative, spouse, workmate, or whomever—you must forgive. Yahuah paid a great price to forgive you; as he has forgiven you, so you must forgive others. Unforgiveness only hurts yourself, your relationship with others, and your relationship with him.

“So before I ask you to come forward for healing, we’ll take a few moments in silent prayer for each of you to search your hearts for any unforgiveness, and then to forgive. Forgiveness, by the way, isn’t a one-time thing. The deeper the hurt, the more often you have to forgive. You may think you have forgiven, but the memory of that hurt is still there. So whenever that memory comes, you have to keep forgiving. Start searching now.”

After a few moments Jake said, “Good. Now, if any of you needed prayer for healing when you came in and the problem is gone, please stand and tell us what happened.” Four people stood up, each testifying with tears in their eyes: “My knee was swollen and painful. The swelling is gone and no more pain.” “I had light flashes in my right eye. The flashing has stopped.” “I could feel a lump in my left breast. I can’t feel it anymore.” “My migraine headache is gone.”

“Isn’t Yahuah wonderful?!” said Jake. “His presence is here. I can feel it all over me. He is real. Man can’t do that; only Elohim can. Hallelu-Yah! Praise Yahuah! Be sure to tell others what he has done for you. Now the rest of you who need healing, come forward and I’ll pray for you. You can line up side-by-side in front. At any time you can leave, but you might want to stay and see what Yahuah does.”

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One of those who came forward was a pre-teen girl, her parents walking behind her. She was limping and wearing a built-up shoe to compensate for that leg being shorter than the other. “What’s your name, dear,” asked Jake bending down.

“Lizzy, for Elizabeth.”

“What do you want Yahuah to do for you, Lizzy?”

“I want my leg to be like the other so I can do sports like the other girls.”

“Do you believe Elohim can do that?”

“I know he can, and I know he will,” she said. “Last night he told me that if I come to the meeting tonight, he will do it. I brought other shoes to wear after he does it.”

“That’s what I call faith. Olaf, bring one of those chairs and set it sideways so people can see what happens. Then bring a book. ... Thanks. ... Lizzy, sit on this chair and take off your shoes, push your hips back so you’re sitting square, and rest your feet on this book as I hold it. Wow! That’s a good two inches of difference! Do you all see it? ... Good.”

Then Jake said, “Yahushua,” and the foot slowly inched its way out until it was even with the other.

“I told you he would,” Lizzy said to her parents. “Give me my other shoes and I’ll put them on.”

“Lizzy,” said Jake, “show us what you can do with the miracle Elohim did for you. Run around the room a couple of times.”

“Oh, yes,” she said, and took off running. She even jumped over a chair. Tears were streaming down her parents’ eyes, and also in the eyes of many others. Belief for healing was running high. But not all were happy. In their belief, miracles and healings were no longer for the church today, and if they happened, they were from the devil, the same as what the Scribes and Pharisees said regarding Yahushua.

When the last one was healed, including the restoration of an eye that had been poked out, Jake said to them all, “We hardly had room for those who came tonight, so you will be informed of where and when we will meet next week. Elohim bless you all. Shalom, and good night.

When all had left, the four—Jake, Olaf and their wives—met to discuss the future of the Fellowship. “What do you think, Olaf and Hilda?” asked Jake.

“That was amazing,” said Hilda. “I had never seen a miracle before. So this is what Christianity is supposed to be!”

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“Partly, yes,” said Jake. “Miracle power is to get peoples’ attention and to confirm the word. They are to wake people up so they will follow Yahuah, which means to love him with all your heart, mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. Of the thousands that followed Yahushua during his ministry, only a few continued. There has to be teaching to ground the believers firmly in their faith, and also so they will become effective workers for the kingdom. Wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many go that way. And restricted is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few follow it. What we did tonight was to throw out a net and catch a few people. How many will follow through to make it to the eternal kingdom, only Yahuah knows. Our job is to pull in the net; it’s his job to sort them. The question is, what’s next? Any thoughts, Olaf? By the way, thanks for your help during the meeting.”

“My pleasure,” he replied. “This is so much better than what we had before. As to your question about the future, I see a problem.”

“And that is?” probed Jake.

“Time and location. My banquet room is too small, as you said, and I need it for business anyway. There are many other places we could meet that are larger. It’s just a matter of choosing. That involves money, of course. The other is time. If you are going to start regular services, like a church, do you want to do it Sunday mornings?”

“What do you think,” asked Jake. He already knew what he was going to do. He was asking so as to involve the Swensens.

“I think, yes,” said Olaf. “You want people who will commit themselves to your ministry and not go back-and-forth between yours and where they have been.”

“You’re right. I had a vision while in Israel, a vision of the name to use. It’s SWORD OF YAHUAH. Sword, of course, refers to the word of Elohim. This past week I’ve been busy finding a place to rent, and it should be ready for services two weeks from today. As to this coming Sunday evening, we will have a healing service in a hotel with a room that can seat a couple hundred. For that event I’m hiring a publicity company to get the word out on TV, the radio and in the newspapers. Maria and I will be the worship team for now. Also, for your information, we are registered as a church with the state and the IRS.”

“You had this all planned ahead of time,” said Olaf. “You didn’t need our input.”



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“I wanted you to be involved. If you had decided to keep your Fellowship as it is, I would still have to start my own ministry. The vision I had made it clear.”

### **Five: Jacob I Loved; Esau I Hated**

**E**VERYTHING WENT AS PLANNED. Over two hundred came to the healing meeting at the hotel, including some of Jake’s former employees and their wives, with Milton in a wheelchair. Jake and Maria, in a duet of rich baritone and gorgeous soprano, led a worship song, the same one several times, as people were coming in.

Come to the lover of your soul  
For he’s waiting, his love is waiting for you  
Come, the heart of Yahuah calls you  
For he wants you, he wants your love  
Enter in to the presence of Yahuah  
And bask in his love  
Oh, share his sweet love  
Enter in and abandon all your heart to his love  
Yahuah is bidding you to come

On the wall behind them to one side were three signs that read:

Yahuah, and the shortened form Yah, is the name of the Father

Yahushua is the Hebrew name of Jesus

Elohim and Ėl (ail) are Hebrew words for God, the Mighty One

“Do you know,” Jake began when they finished singing, “that our heavenly Father, the creator of the universe, the creator of each one of us here, loves you? His love for you is desperate. It is so desperate that he gave his only begotten son, a man who never sinned and always pleased

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his heart—he gave this man to die a horrible death for our sins. That death was not only the horrible torture of being impaled on a pole. No! It was also separation from his Father. He cried: *‘My Ę! My Ę! Why have you forsaken me?’* He took the penalty of our sin on himself and felt the agony of that separation.

“That’s what hell is: separation from the presence of Yahuah and the horror of it. For him, that separation lasted only until he left his physical body, for when it died, he went to Paradise. But for us, unless we repent of our sins, and take the offered forgiveness, and surrender our lives to him, it is for eternity. He places that choice in our hands, in the hands of each one of us.

“I have made my choice. So has my wife and many in this room. That choice is to become complete humans through him living his life in us. It is for this we were created. He did not create us complete in ourselves. We are only complete when he is in us, and this is by surrendering our lives to him, to love him with all our heart, soul mind and ability. Oh, friends, this is the only life worth living!”

With that, and many other words of encouragement, Jake called for those who wanted to come forward and give their lives to Yahuah and to his son Yahushua. About fifty came forward, including Milton in a wheelchair, some to become born-again, and some to rededicate their lives.

Then Jake asked those to come forward who wanted healing. He began with Milton. “What happened, Milt?” he asked.

“An accident happened at work, a month ago, paralyzing both legs, no sensation at all. I’m a paraplegic. When I heard the advertisement of this meeting, and saw the interview you had on TV, I decided to come. You’ve come a long way, Jake, from confirmed bachelor and non-religious to this. Your wife, by the way, has a most beautiful voice. I could feel my heart being drawn to Yahuah while you two sang. And after the message I was compelled to come forward to receive Yahushua into my life. Even if I don’t get healed, this is worth it.”

“If he does heal you,” asked Jake, “what will you do with it?”

“I will tell everyone I can. Do you think he will?”

Jake smiled. “In the name of Yahushua Messiah of Nazareth, stand up and walk!” And he did!

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And so the meeting went. People in wheelchairs left pushing them. Those depending on crutches left carrying them over their heads. The deaf heard and the blind saw. Many aches and pains were gone. Jake and Maria closed the service with a song, one they composed on the spot.

Thank you, Yah, for giving me life.  
Thank you, Yah, for saving me from strife.  
Thank you, Yah, for calling me on high.  
Thank you, Yah, I'll see you bye and bye.

It was all video recorded. Flyers had been printed and handed out regarding next Sunday's first meeting of Sword of Yahuah, and an offering box was available for any who wanted to donate. One donation was a check for a thousand dollars. Four of Jake's former employees with their wives stayed to talk with Jake when it was over, with Olaf and Hilda listening in. Milt spoke for the group. "We want to join your church you are starting. How can we help?"

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The building, a converted warehouse able to seat 1,000, was ready on schedule, with carpeted floor, platform, large TV screens, special lighting, various banners, a sound booth and several rooms for various needs. Folding doors were in place for partitioning the seating area into smaller rooms. A TV screen to the left of the main one showed two passages of scripture. The top one was the Shema, a Hebrew word meaning *hear*. The other was from Paul's letter to Timothy.

Hear, Israel, Yahuah our Elohim, Yahuah is one. And you shall love Yahuah your Elohim with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your will. Deuteronomy 6: 4-5.

For there is one Elohim and one mediator between Elohim and man, the man Messiah Yahushua. 1 Timothy 2:5.

Another TV screen, to the right of the main one, had two verses from the Gospel of John.

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For Elohim so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16.

“No one can see the Kingdom of Elohim unless he is born-again.”  
John 3:3.

Lenny had everything ready for handling the microphones and the displays on the TV screens, and Milton was ready to do the ushering, which included giving out the bulletin, a folded 8½” x 11” paper. The cover had a picture of a two-edged sword facing down, an open Bible under it, and the words “Sword of Yahuah.” The inside carried explanations of the terms Yahuah, Yah, Yahushua, Elohim and Ēl, and also a statement of faith, which read:

The Scriptures are our only creed, and we endeavor to accurately interpret its truth. We hold the Scriptures to be totally inspired of Elohim. We try to use scriptural terms to describe our faith, whenever possible.

We believe in Elohim, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in his son, the man Yahushua Messiah, who died for our sins, was raised from the dead, ascended to heaven, and has been given all authority by the Father.

We believe in the spirit of Elohim—his nature of set-apartness—that he gives his spirit to enable the Body of Messiah and individual members in it to grow to become like Messiah and to promote the Kingdom of Elohim.

We believe salvation from sin is possible only through faith in and commitment to the son. This salvation is conditioned upon continual faith and commitment. All who have this salvation are members of the family of Elohim, and together are the world-wide body of Messiah, the Kingdom of Elohim on earth.

We believe you must be born-again to enter the Kingdom of Elohim. The Greek for “born-again” also means “born from above.”

We believe at the end of time there will be a Day of Judgment. All who have saving faith in Messiah at the time of their death will live forever on a new earth under a new sky. All the unsaved will face

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eternal judgment and experience this judgment for their sins forever.

We believe that we will come to the unity of the spirit until we come to the unity of the faith.

They had no idea how many would come to this first meeting, so the front area was partitioned to hold 200. They would open other areas as needed. Jake and Maria began the service with leading in worship.

Well, I've made up my mind  
I'm going to walk with you, Yahuah  
I've made up my mind  
I'm going to live by your word  
Whatever you want  
Is now my reason for living  
You've called me and I'm going on  
Yahuah, you are calling me higher  
Yahuah, you are my single desire  
Yahuah, I will fully surrender  
Take all of me, my wonderful King  
Whatever the cost  
I'm going to walk with you, Yahuah  
Whatever the cost  
I'm going to live by your word  
Whatever you want  
I'm going to give it to you, Yah  
You called me and I'm going on  
Yes Yahuah, you're calling me higher  
Yahuah, you are my single desire  
Yahuah, I will fully surrender  
Take all of me, my wonderful King  
Take all of me, my wonderful King  
Take all of me, my wonderful King

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Sing praises and worship the King of all kings  
And lift his name on high  
Bring greatness and honor and pleasure to him  
And lift his name on high

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Yahuah is the name that we adore  
It's filled with heaven's love  
We'll praise that name forevermore  
For Yahuah is the one we love

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I'm all yours. I'm all yours,  
Yahuah, take me I'm all yours  
My heart is surrendered to you, my King  
I'm all yours. I'm all yours,  
Yahuah, take me, I'm all yours  
At last all I am belongs to you  
And I'll give you my love my wonderful King  
I won't deny all the love you deserve  
And I'll give back to you all the love you've given me  
A reflection of your greatness, my King

The presence of Yahuah was profound. Many had their hands raised while singing, some weeping.

“Isn't our Father wonderful?” asked Jake after he had them sit. “He wants you to know he is real and that he loves you. Thank you for coming. This is the first regular service of Sword of Yahuah, a service for helping you become what he wants you to become and be what he created you to be. That means changing. He loves you the way you are, but doesn't want you to stay the way you are. He wants you to become like him in his nature of selfless love, to be so one with him that you and he operate as one. To this end, you will hear teaching, warning and discipline. You will hear things you are not used to hearing. You will be challenged out of your comfort zone.

“This life is a one-shot deal. What you become in your relationship with Yahuah at the end of this life—however long or short that may be—that is the relationship you have for eternity, either with him in varying degrees of reward, or apart from him in varying degrees of judgment.

“In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul wrote about *charismata*, usually translated as spiritual gifts. It means manifestations of favor. These are not gifts given so that you have them as your own, but rather Yahuah manifesting his favor through you to do something. Three of the nine mentioned are: word of knowledge, healings and miracles. Each of these is supernatural. Yahushua manifested this favor many times. Word of knowledge is

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knowing things that you cannot know on your own. You only know them by the Father giving you that information supernaturally. This was common in the early church, and is being restored in our day. Are you with me? ... Good.

"This morning Elohim gave me three words of knowledge regarding healing. I will describe the problems, and if you have any of them, come forward and Yahuah will heal you. This will be the normal practice before I bring the message. For others who want prayer for healing, at the end of the service go to the prayer room and you will be prayed for.

"The purpose of the word of knowledge and healing is to confirm the message, not just so you can be well. Yahushua said, John 10:37- 38:

“ ‘If I do not do the works of my Father, do not believe me; but if I do, though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in me, and I in him.’

“No one can do the supernatural unless Elohim is with him. That’s what Nicodemus said to Yahushua in John 3:2. There are no great men or women; only Yahuah is great. What you see me do, any of you can do, if Elohim is in you doing it.

“Yahuah showed me three things: a sprained left ankle, a shoulder pain so you can’t raise your right arm, and migraine headaches. If you have any of these problems, come forward and I’ll pray for you.”

One each came for ankle and shoulder, and two came for migraine headaches. All were made whole.

“Isn’t our heavenly Father good?” asked Jake. “He is good all the time, and he is the only one who is good. The only true goodness in any of us is him in us doing it. On our own, no one is good and does good. This was true of Yahushua also. When someone called him good—Mark 10:18—he answered, *‘Why do you call me good? No one is good, except Elohim alone.’*

“The title of today’s message is ‘Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.’ That’s a quote from Romans 9:13, quoting from Malachi 1:2. The question is, why? Elohim is love, so how can he hate? It has to do with relationship. He loves everyone, unconditionally; but he only has a relationship with those who love him in return. It is like parents who love their child. If that child becomes wicked, they still love him or her, but there is no

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relationship. Yahuah loves Satan, but he hates what he has become. The same is true with all who will spend eternity in hell.

“Although I go by the name of Jake; that is a nickname. My given name is Jacob. In Hebrew it is Ya’aqov. You see it’s spelling on the screen. So, to help you move back to that time in history, that’s the name I’ll use. The name means ‘heel-catcher,’ that is, ‘supplanter, taking what is not his.’ He was given this name at birth because his hand was holding the heel of his twin brother who came out first. You can read about it in Genesis 25:27 to 34; and chapters 27 through 31.

“When you read it, keep in mind that Yahuah is in control of all things. Before ever he created anything, he knows the future of everyone—those who will love him and be a part of his eternal kingdom, and those who don’t love him and will exist apart from him in eternal torment, called hell.

“He knows the heart motive of Ya’aqov, that it is for him, and the heart motive of Esau, that it is selfish. On the basis of this, before either was born, he loved Ya’aqov and rejected Esau. Romans 8:28 fits here:

“ ‘And we know that all things work together for good to those who love Elohim, to those who are called according to his purpose.’ ”

“This shows that Yahuah was involved in all Ya’aqov did, including motivating him. Ya’aqov was goal-driven. When he saw something he wanted, he worked out a way to get it. The first goal was the first-born birthright. Although his brother, Esau, was only a few seconds older than Ya’aqov, because he was first, he got that position, a very important one. The first-born inherited double what any other brothers would get. So he would get twice as much as Ya’aqov when their father died, in this case, two-thirds of the property. He would also become the priest of the family. Foremost, he would inherit the covenant Yahuah made with Abraham. Notice, in Hebrew, it’s *Avraham* (ahv-rah-HAHM), not Abraham. *Av* is the Hebrew word for father. Can any of you tell me what that covenant was? ... “Yes. I see your hand.”

When a mic was handed him he said, “In Abraham all the nations would be blessed; his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore; and all the land he could see would be his, which today is the land of Palestine.”



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“Thank you,” said Jake. “The covenant came in several stages. The first is in Genesis 12:2-3:

“ ‘I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. And I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all families of the earth will be blessed in you.’

“In Genesis 13:15 and 15:18-21 the land part is added. The fulfillment of the land part started forty years after leaving Egypt when they crossed the Jordan River and began conquering the nations there; but because of disobedience they lost it many years later. Eventually, though, they will get it all, and that will be in the Millennium.

“That promise to Abraham was a part of the first-born inheritance, for it to be carried through his descendants. The first descendent was Isaac, so he inherited it, and Esau was in line to inherit it from Isaac; but it wasn't important to him, and Ya'aqov wanted it, and had a plan to get it. He knew his brother's weakness when it came to hunger, and knew the first-born inheritance was no big deal to him. So Esau traded his birthright for a bowl of soup. Later, Ya'aqov stole the first-born blessing from their father Isaac. He did it at the urging and plan of his mother, by deceiving him that he was Esau, the older brother.

“Esau didn't like that at all, and planned to kill him after their father died. Their mother heard of the plan, and persuaded Isaac to send Ya'aqov to her brother Laban far to the east in Haran. When he stopped for the night on his way, he had a dream of a stairway from earth to heaven (called Jacob's ladder, KJV) with angels going up and down on it. In the dream, Elohim gave the covenant to Ya'aqov, just as he had to Abraham and to Isaac. This is the first recorded incident of Ya'aqov having an encounter with Elohim, and in this place he committed his life to him, and named the place Bethel, which means house of Elohim.

“When he got to Haran, he met his uncle Laban who had two daughters: Leah the plain and older one, and Rachel the beautiful and younger one, both first cousins of Ya'aqov. I won't go into all the details, but you are likely familiar with the story. He wanted Rachel, and so agreed to work seven years for Laban as a shepherd to get her, his love for her was that great. However, the morning after the wedding he found out he had married Leah instead. Just as Ya'aqov had deceived his father, so his uncle

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Laban (and now his father-in-law) had deceived him. After seven days of the bridal week, he got Rachel as his second wife, and worked seven more years to pay for her.

“As of yet he had no property of his own, so he made a bargain with Laban regarding getting his own herds. This is where the story gets interesting. Because Laban kept cheating his son-in-law, Yahuah made Ya’aqov very wealthy at Laban’s expense, during which time Ya’aqov fathered eleven sons and a daughter. Then, on his way back home with his large family, when he was about to meet his brother Esau, he wrestled with a man all night. This is the account, Genesis 32:24-30:

“ ‘Then Ya’aqov was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Ya’aqov’s thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him. Then the man said, “Let me go, for the dawn is breaking.”

“ ‘But Ya’aqov said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

“ ‘So the man said to him, “What is your name?”

“ ‘And he said, “Ya’aqov.”

“ ‘The man said, “Your name shall no longer be Ya’aqov, but Yisra’ěl; for you have striven with Elohim and with men and have prevailed.”

“ ‘Then Ya’aqov asked him and said, “Please tell me your name.”

“ ‘But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And he blessed him there.

“ ‘So Ya’aqov named the place Pni’ěl (face of Ĕl), for, “I have seen Elohim face to face, yet my life has been preserved.” ’

“Why did Yahuah love him and hate Esau? Because when Ya’aqov saw value, he went for it. He had made a commitment to Yahuah his Elohim and was trusting him. He had a relationship, whereas Esau did not.

“Yahushua gave two parables regarding the great value of the kingdom of Elohim. They’re in Matthew 13:44-46. In the first, a man found a treasure in a field. The treasure was so valuable to him that he hid it back in the field and sold all he had to buy the field. In the second, a merchant was looking for fine pearls, and finding one of great value he sold

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everything he had and bought it. The first was by accident, the second by searching. In both they sold all to get it.

“How valuable is the kingdom of Elohim to you? To Esau it had no value; that’s why Yahuah hated him. To Ya’aqov it had great value; that’s why Yahuah loved him. **What is the kingdom of Elohim? It is his life working in you through union with him out of selfless love.** You love him so much, because he made a way for you to be forgiven of your sins and be reconciled to him. He made that way through his only-begotten sinless son, the man Yahushua Messiah, by offering him to be the sacrifice, the slaughter-offering, for your sins. All you have to do is confess your sins to him and ask for forgiveness, believe that he died for you and rose from the grave and ascended into heaven and was given all authority over heaven and earth, and surrender your whole life to him for him to lead you in all you do. His great love for you demands that you return that love to him.”

With many other words Jake implored the people to make their first commitment or rededicate to a deeper walk, to examine their lives as to whether they are a Ya’aqov or Esau, and cease being an Esau and become a Ya’aqov. He concluded by calling people to come forward to receive Yahushua or to commit deeper to him. “My wife and I will sing while you are coming,” Jake said.

(Verse 1)

There is a Savior, a wonderful Savior  
A Savior who loves you  
More than you’ll ever know  
He’s reaching his hand to you  
His heart longs to receive you  
Oh come, oh come into his love

(Chorus)

Oh come, oh come  
Yahushua is calling you  
To come, oh come to him  
Now while he’s calling,  
He’s really longing  
Oh come, oh come to him

(Verse 2)

There’s a good shepherd

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That searches the hillsides  
Seeking for his precious lamb that is lost  
Yahushua, the door to the heavenly sheepfold  
Is longing for you to come in

(Chorus)

Oh come, oh come  
Yahushua is calling you  
To come, oh come to him  
Now while he's calling,  
He's really longing  
Oh come, oh come to him

Oh come, oh come  
Yahushua is calling you  
To come, oh come to him  
He really loves you  
His heart is for you  
Oh come, oh come to him

Many came forward, and Jake led them in a prayer of confession of sin, belief in Yahushua as savior, and commitment to give their whole lives to him as their master. When he finished, he said, "If you want prayer for healing, join me in the prayer room. I did not speak on this, but if you want to be filled with the spirit of the Almighty with the evidence of speaking in tongues, come also. This is a promise of the Father and is for every believer in his son."

~ ~

"What do you think we should do?" asked one of the men after the service. The three of them had come to investigate Jake and Sword of Yahuah.

"He's a heretic," replied one of them, "turning people away from the Historic Christian Faith. Did you read his statement of faith, not capitalizing 'spirit' or 'son'? Definitely it's a cult, for it is obvious he doesn't believe in the Trinity. The miracles he does have to come from Satan, not from God, for God wouldn't honor such blasphemy."

"Our job is to investigate and report to our pastor what we find," said another. "We have the bulletin that was passed out, and I took pictures of the banners as well as of the people present."

## Sword of Yahuah: An End-time Story of Hope

“Not that we need them,” pointed out the third. “It’s all on his website.”

~ ~

“I thought it went quite well,” said Maria after they had returned home.

“So did I,” responded Jake. “I could feel the anointing and presence of the Father, giving me strength to speak. But when I finished praying for the last one in the prayer room, I felt drained. Did you notice the three men at the back?”

“No. What about them?”

“They’re spies from another church, checking us out. And they weren’t happy at all. It has to do with my obvious disbelief in the Trinity.”

“Well,” said Maria, “it was quite a shocker to me when you mentioned it while in Israel. The wording in the Statement of Faith and the banners up front kind of shout that Yahuah Elohim is one and not a trinity. Are you going to speak on it next Sunday?”

### **Six: The Trinity and Spirit Immersion**

**I**’M GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT,” said Jake as he greeted Olaf, Milt, Lenny and their wives that evening. “Welcome to our home. Vanilla ice cream and strawberry shortcake, as promised.”

After they were seated and the small talk was over, Jake said, “I would like your comments on the service this morning. It was our first Sunday morning service, and I know some things need improvement.”

Lenny spoke first. “The sound system is really great; no problems there. The same with putting words for the music and the scripture texts on the screens.”

“The ushering was a bit chaotic,” said Milt. “We’ll get it better next time.”

Olaf said, “I was raised to believe in the Trinity. Obviously, you don’t.”

“Is it stated in the scriptures?” asked Jake.

“Not directly,” he replied.

“Is it even stated indirectly, that there is threeness in Elohim?” pressed Jake.

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“Olaf and I,” interjected Hilda, “talked about it after service. I was always told that God is triune, three Persons in one God, and so I accepted it because the church taught it. But it never made sense to me, and as a submissive woman, I never questioned it. So if God is one and not a trinity, I have no problem with that.”

“How about just believing what the scriptures say,” responded Jake, “that he is one and that he is the Father only, and leave out the ‘if?’”

“You’re right,” she said. “It’s just that the Trinity has been drilled into me for so many years that it takes a while to adjust to it being false. Yes, Olaf, I will say it. Because—not if—God is one, then the Trinity is false.”

“I have no requirement,” said Jake, “that a person believe one way or another. It is between each person and Yahuah. For me, the scriptures say he is one, so I believe it, and that settles it.”

“What about the deity of Christ?” asked Olaf.

“What about it?” Jake replied.

“I mean, that if there is no Trinity, then how can he be deity?”

“Your point?” pressed Jake.

“I’ve always been taught that he is both God and man.”

“So?”

“Are you saying,” asked Olaf, “that he is a human only and not deity?”

“Do the scriptures ever say he is God?” replied Jake.

Milt and Lenny and their wives were looking on with amusement. They were not raised in church so had no indoctrination, except for what they heard during Christmas and Easter.

“If you look at the history of the development of the doctrine of the Trinity,” continued Jake, “it didn’t officially start in the Catholic church until the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. under the leadership of the pagan emperor Constantine and paganized bishops, and it took hundreds of years after that for it to become what is taught today. Church tradition has nullified the scriptures, just as it did at the time of Yahushua.

“Contrary to the doctrine of the Trinity, scripture says Yahuah Elohim is one, he never changes, and Yahushua is a human, just as the first Adam was human, and just as we are human. Over the centuries the church—Catholics and Protestants alike—murdered those who didn’t believe in the Trinity, even burning some to death.”

“Tell them,” said Maria, “what it was like in Israel while we were there.”

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“Okay,” he said. “I was not raised in church, and as a new born-again Christian I just believed what the Bible said. It was obvious to me that God, or Elohim, is one and that Jesus, or Yahushua, is a human, and that the spirit of Elohim is Elohim himself, just as our spirits are ourselves without being separate persons from ourselves. You may have noticed that his spirit has no personal name, just as our spirits have no personal names. Only the Father and son have personal names.

“When we got to Israel, I assumed that, because Jews don’t believe in the Trinity, that when they became Christians they would still believe Elohim is one in nature. I was wrong. The first thing the churches there do after converting a Jew to Christianity—that Yahushua is the Messiah who died for them and rose again—is to convert them to Trinitarianism, that their Messiah was not just a human, but also Elohim as the Father is Elohim, in other words, a god-man. They do the same when converting Muslims to Messiah.”

“Did you question them on that?” asked Olaf.

“Yes, I did. And what a stink it was! We went to several different Sunday services and Bible studies, and it was always the same. The Trinity doctrine has a stranglehold on the church, so much so that it has come to be what defines Christianity instead of the gospel of salvation—it is the distinguishing thing that makes Christianity different from Judaism and Islam instead of a perfect man who died for our sins to reconcile us to Yahuah.”

“What do you mean by ‘perfect man’?” asked Milt’s wife.

“The first man, Adam,” answered Jake, “was created perfect without mother or father. He was in perfect union with Yahuah, only doing what Yahuah wanted, for he was living in the spirit. Living in the spirit means being so in tune with the will of Elohim and so yielded to him in love that you move as one. For this we were created, and this is how it will be in the eternal kingdom.

“But when he intentionally disobeyed and ate the forbidden fruit, he broke that relationship. As a result, all of his descendants, including us, are born with a weakness toward disobedience—note I said ‘weakness.’ We are not born unable to obey; it’s just that we have a weakness toward selfishness, and we all yield to it. This weakness is passed through the male seed or sperm, not the female ovum or egg.

“Yahushua is called the second and last Adam. His was a virgin birth, because Elohim, who is spirit, created the sperm to impregnate Miryam,

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the Hebrew name for Mary. This way he was born without that weakness toward selfishness that we all inherit. So he began with perfect fellowship with Yahuah as did the first Adam. But, like the first Adam, he still had to use his will to constantly obey, because he was tempted in every way that the rest of us humans are.”

“Why did the first Adam choose to disobey?” asked Lenny’s wife.

“That’s a good question, and the answer is amazing. In short, it involves a parallel with what Yahushua did, which was to voluntarily die and take on the punishment for our sin to save us. The first Adam was not deceived as Khawwah (Eve) was, but knowingly ate the forbidden fruit that he might die with her—both spiritually and eventually physically—and be put out of the garden. He did this to help her be restored to Yahuah. Are there any more questions or comments before I get into the other reason for why I asked you to come?” They all wanted to hear the other reason.

“You are my team, my beginning one,” he began. “Without your help it wouldn’t have happened. You are Yahuah’s gift to me, and I want you to know how thankful I am for you. You have a heart for wanting to go deeper in Yahuah, which is necessary for living in the spirit. This includes being immersed, or baptized, in the spirit with the sign of speaking in tongues.

“Speaking in tongues has two purposes. The most common one—and is the promise of the Father for every believer—is as your private prayer language. It is a perfect prayer, for you do not know what you are praying; your mind isn’t in the way; Yahuah himself is giving you the words to pray to him. This prayer is not for interpretation, although Elohim might give you a general idea, or sometimes, even a specific idea. But still it’s not for interpretation.

“The other purpose is for interpretation, usually to the assembly, but sometimes to a specific person. After you speak the words in an unknown tongue, either yourself or someone else gives the interpretation in a known language, like prophecy. You are not choosing the words; Yahuah is speaking the words through you. This is a supernatural manifestation of the presence of Yahuah to others. Our concern here is the first purpose, your private prayer language. None of you yet has received the spirit in this way. But Yahuah wants you to have it. It will help you greatly in serving him and in growing to become like him. Any questions at this point?”



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“Is it possible to receive the spirit,” asked Hilda, “without speaking in tongues?”

“Yes. Usually, though, soon afterwards the person is speaking in tongues. Why do you ask?”

“I went to the prayer room after service this morning to receive the spirit, but I didn’t speak in tongues, even though I felt I had received.”

“Do you want to speak in tongues?” Jake asked.

“Yes, I do. This is a whole new Christianity from what I’m used to, and I want the whole package.”

“And you shall,” spoke Jake, “as you keep seeking and humbling yourself before him. Speaking in tongues can be very humbling, because it sounds like gibberish, and you may think you’re crazy. What about the rest of you? Are you all game? ... Good. In Samaria, when Peter laid his hands on the new believers, they all received. I received without laying on of hands and so did Maria, but many receive with the laying on of hands. The Book of Acts shows both ways. The power of Yahuah is here for you to receive.”

Having said that, Jake laid hands on the head of each one, and each received. Immediately, all had their hands in the air, praising Yahuah in tongues. What a joyous time they had!

“Wow, oh wow!” said Olaf. “Truly the joy of Yahuah is my strength. I’ve been a Christian for many years, but it seems like I have just begun. Do you mind if I call you Pastor Jake?”

“I think it’s time I get used to that title,” said Jake. “I didn’t ask for it, but Yahuah has appointed me to be a pastor. Now, one more thing before you go. Your duties will be the same next Sunday, with one additional item. Yahushua said believers in him—not just special people like pastors and evangelists, but all believers—that they will lay their hands on the sick and they will recover. Do you believe that?” They nodded assent.

“Do you believe it applies to you?” Again, nodding in agreement.

“Throughout the week spend at least an hour in prayer daily, and look for opportunities to pray for others. Any time you see someone who could use prayer, ask if you could pray for them, and if they agree, then do so, expecting Elohim to heal. Also, next Sunday when people go to the prayer room after service for prayer, I want you to do the praying, expecting Elohim to heal. I’ll come later. If nothing happens, don’t be discouraged. It’s a promise, and it will happen. Often, though, he wants us to persevere,

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testing us to see if we do in truth believe. Some will get healed, though. It is Elohim who does the healing, not you. Your job is to be faithful; it's his job to give what results he wants to give."

"And also," added Olaf, "we should be inviting people to the service. We have business cards of Sword of Yahuah for that purpose."

### **Seven: Water Immersion**

**T**HE NEXT SUNDAY MARIA AND JAKE began the service with leading in singing.

Oceans and oceans of love  
Coming down from the Father above  
Oceans and oceans of love  
Coming down from the Father above  
It's setting my spirit free  
Bringing joy and liberty  
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray  
With oceans and oceans of love

(Repeat 2x)

It's setting my spirit free  
Bringing joy and liberty  
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray  
With oceans and oceans of love

---

Well I sold out my life to the King of kings  
I've given him the deed to my heart  
The ownership of me is now transferred to the King  
I'm sold out to the King of kings

(Repeat)

(Chorus)

Oh yes he bought me with his precious blood  
Oh yes he bought me with his precious blood  
This sale is final, I am Yahuah's today  
I'm sold out to the King of kings

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(Repeat all)

I'm sold out to the King of kings  
Oh yes I'm sold out to the King of kings

“The message today,” said Pastor Jake, after praying for those for whom he had a word of knowledge, “is about water immersion. Church tradition has changed what the apostles did. The Book of Acts shows us how the early assembly did things. I like the word assembly rather than church. The scriptures are from Yahuah. He inspired them, breathing the words into the writers’ spirits of what he wants us to know. So our pattern to follow is what the apostles did.

“But what has happened? The assembly has become church. The Greek for assembly, translated as church in English, is *ekklesia*. It means assembly or congregation, people who have been called to assemble or congregate in a meeting. The word church is of pagan origin. It comes from the Greek goddess and sorceress Kirke whose followers worshiped in a circle. It is from her name we get the words *circle*, *circus*, *circumference* and all other words beginning with *cir*. In their mythology she turned people into pigs and other animals by using drugs. If you want to know more about her, do a search on the internet. You may use the word church if you want. If you ask someone, ‘Do you go to assembly?’ they likely will not understand.

“For our purpose today, I will use assembly for its beginning, and church for what it has become, because a sorcerer has drugged the assembly into believing things that are contrary to the word of Yahuah. The temptation to Khawwah, the Hebrew for Eve, began with Satan asking her, ‘Did Elohim say...?’ He changed what Elohim said, and she followed his lead by changing it also. That is what the church has done—changed the word of Elohim, the scriptures, to mean what they want it to mean. Not in everything, but in many things. One of them is baptism.

“Baptism comes from the Greek word *báptisma*. It means immersion. It doesn’t mean pouring. It doesn’t mean sprinkling. It means immersion. In English, however, it has come to mean whatever you want it to mean. But if we want to follow what Elohim told us to do, then we will be immersed. Any questions?”

Someone raised his hand. When a mic was handed to him, he asked, “Does that mean, if we’ve already been baptized by sprinkling, are we supposed to be baptized again?”

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Pastor Jake smiled. “Wrong question. Can anyone tell him why that question is wrong? Yes. Hand her a mic.”

“If baptism means immersion,” she said, “and you’ve never been immersed, then the baptism you had wasn’t baptism. It was something else, but not baptism. So to be immersed would be your first baptism.”

“Very good,” said Pastor. “Is that clear to everyone? Did you all get that? When you know what Elohim calls baptism, then you’ve not been baptized until you’ve been immersed; or, to put it another way, you’ve not been immersed until you’ve been immersed. However, it isn’t wrong to be immersed more than once. Sometimes, when people get new understanding regarding living for Yahushua, they want to be immersed in that new understanding.

“I will give an example,” Jake continued. “Church tradition says to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, following the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19, and millions of Christians have been immersed with those words. But there’s something wrong with using those words? Can anyone tell us why? ... Yes. Give Hilda a mic.”

“In Acts, which is our pattern for the assembly, the apostles didn’t use those words. They always used the name of Yahushua. I have it here in my Bible. May I read it?”

“By all means.”

“This is the NIV, but I’ll use Yahushua Messiah instead of Jesus Christ and immersed instead of baptized, following your example. On the Day of Pentecost when the assembly began, Acts 2:38 says: *‘Peter replied, “Repent and be immersed, every one of you, in the name of Yahushua Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”’* The same is in Acts 10:48 when Peter was speaking to the Gentiles. They never used the words of the Great Commission.”

“You are right,” said Pastor Jake. “In fact, those words were never used for any ceremony until over a hundred years after the assembly began. Let’s look at Matthew 28:19 again. It says, *‘... baptizing then in the **name** of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’* Is any of those words a name, anyone? ... I see heads shaking negatively. No, those are titles of position, not names. The Father has a name; it is Yahuah. The son also has a name; it is Yahushua. The Holy Spirit has no name because it is the spirit of holiness, the spirit of the Father. Each of you has a name, but none of you has a personal name for your spirit. Nor does the Father.

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“So what did Yahushua mean when he said, *‘in the name of?’* The apostles knew he didn’t mean they were supposed to use those words, otherwise they would have used them. Are you ready for a little Hebrew lesson? ... You are? ... Okay. ... Hebraism is our first lesson. Does anyone know what Hebraism is? ... Yes. Give that young lady a mic.”

“An *-ism* with a language is a special way of saying something according to that culture. We have many Americanisms in ours, such as ‘It’s raining cats and dogs.’ It’s not to be taken literally, but it’s a metaphor for raining heavily. So a Hebraism is a special way of saying something that fits Hebrew culture, but not someone else’s.”

“Very good. I couldn’t have said it better. You aren’t perhaps a college student taking English comp, are you?”

“Yes, I am.”

“Well, welcome to Sword of Yahuah. I won’t ask if anyone knows what this particular Hebraism is. The scriptures are full of them, for they were written by Hebrews, except Mark and Luke; but their sources were Hebrew. Even when writing Greek they were thinking in Hebrew and it shows in their writings. But that’s a whole other subject.

“Name—*shēm*, pronounced *shame* in Hebrew—is more than a title for a person as it is normally in English. It means character, the essence of the person, his reality. We do use it a bit in English, such as, ‘You are giving me a bad name,’ meaning you are ruining my reputation, making my character look bad. Or, it can be used in a positive sense as well.

“What, then, is the character and reality of the Father? We see it in Yahushua, for he is the image of the invisible Elohim, Colossians 1:15. In fact, he is the exact representation of his being, Hebrews 1:3. He said to Philip, *‘Don’t you know me? ... Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father,’* John 14:9.

“To immerse in his name, Yahushua, therefore, means to immerse in the character and reality of himself, of the Father, and of the Father’s spirit of set-apartness. Holy means set-apart from the world to the service of Yahuah, like a priest. We are called a kingdom of priests, Revelation 1:6 and 5:10. And holiness is that set-apartness. The word saint comes from the same Greek word, and means a person who has set his life apart to serve Yahuah as a priest. A priest is one who intercedes on behalf of others. All who are born-again Christians are saints by this definition, whether they live up to it or not. Paul addresses his readers as saints, or set-apart ones, even though they had many problems.

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“Are you with me? Any questions? ... Yes, I see your hand. Give him a mic.”

“What about the Trinity?” he asked.

“What about it?”

“I don’t see it in what you’re saying. That’s what about it.”

“Do you see the word in the Bible?”

“No, but...”

“No buts, just answer the question. Is the word in the Bible?”

“No.”

“Does Elohim say he is three-in-one?”

“No.”

“Does he say he is one?”

“Yes.”

“Does that answer your question.”

No answer.

“The Trinity,” said Pastor Jake, “is a cooked-up deception from the Enemy that has, among other things, brought the church to its present state of impotence. Impotence means no power. Trinitarianism has come to be what defines Christianity rather than the good news of salvation in Yahushua Messiah. The devil is happy with that; Yahuah hates it. But we are in the days in which he is restoring his assembly to be what he created it to be.

“The message of the kingdom of Elohim that Yahushua brought to the Jews divided them, for what he brought was contrary to their traditions, and they impaled him as a result. He said, *‘You have a fine way of abolishing the commandment of Elohim in order to establish your tradition!’* Mark 7:9. The church today is no different. The question is, which are you for? Are you for what Yahuah wants, or what church tradition wants? There is a reason for the name of this assembly, Sword of Yahuah. We know that what we are bringing—the word of Yahuah as he inspired it—is bringing division. And so it will be until Messiah returns.

“Yes, I see that hand. Give her a mic.”

“Are you going to have an immersion service? I want to be immersed in the name of Yahushua Messiah.”

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“I’m glad you asked, and I’m getting to that. First, we have established that baptism is by immersion. Second, we have established that it is in the name of Yahushua. Third, its purpose.

“A leaflet at the back explains the purpose, citing several scriptures, so I won’t go into detail here. In short, it is to confirm your commitment to Yahushua, that he is your Master and Savior, that you have given your life 100% to him, holding nothing back for yourself, and that you have died to your old self and buried it when you go under the water, washing your sins away, and that you have risen to a new life in him when you come back up out of the water. It is a symbol of death, burial and resurrection.

“The immersion itself does not save you. All it does is get you wet. It is a symbol, a symbol of your decision for a new life, or a renewed life in recommitment. Many believers, if they have not yet received the spirit with the sign of speaking in tongues, receive when they come up out of the water. Don’t be surprised if that happens.

“The immersion service will be next Sunday after our service here, around one or so at the city park, rain or shine. The forecast is shine. We have reserved an area, including shelters for picnics. Bring your swim suits. Be ready to give your testimony of being born-again and why you want to be immersed. Also—and this is very important—a sign-up sheet is at the back. I need your full name, physical address, email address if you have one, and phone number to text you on. If your phone doesn’t do text, then note that. This way we can inform you of any other details.

“Yes, sir, I see that hand.”

After he got the mic he asked, “What about membership? Does being immersed by you automatically make us members?”

“No. It is just a testimony to others before Elohim that you are serious about your decision. Regarding membership, there are forms at the back to fill out for those who wish to become members. Among things you are asked is the reason why you want to become a member, and your monthly financial pledge. The requirements for being a member include regular attendance whenever possible, and paying a tithe of your income before taxes, plus offerings. Tithe means ten percent before taxes. If you believe in this ministry, that what we are doing is to help you become what Elohim wants you to be, then you will want to support it with your actions and with your finances.

“Are you encouraged in Yahuah? Do you want to go all out for him? Do you want his life and power in you so that you can be effective in

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advancing his kingdom? That's what Sword of Yahuah is for, to help you do that, with Yahuah helping us. Pray for us that we will be effective in our responsibility.

"We will have a closing song at this time, after which I will lead in a closing prayer."

(Chorus)

We're moving on to a higher place with him  
We're moving on to a place we've never been  
We're moving on to a higher place with him  
We're moving on, so brethren come along

(Verse 1)

Yahuah is drawing sweetly  
And we must not miss his call  
He's speaking not just to some, but to us all  
If we'll just follow Yahushua  
Then he will lead us home  
We're moving on, so brethren come along

(Chorus)

(Verse 2)

People, don't you see this unity abounds  
We've got to find his heart and pass it all around  
We've got to love each other then go and love the rest  
And by his spirit we are made strong  
So that we won't fail this test

(Chorus)

"Father," prayed Pastor Jake, "thank you so much for what you are doing in our midst and in each life here. Thank you that you are drawing us closer to you. We want your life to be seen in us, that when people—friends, family, coworkers, strangers in the grocery stores, department stores, the mall, wherever—when they see us, they see you in us, just as they saw you in Yahushua. We want to represent your character exactly, to be your image. We have fallen short—very, very short—of what you created us to be. But you have made a way, through your son Yahushua, for us to be reconciled to you, to have all our sins washed away and to overcome all sin in our lives, and to become like you. Thank you so much.



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We give you this day, this week, the rest of our lives to you. In the name, the character, the essence, the reality of Yahushua Messiah. Amen.

“If you have not yet received Yahushua as your Savior, or you want to recommit or make a deeper commitment, please come forward and I will pray with you. The prayer room is open. Some of the staff will be there for any who want prayer for healing. You will know them by their name tags.”

### **Eight: The Bride and the Rapture**

**T**HE DOORS WERE OPEN EARLY the following Sunday so that any who wanted to pray before the service could do so in the prayer room. When the time came to start, Pastor and wife began leading in worship.

I feel a fresh new wave of his spirit  
Filled with the promise of his love  
I feel a fresh new wave of his spirit  
Coming with the splendor from above  
It's coming straight for me, oh Hallelu-Yah  
It's coming straight for me, oh praise Yahuah  
Oceans of love are flooding my soul  
Oceans of love from Yahuah

(Repeat 2x)

Closer to Yahuah is where I want to stay  
Knowing his heart in an intimate way  
Sharing sweet communion with my wonderful King  
Lost in his heavenly love  
Yes that's where you'll find me  
That's where I belong  
Singing in the spirit some sweet heavenly song  
Loving and praising my wonderful King  
Lost in his heavenly love

(Repeat 2x)

Where Yahuah is there is fullness of joy  
And that's where I'm going to stay

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Where Yahuah is there is fullness of joy  
And that's where I'm going to stay  
Close to him, close to him  
Right next to his heart of love  
Where Yahuah is there is fullness of joy  
And that's where I'm going to stay  
(Repeat 2x)

So jump right in to the love of Yah  
Come on in, the water's fine  
Just jump right in to his arms of love  
Come on in, come on in  
The love of Yahuah is flowing deep and wide  
It's much deeper and wider than you'll ever realize  
Don't listen to those demons  
Start believing and receiving  
The love of Yahuah in your heart  
(Repeat 2x)

"Today's topic," began Pastor Jake, "is the Bride of Messiah and the rapture. Yahushua is coming for a radiant assembly, a body of believers without spot or wrinkle or any other blemish, but set-apart and blameless, Ephesians 5:27. That radiance and spotlessness doesn't come automatically. We have to work at it. I'm not talking about works for salvation; oh, no! That's a free gift. But once we have it, we have to work at it to keep it. It's like marriage, a relationship of mutual love. But you have to work at it to keep it vibrant and alive, or else it stagnates into putting up with each other, or divorce.

"Most believers have stagnated into becoming lukewarm in their relationship with Yahuah. They have a religion in which they go through the motions, but Yahuah is not really a part of their lives. That's the sad state of most of the church. They do not know it, but unless they repent and come alive, when Yahushua comes, they will be left behind.

Let me refer you to two scripture passages. The first is to the assembly in Laodicea, Revelation 3:14-22. Yahushua says they are neither cold nor hot. He would rather that they were one or the other, but because they are lukewarm, he is about to vomit them out of his mouth. In other words, they are giving him spiritual nausea.

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“We have all experienced nausea in which we had to vomit something out, kneeling at the toilet bowl as the stomach muscles contract, forcing that awful stuff out of our mouths. Ugh! Well, that’s what he says about lukewarm believers. They think they’re okay, in need of nothing, not knowing they are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

“So he counsels them to buy gold refined in the fire to become rich, and to buy white clothes to cover their nakedness, and to buy salve to put on their eyes to see. Gold is a type of the nature of Elohim. Refined in the fire is persecution, hardships and difficulties. To become rich means to take on the nature of Elohim.

“The more you stand for righteousness, the more the world and the church will persecute you. White clothes are wedding garments, the righteous deeds of the set-apart ones mentioned in Revelation 19:7-8. Eye salve is the anointing of the set-apart spirit so as to discern the Father’s will and do it. Presently they are spiritually blind. He only reveals his will to those who obey him out of a heart motive of love. They are told to buy these things.

“The parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 says the same thing. All ten are asleep, but only the wise had extra oil so their lamps wouldn’t go out. The other five were foolish because they didn’t have extra oil and their lights did go out. Oil is a type of the set-apart spirit; the light is the light of Yahushua shining out of them.

“In the parable, the call that the bridegroom had come refers to the rapture. The five wise virgins, because of their extra oil, were accepted into the kingdom and raptured. The five foolish virgins were lukewarm, thinking they had enough of the set-apart spirit, so when the call came, they weren’t ready.

“The foolish ones asked the wise ones to give them some of their extra oil, but no one can give to another the light of Messiah in them. So the wise told the foolish to go to the sellers to buy some oil for themselves.

“The seller of oil—oil referring to the set-apart spirit—is Elohim. The price is dying to self and pursuing him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and that takes time. Growth in the spirit is a process of overcoming sin and selfishness and growing more and more in love with the Father and his son. But when the rapture happens, there is no more time. Those who are ready, are ready; and those who are not, are not.

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“In the parable, the five foolish virgins failed. This message to the Laodicea assembly is a call and warning to wake up, get serious about their faith, and start ‘buying the oil’ before it is too late.

“Brothers, sisters, what are you doing to increase your ‘oil’ so that you have enough. The ‘oil’ keeps being used, so the ‘buying’ never stops. In Philippians 3:12-14, Paul himself confessed that he had not already attained or was perfect, but he was pressing forward to lay hold of that for which Messiah Yahushua had laid hold of him. So forgetting his past, he was moving forward so as to qualify for the rapture. Since qualifying for the rapture was true for him, how much more is it true for us? ... Yes, I see that hand.”

“I thought that everyone who is born-again goes in the rapture,” the man said.

“That is one of the beliefs in the church,” replied Pastor, “but it is a lie. Others believe there is no rapture at all, which is also a lie. Because of those lies, believers are lulled to sleep, thinking all is okay and there is nothing to do to prepare. The scriptures are clear, however, that there is a rapture and only a few born-again Christians are prepared. In the letters to the seven assemblies in Revelation, I mentioned the one to Laodicea, the seventh of seven letters, that they are lukewarm, and won’t be accepted unless they repent. Why? Because there is no place for the lukewarm in the eternal Kingdom. Yahuah demands a 100% commitment from love. Anything less is selfishness—the lukewarm are selfish, more in love with their own desires in life than for Yahuah.

“The letter preceding that one is to the Philadelphia assembly. Messiah says to them, Revelation 3:10: *‘Because you have kept the word of my endurance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing which is about to come upon all the inhabited-world to test those who dwell on the earth.’*

“What is that testing? It is the seven years of great tribulation, ending with the return of Messiah to earth to begin his 1,000-year rule, called the Millennium.

“Brothers, sisters, we are living in serious times. We are on the threshold of apocalyptic events. Listen to this warning in Revelation 18:1-4 that the apostle John saw regarding the judgment coming on Babylon, the woman described in chapter 17. This woman, Babylon, is the world system of politics, commerce and religion, including Christianity. Note: the Christian religion is part of Babylon. The church is in Babylon and

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thinks and acts like the world. Church people, for the most part, love themselves rather than Yahuah. This is what John saw:

“ ‘After these things I saw another messenger, an angel, coming down from the sky having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his esteem. And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.”

“ ‘And I heard another voice from the sky, saying, “Come out of her my people so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues, for her sins have piled up as high as the heavens and Elohim has remembered her iniquities.””

“Note, Elohim’s people—the church, Christians—are in her, in Babylon, part of the Babylon system under the power of diabolos, the devil. And Elohim is calling them to come out of that system. That’s what this ministry—Sword of Yahuah—is about: calling sinners to repent and follow Yahuah through his son Yahushua, and calling believers to come out of the world system of selfishness and narcissism and false doctrines in the church. Most will not, but some will. Note this passage in Revelation 12:1-6:

“ ‘A great sign appeared in the sky: **a woman** clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; and she was with child; and she cries out, being **in labor** and in pain to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky: and behold, a great red snake having seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads seven diadems. And his tail sweeps away a third of the stars of the sky and threw them to the earth. And the snake stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

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“ ‘And she gave birth to a **son**, a **male**, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was **caught up** to Elohim and to his throne. <sup>6</sup>Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she has a place prepared by Elohim, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.’ (3½ years)

“The woman is the church, believers in Messiah, Christians. They are in Babylon. Among them are believers who are struggling to come out and be separate, totally devoted to Messiah and Yahuah. To the church they are fanatics and the church wants them out. They are the male son, *man child* in the KJV. These are the ones who will be raptured. The rest go into the tribulation under the world government of the antichrist and either die for their faith or take the 666 mark of the beast and lose their salvation.”

Jake paused to drink some water.

### **Nine: End-times Timeline**

**I** WASN'T GOING TO BRING THIS UNTIL LATER,” Pastor Jake continued, “but it needs to be brought now; that is, the timeline and scenario of end-time events. Are you ready for this? ... Okay, here goes. It would take days, even months, to go into detail with scripture and secular proofs, so what I'm giving you is an outline only. Lenny, put the outline on the screen while I talk about it.”

- Great apostacy, going on now
- 3½ years male-son ministry (could be starting very soon)
- Rapture of the Bride, ending the ministry
- Remaining Christians left behind
- Satan begins one-world government
- First half of 7-years' Great Tribulation
- Christians, too many to be counted, martyred
- 144,000 of Israel sealed for protection from the second half

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- Second half of 7-years' Great Tribulation
- Plagues on earth as judgment for the martyring
- Battle of Armageddon
- Return of Yahushua to begin his 1,000-year rule on earth

"How soon is soon?" someone asked.

"Alarming, isn't it?" said Pastor Jake. "There is much evidence, strong evidence, both in scripture and in secular history, that the male-son ministry could begin at any moment. Look at it this way. How many days did it take for Elohim to do this creation? Don't go by secular ideas based on evolution—which, by the way, is science fiction—but according to scripture?"

"Six," someone said.

"Right. And for Yahuah, how many years to a day?"

"A thousand years to a day," said another.

"Right again," continued Jake. "That's what it says in 2 Peter 3:8. *'Do not be ignorant of this one thing, dear friends: with Yahuah a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.'* What about the seventh day of creation in Genesis?"

"God rested," from another.

"I see you know your Bible," said Jake. "Six days of creation, and one day of rest. Elohim never rests, by the way. He didn't go off on a vacation and leave creation to its own devices. This is typology. The scriptures are full of types. A type is a person, thing or event of something in the natural that points to something spiritual. The first Adam, for example, is a type of the last Adam, Yahushua Messiah. Everything recorded about the first Adam has its spiritual counterpart in the last Adam.

"The six days of creation plus the one day of rest have their counterpart, or fulfillment, in the history of man. This shows that man is given 6,000 years to rule earth, and we are now very close to the end of that 6,000 years. The one day of rest has its fulfillment in the Millennium in which Yahuah rules through Messiah and his bride. Soon after that all of this physical creation burns up and is gone and there is a new heaven and earth.

"Those 6,000 years have been divided several ways to show the progress of Elohim's dealing with mankind. One way is to divide it into three 2,000-year segments: Adam to Abraham, Abraham to Messiah, and

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Messiah until the rapture. Yahuah made a covenant with Abraham, that he would be the father of many nations, and all nations would be blessed through him. According to Daniel 9:27, Yahuah will confirm that covenant for seven years, that seven years to be divided into two halves, each being 3½ years. I know this is technical, but bear with me.

“In the 2,000-years segment that’s in the middle, starting with Abraham, Yahuah worked with Israel, culminating in the 3½-years’ ministry of Yahushua with signs and wonders, showing that he is the promised Messiah, confirming the covenant to the Jews. That is the first half of the seven years of confirmation, at the end of the middle 2,000-years segment.

“In the last 2,000-years segment, the segment in which we are, Yahuah has been working with the Gentiles, that’s why this is called the Gentile Age, also called the Church Age. We are very near the end of that 2,000 years when the second half of the seven years of confirmation will be fulfilled, again with signs and wonders, this time to confirm the covenant to the Gentiles, that Yahushua is the Messiah. This will be Yahushua working in the last-day Bride for 3½ years, called the male-son ministry, or, using the KJV language, the man-child ministry.

“Right now, as I speak, according to the research I’ve seen, the beginning of that ministry could be very soon, within this decade! My job, as your pastor, is to help you prepare to be a part of that ministry. It won’t happen by a lightning bolt striking you and suddenly you are ready to operate in miracle power. Your will is involved. How much do you love Yahuah and his unique son Yahushua who died for you? Now is the time to totally die to self so that he is all-in-all.”

“What happens after the rapture?” someone called out.

“As you are likely aware,” Jake answered, “the world is clamoring for globalism, which means one-world government. They have no idea what they are wanting, for it means the end of civilization as we know it and the death of almost all the eight billion people on earth. Why do they want this one-world government? Deception. They have rejected Yahuah and his son Yahushua and have chosen other religions and atheism, and so Elohim has given them a spirit of deception to believe the lie. All who reject Yahushua do so because they have the spirit of Satan, a spirit which loves self over Yahuah.

“You’ve heard of the Four Horses of the Apocalypse in Revelation 6. They are white, red, black and pale. The Greek for pale is actually green.



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The rider on the first, the white one, is Satan, coming to conquer the earth under his one-world rule led by his antichrist leader. He comes to destroy all nationalism and all religion. He wants worship of himself alone, that he is the true and only elohim. He accomplishes his goal through the other three riders and horses.

“The second horse is fiery red and represents war. People think one-world government will bring peace. It won’t; it will bring war—people filled with the spirit of murder and hate killing each other. On a small scale that is happening now with wars and rumors of wars. But this will be worldwide—all nations, including ours. It could very well be nuclear war with all our large cities becoming rubble, like Hiroshima and Nagasaki that ended World War Two.

“The third horse is black, representing famine. This is famine all over the globe, in every nation. We read of it in third-world countries, and to a degree here in the United States, but war brings famine, as does weather.

“The fourth horse is green, according to the Greek word. It is the horse of death, sending one quarter of the earth’s population, two billion people, to Hades to await their judgment for hell. It is war, famine, plague and wild beasts that bring this death.

“During this 3½ years, the first half of the Great Tribulation, all religion will be destroyed, including Christianity. Christians alive at that time will have the choice of denying Messiah by taking the Mark of the Beast and losing their salvation, or being martyred for refusing to take the Mark and saving their souls. This has been a brief summary. Any questions? ... Yes. Go ahead Olaf.”

“You believe God is one and not a trinity, and Jesus is a human like the first Adam and the rest of us humans, and not a god-man or preexistent, contrary to the majority Historic Christian Faith. Will Trinitarians, which are the vast majority of Christians, miss the rapture because of that belief?”

“I’m glad I’m not the judge and that Yahuah is. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 describes the rapture. This is what it says, and it’s on the screen so you can read it with me.

“ ‘But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Yahushua died and rose again,

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even so Elohim will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Yahushua. For this we say to you by the word of the Master, that we who are alive and remain until the presence of the Master, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.'

“Fallen asleep means those who have died in the faith. There are two second comings. The first is the rapture, described here. The Greek has two words for it: *parousía*, which means presence, and *harpádzō*, which means caught up or snatched up suddenly. In this coming Messiah does not come to earth but meets those raptured in the air.

“Continuing with verses 16 to 18:

“ ‘For the Master himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of Elohim, and the dead in Messiah will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Master in the air, and so we shall always be with the Master. Therefore comfort one another with these words.’

“Notice there are two categories of those who are raptured. One is of believers who have died before the rapture; the other of believers who are still alive when it happens. Regarding those who have died beforehand, this would include all who qualify from Adam to the moment before the rapture. None would have been Trinitarians until the last several hundred years when the doctrine was installed and enforced on pain of death or expulsion from the church. All of these are the bride.

“However, there is a last-day bride, now being formed, that will be without stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but set-apart and blameless, Ephesians 5:27. I believe the truth—that Elohim is one only and his son is a human only—will be confirmed with signs and wonders in this last-day ministry of the male-son. When the truth comes, those who are the bride will recognize it and throw off the Trinity and god-man lies as the gross, filthy, damaging things that they are. They will recognize that both Christmas and Easter are pagan festivals honoring Mithras brought into the church, because Christmas celebrates a god becoming a man, and Easter celebrates this god rising from the dead. Valentine’s Day will also be recognized as a pagan day along with Halloween. ... Yes, Hilda.”

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“I notice we’re going backwards on your timeline. You started with the Tribulation, then the Rapture. What about the apostacy, which is going on now in the timeline and listed first? What does that mean?”

“In Christian theology,” replied Pastor Jake, “it’s called the Great Apostasy. The word comes directly from the Greek, just like baptism does. In Greek it is *apostasía*. Literally it means falling from a standing position. In application it means the state of having defected from truth. This has been happening during the whole history of man, beginning with Khawwah, or Eve. The history of Israel after leaving Egypt is full of one apostasy after another, so that all those twenty years and older died in the wilderness and didn’t enter the promised land, except for two, Joshua and Caleb. In other words, out of over two or three million, only two made it. At the time of Yahushua, of the thousands who started following him, only 120 were in the Upper Room at Pentecost.

“This is also the history of the church. For the most part they have made a religion which is not based on scripture, but on tradition. In these last days it is getting worse, and it will continue to do so up until the rapture. Paul wrote about it in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3:

“ ‘Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the presence of our Master Yahushua Messiah and our gathering together to him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of Yahuah has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it [the rapture] will not come unless the apostasy comes first.’

“Apostasy in the church is the clear rejection of scripture in order to follow the ways of the world, such as condoning sin which, according to scripture, if you do them, you cannot enter the kingdom of Elohim. One example is pornography. It is rampant in the church, and is the same as adultery, for it is lusting from your heart. Another is accepting homosexuals and the whole LGBTQ movement as being okay with Elohim. Still another is ‘Your Best Life Now’ and ‘Name It, Claim It’ doctrines. And another is ‘Grace Covers Sin, So Sinning Is Okay.’

“This apostasy is growing quickly in the church. They call themselves Christians, but their god is the devil. They are not rejecting the religion of Christianity, but they are rejecting truth and a personal, love relationship

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with Yahuah in which they are working at coming out of all sin and becoming like Yahushua.

“Is the Trinity belief involved in this? Yes, it is. When you choose to believe one lie, you are open to other lies. A big lie in the Trinity is that Jesus did not sin because he is God, and God cannot sin. Therefore, because we are human and not God, we cannot help but sin. I could say more, but this should be enough.

“Keep in mind, though, Elohim judges the heart. We can have wrong beliefs but still love Yahuah and Yahushua. Belief in the Trinity is not a salvation issue in itself. For many Christians it is just an intellectual belief that has no bearing on their relationship with Elohim. But to many others it is an excuse for not giving up sin.

“We are close to the time, people, and it’s time to get serious about our relationship with Yahuah and pursue him with all that is within us; in other words, to love him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.

“I can see we are running late, so we’ll close now. See you in a little bit at the immersion service in the park, and next Sunday. Be active in reaching out to others to share the true gospel. The prayer room is open for those who want prayer for healing or other issues. Shalom. Peace be with you.”

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“Wow!” exclaimed Maria after they got home. “It’s been quite a day, both the message this morning and the immersion service. The presence of the Father was so evident! What next?”

“We are in uncharted territory,” Jake replied. “Judaism—the church of Yahushua’s day—hated him. The more he did miracles and exposed their traditions as being against Yahuah, the more they hated him. It won’t be any different in our day. These are the days before Yahuah pours out his power in which we do greater things than Yahushua did, called the male-son ministry, or last-day Bride ministry.”

“Doesn’t the Book of Acts record greater things than what Yahushua did,” she asked, “like Peter’s shadow healing people and the spirit of Yahuah snatching Philip away?”

“True, and it’s that power which resulted in the assembly growing so fast. I believe that’s an example of what will happen again. When that power is poured out, and the church is exposed for what it has become,

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we can expect the same reaction to the truth as what Yahushua experienced. The hearts of believers will be revealed for what they are, the apostasy will be complete, and we will be raptured so as not to go through the Great Tribulation, even though we will go through hard times. Our job is to be faithful to what he has given us.”

“Amen,” responded Maria. “But I can see that you are troubled.”

“Yes, I am. Revelation chapters 6 and 7 tell of those who are martyred during the first half of the seven-years’ tribulation. In 6:9- 11, John sees under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the testimony which they had maintained. They are asking how long will it be before their blood is avenged, and are told to wait until the full number of martyrs is complete. Then, in 7:9-17, John sees that these martyrs are a multitude too great in number to be counted. In comparison, it would appear that they are much, much more than those of the last-day bride who will be raptured.”

Jake paused, so Maria said, “I can see you are coming to a conclusion about that.”

“During the 3½-years ministry of Yahushua,” he continued, “many thousands flocked to him because of the miracles they saw, but only a few remained with him to the end. The male-son ministry is parallel to this. Millions will respond to the gospel and give their lives to Yahushua because of the miracles, but how many of them will be included in the rapture? Will the vast majority of them, perhaps beyond number to count, repent, become zealous, and be martyred in the tribulation? And will there be many more who will convert during the tribulation and be martyred? That’s what’s troubling me.”

“What do you plan on doing about it?” she asked.

“The number of people coming to our meetings will grow, especially when the male-son ministry is in full force. This will happen all over the world in countless assemblies as Yahuah pours out his spirit in miracle power. We are a part of what Yahuah is doing, but only a small part among numerous other small parts. In fact, we aren’t even needed, for the Father can do it all by himself without us. But it pleases him to involve us, and he rewards us for our involvement.”

“You haven’t answered the question,” Maria persisted.

“All I can do is to prepare our people to be a part of the male-son ministry, which also means to be the bride who will be raptured.”

**Ten:  
Earth, Bootcamp for Heaven**

**G**OOD MORNING, CONGREGATION,” said Pastor Jake. “Yahuah loves you, and I love you. Thank you for your activity in witnessing to others and sharing the love of Yahuah. In just a few months our number has grown greatly. Again, thank you. What are numbers, though? What do they mean? I’m happy you are all here, but why are you here? Is it because of the healings and miracles? If that’s the reason, and that’s the only reason, then you are here for the wrong reason. Seeing healings and miracles won’t get you to heaven; or, put in another way, it won’t keep you from going to hell, those two being the only eternal options.

“Thousands flocked to Yahushua because of the miracles; but only a few became his permanent followers. Which would you rather have, a fruit orchard of one thousand trees that produce no fruit, or one tree that bears much fruit. The fruit we are after—and which Yahuah is after—is changed lives that become like him in his nature of selfless love.

“We are preparing for the rapture and eternal life with Yahuah and his son Yahushua, and this song will introduce that subject.”

I’ll be ready to go when the bridegroom comes  
I’ll be ready to go when the bridegroom comes  
    I am cleansed from every sin  
    I have the life of Messiah within  
    I’ll be ready for the end when he comes  
I’ll be ready when the bridegroom comes  
I’ll be ready when the bridegroom comes  
    Be it noon or be it night  
    I’ll be robed in spotless white  
And have my lamps all burning bright when he comes  
I’ll be ready to go when the bridegroom comes  
I’ll be ready to go when the bridegroom comes  
    Soon I’ll see my Savior’s face  
    And learn his love for the human race  
And how my soul was saved by grace when he comes

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I'll be ready to go when the bridegroom comes  
I'll be ready to go when the bridegroom comes  
I'll be watching for my Lord  
I'll be anchored on his word  
Waiting then to be transferred when he comes  
I'll be ready when the bridegroom comes  
I'll be ready when the bridegroom comes  
Be it noon or be it night  
I'll be robed in spotless white  
And have my lamps all burning bright when he comes

“That is a marvelous song of faith,” said Pastor Jake. “But is it true for you? Will you be ready? What are you doing to get ready? Most Christians aren’t ready, nor do they see any need to get ready. They’re living their lives for themselves, not for Yahuah. In Matthew 6:19-21 Yahushua said:

“ ‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroy, and where thieves neither break in nor steal. For where your treasure is, there also your heart will be.’

“What is your treasure? Is it the things of earth, such as family, a job, being comfortable, recreation, movies?

“Today we’re doing something different—we’re going to have a dialogue. Our beloved Olaf has agreed to be the one I bounce ideas off. What he says, therefore, is not what he necessarily believes, but it is what most Christians believe, including most of you. So the majority of you are believing what he will be saying. You believe it, not because of studying scripture, but because that’s how you were brought up. It’s part of our culture. Some of what he says will agree with scripture, but not all. I have not given Olaf the questions ahead of time, but he knows what most Christians believe and will answer accordingly.”

After the two were seated on the platform, Jake began. “Olaf, what do you believe about the rapture?”

“It’s when Yahushua comes to catch away his Bride to meet him in the air.”

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Turning to face the congregation, Jake said, “If you agree, raise your hands.” They all did.

“Good,” he continued. “That’s what scripture says. It’s a basic truth, like saying the earth is round, or spring comes after winter. Next question,” facing Olaf again, “do you want to go in the rapture?”

“Of course,” he replied.

“Why?” asked Jake.

“So I’ll go to heaven and not go through the great tribulation.”

“Why do you want to go to heaven?” Jake pressed.

“So I won’t go to hell.”

“Did you know that most people, if they knew what heaven is like, would rather go to hell?”

“What?!” exclaimed Olaf in surprise.

“You heard right. Countless billions of angels were in heaven before Yahuah created mankind. They experienced directly the beauty, goodness, mercy, love and self-giving of Yahuah the almighty Elohim. However, when they learned they were created to be servants of us mud-ball humans to help us become greater than they and closer to Yahuah than they, one third of them rebelled and were kicked out; including their leader, Lucifer the light-bearer, who became Satan the accuser. In short, they loved themselves more than they loved Yahuah. They chose hell over heaven.”

“Do you mean,” asked Olaf, “that most humans would prefer the torment of hell rather than the pleasure and joy of heaven?”

“Olaf, what is the kingdom of heaven?”

“What?”

“What is the kingdom of heaven? What is it? Where is it? Of what does it consist?”

“Let me think on that,” Olaf replied. He looked around at the people, then the architecture, and finally back at Jake. “Heaven is eternal vacation, doing the things you like the most. For the fisherman, there are streams and lakes and seas with fish to catch. For the hunter: deer and elk and other game abound to kill and eat. For those with a sweet tooth: all sorts of sweets and pastries. Whatever you like here— indoor sports, outdoor sports, gourmet food, wine, coffee, relaxing in the sun—it’s much better



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there. Oh, and I mustn't forget family and friends. It is seeing all of them. Even those you don't like you will like there."

"In other words," said Jake, "it's paradise." And turning to the congregation asked, "Is that right?"

Some nodded their heads, some shook theirs, and some waited to hear what next.

"Olaf," said Jake, "it's none of that. You won't know any family as being family—not your spouse, not your children, not your grandchildren, not your parents, not your grandparents, nor anyone else."

"That can't be!" exclaimed Olaf in disbelief. "The whole purpose of heaven and paradise is enjoyment with the ones you love here and doing things you enjoy here. I know you can't take things with you, your physical belongings, and you won't need them, because the same things are there but better, much better. Our pets, which have died, will be alive there to greet us. Are you saying all that is fiction, false advertisement, fake news and a lie? That cannot be! Prove what you're saying from scripture!"

"Scripture has much to say on the subject," replied Jake. "But before I do, let me say this. Many Christians want to go to heaven, and to get others to heaven. But why do we want to get there? For most Christians, the goal is to get through this life with the least suffering and with as much pleasure as possible. It is to avoid as much suffering as we can in this life. The goal is to survive this life so that we can enter heaven and be with Yahuah and his son Yahushua. In their minds, heaven is paradise.

"And what is paradise? What is it to you? Is it no more sorrow, pain, or tears? Scripture says that. And there's a song that says: 'Joy unspeakable and full of glory, full of glory, full of glory. Joy unspeakable and full of glory, and the half has not been told.' It's from 1 Peter 1:8 in the King James version. The full passage, 1 Peter 1:7-9, says, regarding difficult trials:

"That the trial of your faith—more precious than gold which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved to result in praise and esteem and honor in the appearing of Yahushua Messiah, whom, having not seen, you love; in whom you do not see now, but you are believing and rejoicing with unspeakable joy and

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full of esteem, receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.'

"I assume," said Olaf, "that you will give some verses about what won't be there."

"An example," Pastor Jake replied, "is the incident in Matthew 12:46-50. I won't quote it all, but you're familiar with it. Yahushua was ministering in a house when his mother and brothers came to speak to him. Because the house was too crowded for them to get in, they sent word. And what was his response to the one who told him? He said:

" "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" And he stretched out his hand toward his disciples and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever shall do the will of my Father in heaven, he is my brother and sister and mother."

"We see from this that we will not know each other according to our earthly relationships, but in the spirit by our spiritual relationships. Earthly relationships are temporary, for this life only.

"Yahushua said the same to the Sadducees who came to trick him. They didn't believe in the resurrection, and that when this life is over, it's over and you cease to exist. They gave him a hypothetical case in which a woman had been married to seven brothers, one after the other, each dying and leaving no children. In the resurrection they wanted to know which brother would be her husband. This is in Matthew 22:23-32. His answer, verse 30, was, *'In the resurrection they are neither marrying nor being given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.'*

"Paul wrote the same thing in 2 Corinthians 5:16-17, quote: *'So from now on we regard no one after the flesh. ... Therefore, if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation; the old has gone, behold, all has become new!'*

"Olaf, you have a two-year-old granddaughter I believe. Do you love her?"

"Of course."

"Do you love her more than your neighbor's two-year-old daughter?"

"Naturally."

"So you are partial to her," pressed Jake. "Is that right?"

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“Yes, I am.”

“Do you know, that by doing that, you are sinning? That’s what it says in James 2:9. Put another way, do you think Yahuah loves your neighbor’s daughter less than your granddaughter?”

“No. He loves them equally.”

“So, shouldn’t you love them equally? Your love is earthly, of the flesh, emotional attachment. But earthly emotional attachment ceases to exist when you die. In hell it’s disembodied solitary confinement, or something like that. You are alone with your thoughts and hatred for Yahuah in absolute darkness for eternity. In heaven it’s a spiritual relationship with Yahuah and his special son and with your spiritual brothers in new bodies different from these. Gender ceases to exist when you leave earth, so I use ‘brothers’ generically.

“Of course, in this life we have responsibilities to those of our household. That’s what it says in 1 Timothy 5:8. *‘If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.’* But these are temporary, for this life only. Our children are on loan to us from the Father; we don’t own them, he does. Family relationships are to teach us how to love and care for each other unselfishly, for that is the way it is in the kingdom of heaven.

“In the eternal kingdom we will know each other in the spirit, and, to a degree, we do that in this life. When you meet a stranger who is one with you in your love for Yahushua, instantly you are family. It is a relationship much deeper than fleshly attachment. Yahushua said, reading from a paraphrase of Matthew 10:32-39:

“ “Whoever acknowledges me before men by the way he lives, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men by the way he lives, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

“ “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.

“ “Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me

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is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his stake and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

“It is common in countries and homes where Christianity is forbidden, that when a child becomes a Christian he or she is disowned and forced from home, or even murdered. Many of you in this country—the great America with freedom of religion—have been shunned by your family because of your faith.

“Now to my next question,” continued Jake, “and it applies to the rapture and heaven. Where is the kingdom of Elohim? More accurately, what is the kingdom of Elohim, also called the kingdom of heaven? When you know what it is, you know where it is.”

After a pause Olaf answered, “I give up. You tell me.”

“Anybody in the congregation who would like to help him?” asked Pastor Jake. ... “Okay, what’s your answer?”

“The kingdom of Elohim is where he is ruling, where his power and life is being manifested. If he is manifesting in your life, as he was in Yahushua’s, then his kingdom is where you are.”

“Very good,” said Jake. “When Yahushua healed a demonized man who was blind and mute, enabling him to both talk and see, the Pharisees accused him of driving out demons by Beelzebub, referring to Satan. Yahushua’s response to them was that if he drives them out by the spirit of Elohim, then the kingdom of Elohim has come upon them. That’s in Matthew 22:22-28. If Yahuah lives in you, then you are in his kingdom; his kingdom is where you are. On the basis of that, would you agree, all of you, that the kingdom of Yahuah is in this room? Think about that. Wherever you are, if Yahuah is in you—at home, at work, out driving or shopping, wherever—that is where his kingdom is.”

After a long pause, Jake said, “In Matthew 6:19-21, which is part of the Sermon on the Mount, Yahushua said:

“ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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“So my question for you, Olaf, and everyone else here, is: where is your treasure? Is Yahuah, our creator, your treasure? Is he what is most important to you in all you do? Going back to what we said earlier, what is heaven to you? Is it a place where all you do is experience pleasure and have fun? Is it where you will no longer have to make difficult decisions, or have to be responsible for your choices? Wow! That would make it easier, wouldn't it?

“Think of it, the ramifications: no more responsibilities, no more difficult choices, no more sinning. Why no more sinning? Because it's impossible to sin or make wrong choices, because in heaven we can't make wrong choices. Isn't that right, Olaf?”

“Yes,” Olaf replied. “That's what makes it so wonderful. Here on earth there are so many temptations to sin that we can't avoid sinning, like driving on a road full of potholes. You can miss some, but not all. In heaven it's a smooth road everywhere; you just relax and enjoy the ride. In fact, like the new self-driving cars coming out, we just sit back, relax, and let Yahuah do the driving.”

“You don't really believe that, do you, Olaf?”

“I don't, but that's what most people think, so that's what I'm saying.”

“What is in us,” asked Jake, “that we want to be in a place where we are no longer responsible for our decisions or choices, a place where we can relax and just enjoy ourselves? Did you know that Yahuah is a free moral agent, meaning he has a free will and has to continually choose between right and wrong? Charles Finney, an American evangelist in the 1800s, wrote that God continually, every moment in eternity, must decide to choose the good.

“Do you think that we will be any different, that when you go to heaven you lose your free will of choice, that in heaven you will enter an eternal vacation and luxury retirement, that nothing will be required of you except that you have pleasure, that Yahuah and Yahushua will be there for you to love and enjoy as they take care of your every need, like Santa Clause, that the only reason we are on earth is to get saved so that we can leave here and retire in a heavenly Disney Land? We think that the Father wants us just as we are, and can't wait to get us to heaven where it is impossible to sin. All of this so we can have eternal pleasure! How wicked! How selfish! What are angels doing now, Olaf?”

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“Helping bring us humans into salvation. That’s what it says in Hebrews 1:14. They’re ministering spirits sent to serve those who are to inherit salvation.”

“What were they doing before man was created?”

“I don’t know. Do you?”

“The only reference I know of is in the Book of Job,” answered Jake, “having to do with the time of creation, Job 38:7: *‘the morning stars sang together and all the sons of Elohim shouted for joy,’* ‘sons of Elohim’ referring to angels. The more important question is, what will they be doing in heaven after all those who inherit salvation are there? Will their job change to being our grape peelers, feeding us as we lie back in our heavenly hammocks while playing, ‘we will rock you,’ on heavenly harps, for our enjoyment? In eternity, will Yahuah’s business be making us happier and happier? Will all of creation have accomplished the final goal for our Father once we’re all there, so now we just sit around and enjoy paradise? Do you think that’s what heaven is?”

“No.” said Olaf. “Actually, I don’t think about it at all, except it is wonderful, and leave it at that. My focus is on this life, not on the next.”

“Let me ask you this, Olaf. Do you suppose Yahuah has a plan, something he has in mind for those who will enter heaven and be with him to do?”

“That sounds reasonable. But we can’t know what that will be until we’re there. So why even think about it? As Yahushua said, each day has enough of its own troubles, so why worry about the future?”

“Do you believe there are requirements to enter his kingdom?”

“Yes. Believe on the Master Yahushua Messiah and you shall be saved. That’s what angels help us to do.”

“That’s all?” asked Jake. “Just say the words, believe them in your head and you’re good to go, no other requirements?”

“Well, you should try to live a good, moral life. That would help.”

“Do you remember,” asked Jake, “about the expert in the law, referring to the Torah, the Old Testament, who asked Yahushua what he must do to inherit eternal life? It’s in Luke 10:25-28.”

“I think so. As I recall, Yahushua turned the question back on him, asking what is written in the law, or Torah. And the expert gave the two greatest commandments: *‘Love Yahuah your Elohim with all your heart*

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*and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.”*

“And what reply did Yahushua give?”

“He said he answered correctly, that **do this** and you will live.”

“Oh!” said Jake. “So it’s more than just saying you believe in Yahushua. Do you suppose that you need to keep those requirements in order to stay in heaven, and if you don’t you will be kicked out?”

“I don’t see the problem,” Olaf said. “Here on earth it’s hard to keep them because of all the temptations, so angels help us. But once we’re there it will be easy, because we won’t be tempted to disobey. Here, it’s all working upstream against high water and rapids. There, it’s just kicking back and floating down the calm river. I believe it’s called ‘the river of the water of life,’ Revelation 22:1,” he concluded smiling.

“Olaf, you did well,” said Jake. “Let’s give him a hand.”

After Olaf returned to his seat, Jake continued. “Do you all see, in the commonly held belief, the selfishness involved in wanting to go to heaven and being there? Instead of that, our Father has a plan to bring us to a point where our nature and eternal goals are the same as his, that our motives would be the same as his when he brings us, his workmanship, to our final home. Ephesians 2:10 says, *‘For we are his workmanship, created in Messiah Yahushua for good works, which Elohim prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.’*

“Elohim is preparing us—each of us individually—to do specific good works, not only in this life, but also in the next. Think of it this way: Life here on earth is boot camp for service there in heaven and on the new earth.

“You all know what military boot camp is: several weeks of extremely intense military training to teach you how to care for yourself and others and to function as a member of a team to achieve success together. Mostly it is a mind game, designed to take the civilian out of you and replace it with an effective military person. In spiritual terms, life on earth is designed to take selfishness out of you and replace it with an effective selfless servant of Yahuah, loving him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself.

“Yahuah has a purpose and plan for us for eternity. That purpose begins here and continues throughout eternity. What you become here in this life determines where you fit in his eternal plan. Do you know we are

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rewarded for what we do here? You may say, as many do, 'I don't care about rewards; I just want to get there.' How selfish! How idiotic! How stupid! If that's how you think, then you're a jack or jenny donkey.

"What are the rewards in the military? They are higher positions with greater responsibility. It's called promotion. In Mathew 25:14-30 we read of the parable of the talents. Talent is a Greek word for a certain large sum of money, equivalent today to more than a thousand U.S. dollars. One servant was given five, another two, and another one, each according to his ability. Those who increased what was given them received this praise from their master: *'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'* In other words, the reward is a position of greater service, as well as happiness. The one who did nothing with his one talent, received this condemnation: *'Throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

"Brothers, sisters, what is Yahuah's purpose? What is his plan? For me, I want to be a part of it. I want to have the greatest reward I can get, for it means having more responsibility and work to further his eternal plan and purpose. We are being prepared to be a part of his eternity. Heaven is where he will continue with his purpose. If you find it a chore and a pain to be serving him here, you will hate it there, so he won't let you in—you want hell, as bad as that is, rather than heaven. You have the heart of Satan rather than the heart of Elohim—Satan is your elohim, not Yahuah. But you can change. It's not over until it's over.

"In Yahushua's message to the assembly in Philadelphia in Revelation 3:7-13 he said, verse 8: *'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept my word, and have not denied my name.'* Keeping his word means living according to it, and not denying his name means your life shows the way and the truth and the life of Yahushua living in you.

"Christians love verse 10, because Yahushua says: *'Because you have kept the word of my perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.'* They love it because of the promise of being raptured before the tribulation.

"But wait! He gives a warning in verse 11: *'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your victor's-wreath.'* What is



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it you have? You have zeal in serving him, despite opposition. You have overcome your flesh-nature and are living in your spirit-nature. If you let that zeal go, then the promise of being in the rapture is lost.

“Look at the requirement in verse 12: *‘He who overcomes.’* Only overcomers make it. Only overcomers become usable in Elohim’s eternal purpose. Although it is possible to disobey Elohim in heaven, serving yourself rather than him, which is what Satan and his followers did and were thrown out, Yahuah only takes those whom he knows will always obey, doing so from a heart of love for him.

“Continuing with verse 12, look at the rewards overcomers get: *‘I will make him a pillar in the temple of my Elohim, and he will not go out from it anymore.’* This is the first reward listed. What is a pillar? In architecture, it is a tall vertical structure of stone, wood, or metal, used as a support for a building, or as an ornament or monument. As it is applied to a person, it is someone regarded as being reliable to provide essential support for something. This, brothers and sisters, is a high position and responsibility, and they are glad to receive that honor, to be promoted to do more work.

“Other rewards are given as well: *‘and I will write on him the name of my Elohim, and the name of the city of my Elohim, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of the sky from my Elohim, and my new name.’* We don’t know what these new names are, but the term name means having the character of, the essence of.

“Then comes the final warning in verse 13: *‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says to the assemblies.’* Having an ear means having a heart to obey so you can hear. It means taking these words seriously. It means repenting and applying yourself so as to please your Maker and Savior. You want to please him, because you love him. Some of you present today are hearing, and it is to you I am speaking. Whether you hear or not, it is your choice.

“I have a few more passages of scripture I want to share with you today having to do with heaven. I’ll go over them briefly. Many of you are familiar with them, but I want you to see them in a new light. The first is Romans 8:28-30. Verse 28 says: *‘And we know that all things work together for good to those who love Elohim, to those who are called according to his purpose.’* Notice, you are called according to his purpose, a purpose that continues throughout eternity.

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“Verse 29 gives that purpose: *‘For those whom he foreknew, he also predestined to become conformed to the image of his son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brethren.’*”

“By foreknowledge, before he created anything, Elohim knows who of mankind will respond to him in selfless love. It is these—who have as their destiny that they be conformed to the image of his son—who are the exact representation of Elohim’s nature, Hebrews 1:3. Throughout all eternity, this is what he is making us into. And this is what we want.

“Verse 30 shows the process: *‘and these whom he predestined, he also called; and these whom he called, he also justified; and these whom he justified, he also esteemed.’*”

“You are here because he called you. He knows which of you will make it. It is you he declares righteous and will bring into his kingdom. Esteemed is usually translated glorified, but it refers to being esteemed by Elohim so as to be in his eternal kingdom. The next passage is Romans 12:1-2:

“ ‘Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of Elohim, to present your bodies a living and set-apart sacrifice, acceptable to Elohim, which is your reasonable priestly-service. And do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of Elohim is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.’ ”

“Notice the renewing and transforming of your mind. That’s what boot camp does. It is to change you from civilian thinking, in which you do as you please, to military thinking, which is doing what your commanding officer pleases. In spiritual terms it means changing from thinking in the natural to thinking in the spirit, thinking the way Elohim thinks. Also notice the priestly aspect. The duties of priests included preparing animals for slaughtering as a service to Yahuah. We become ‘slaughter-offerings’ when we daily die to self and follow him. This continues in heaven: continually offering our services and ourselves to Yahuah as his priests.

“This brings us to our final verse for today, Revelation 1:6. Yahushua *‘has made us a kingdom, priests to his Elohim and Father—to him the esteem and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.’* In heaven, and on the

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new earth, we have jobs to do, and that is to serve Yahuah as his priests, representing him to one another and laying down our lives for one another. It is not about what we get, but about what we give, for that is love, selfless love, the love of Yahuah for us and one another. Life on earth is boot camp to prepare for the real job up ahead, just as boot camp for the military is to prepare for the real job afterwards.

“We will close with this song, a song from the heart of Yahuah toward us. The title is ‘Here Am I,’ and it refers to Yahuah, and also to his son, Yahushua, for the two operate as one. After that, the prayer room is open for whatever your need is.”

I do love you and I want you to know  
That I am close at hand  
Just reach out, my love, and you will understand  
That it is I myself who is loving you with a love so fervently  
Just reach out, my love, it is Yahuah  
Here am I  
Here am I to love you.  
Here am I to hold you close  
You can reach out and touch me  
Here am I  
Here am I, and I adore you  
You are the darling of my heart  
You are loved by me and here am I  
You know not, my love, of the treasures  
That await you where I am  
Oh our loves will flow unhindered where I am  
But until that day I can show myself  
Through a yielded, humbled man  
Just reach out, my dove, my fair one,  
Here am I  
Here am I to love you.  
Here am I to hold you close  
You can reach out and touch me, here am I  
Here am I and I adore you  
You are the darling of my heart  
You are loved by me and here am I  
I do love you and I want you to know

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That I am close at hand  
Just reach out, my love, and you will understand  
That it is I, myself, who is loving you with a love so fervently  
Just reach out, my love, I am Yahuah  
Here am I  
Here am I to love you  
Here am I to hold you close  
You can reach out and touch me, here am I  
Here am I and I adore you  
You are the darling of my heart  
You are loved by me and here am I  
You are loved by me and here am I  
You are loved by me and here am I

### **Eleven: Covid 19 Lockdown**

**G**OOD MORNING, DEAR,” said Maria. “Today is going to be quite different.” She had just finished getting dressed when Jake came in.

“Yes, indeed,” he replied. “We are in troubled times. The whole state is on lockdown, except for essential services. The news this morning says the death toll from the coronavirus has doubled since yesterday. Breakfast is ready, and then we’ll check the electronic equipment to make sure everything is working. You learned very quickly how to operate them. I’m impressed.”

“Lenny was a good teacher,” she said.

~ ~

“Are you ready?” he asked.

“All set to go,” she replied. “First our theme song showing our music ministry with our logo, then the announcer’s voice, then the worship music for this morning, and finally you are on.”

Sword of Yahuah. Sword of Yahuah  
Cutting into the souls of man  
Revealing what’s within our hearts

## Sword of Yahuah: An End-time Story of Hope

So that we turn to him  
He is love. He is good  
He is all our heart's desire  
All he asks is union with us  
And our hearts to be on fire  
When we give our all to him  
He in us and we in him  
Then together we are one  
Shining bright as the sun  
Sword of Yahuah. Sword of Yahuah  
Cutting into the soul of man  
Revealing what's within our hearts  
So that we turn to him

“Ladies and gentlemen,” said the announcer, “welcome to the Sword of Yahuah hour.”

(Chorus)

Now is the time, soldiers of the stake  
Armor up, armor up  
Now is the time, soldiers of the stake  
Armor up, oh armor up  
This is the day to get ready to be  
A part of Yah's male-son company  
Now is the time, soldiers of the stake  
For you to armor up, armor up  
Now is the time to hold up high  
The shield of your most precious faith  
Having your loins gird about  
With the truth of the word of Yah  
Stand with your feet shod  
With the preparation of the gospel of peace  
With the helmet of your salvation  
Wearing firm upon your head

(Chorus)

Now is the time, soldiers of the stake  
Armor up, armor up  
Now is the time, soldiers of the stake

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Armor up, oh armor up  
This is the day to get ready to be  
A part of Yah's male-son company  
Now is the time, soldiers of the stake  
For you to armor up, armor up  
Let the breastplate of Yahuah's righteousness  
Shine forth for all the world to see  
And in your right hand, take the sword of the spirit  
And smite the enemy  
Bind your army together by the cords of prayer  
And supplication day and night  
And finally, my brethren, be strong in Elohim  
And in the power of his might

(Chorus)

Now is the time, soldiers of the stake  
Armor up, armor up  
Now is the time, soldiers of the stake  
Armor up, oh, armor up  
This is the day to get ready to be  
A part of Yah's male-son company  
Now is the time, soldiers of the stake  
For you to armor up, armor up  
Now is the time, soldiers of the stake  
Armor up, oh armor up  
Now is the time, soldiers of the stake  
Armor up, yes armor up  
Oh this is the day to get ready to be  
A part of Yah's male-son company  
Now is the time, soldiers of the stake  
For you to armor up, armor up  
(repeat)

"Good morning," said Pastor Jake. "This session of the Sword of Yahuah Hour is live from our home, following the stay-at-home order from our state governor. I have no way of knowing how many are watching, but I am imagining a few thousand. This is being recorded also for streaming on our website, so you can watch it again any time.

## Sword of Yahuah: An End-time Story of Hope

“The coronavirus, also known as Covid-19, is changing our lives in many ways. Thousands have died around the globe, cities are virtual ghost towns with most stores closed and few people and cars out. Hospitals are overwhelmed, and untold thousands are out of work. The federal government is doing the best it can, including signing into law a stimulus package of over two trillion dollars to help the economy.

“Why is this happening? Will things eventually go back to normal? The stimulus money will soon be gone, and if the pandemic is still here or even getting worse, many millions of people who depend on their jobs for income to buy food, pay rent and other necessities will be destitute. Is there hope? Yes, there is hope. This is all happening for a reason, and this morning I will give you that reason, along with answers to other questions I have been receiving.”

### Stake vs Cross

“Some of you, regarding the song you just heard, have asked, ‘Why is stake being used instead of cross?’ Those of you who have been with us for a while know the reason—church tradition in our translations and practices have replaced the true meaning in the original languages of Hebrew and Greek—in this case, Greek. The Greek word, wrongly translated as cross, is *staurós*. It means a stake or post, as set upright. The verb in its root form is *stauróo*, meaning to impale on a stake, Strong’s #NT:4716 and 4717.

“The word cross is from the Latin *crux*, which, according to etymonline.com, originally meant pole, not cross. So how did the word *cross* come into Christianity? You guessed it: through the pagan emperor Constantine when he declared the false doctrine of the god-man Jesus to be the winner at the infamous Council of Nicea in 325 C.E. and instituted Christmas and Easter to celebrate the birth of that god-man and his resurrection. The cross is the symbol of the sun god in ancient religions long before Christianity, and was one of the symbols of Mithras, the sun god that Constantine worshiped.

“Historical evidence shows that the Romans used various wooden structures as instruments of execution, including a crossbeam on a pole. However, it is very unlikely such was the case with Yahushua and the two thieves. The Greek clearly says it was a *staurós* or pole that he carried, John 19:17, not a crossbeam to be attached to a pole. And when Yahushua said, *‘Anyone who does not take his staurós and follow me is not worthy of*

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me,' Matthew 10:38, he was not talking about a crossbeam. The Complete Jewish Bible translates it as 'execution-stake.'

"Paul wrote, *'Messiah redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree,'* quoting from Deuteronomy 21:23. The Hebrew for tree in this verse is *ěts* (ates), singular, indicating a single piece of wood, such as a pole or stake.

"The cross is a pagan symbol brought into Christianity through the Catholic Church. You can use the word cross if you want, and even wear the pagan symbol and hang it on your walls. That's between you and Yahuah. So that is the reason the song has the word stake instead of cross. As a side note, the Roman practice was to impale the victim naked. When the soldiers cast lots for his clothes, it was all his clothes. So much for that question."

### **Why the Coronavirus**

After pausing to drink some water, Jake continued, "We move now to the next question: Why is this coronavirus pandemic happening, and how does it fit in with end-time events and the male-son ministry? The question is made more puzzling by the interpretation that Joseph gave to Pharaoh's dream in Genesis 41, that there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. This happened literally at the time of Joseph, but it is prophetic of end-time events; namely, that there will be seven years of prosperity followed by seven years of poverty, the dividing line being the rapture. In other words, the time before the rapture will witness seven years of prosperity, and the time afterwards seven years of disaster.

"We know from the Book of Revelation that the seven years of disaster following the rapture is the great tribulation, divided into two equal halves, the first half being the martyrdom of all Christians, and the second half being judgment on the nations for their wickedness, culminating in the Battle of Armageddon.

"The seven years of plenty before the rapture is also divided into two equal halves, the first being preparation for the male-son ministry, and the second the male-son ministry itself, that ministry corresponding to the 3½ years of Messiah's ministry with signs and wonders to confirm the covenant made to Abraham regarding the nation of Israel.

"We are presently in that first half of the seven years of plenty in which we have seen unparalleled economic prosperity in our country and



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throughout most of the world. Now this downturn because of the coronavirus. What happened? Why isn't the prosperity continuing? There is a reason, and as preparation for that reason I'll read to you some scriptures, which will also be on the screen.

"The first passage is in 1 Chronicles 21:7-12. King David had given a command to take a census of Israel to find out how many fighting men he had. Because the command was evil in the sight of Elohim, he punished the whole nation. David confessed his sin, but judgment would come. David was given three options of punishment, given in verse twelve:

“ “Three years of famine, three months of being swept away before your enemies with their swords overtaking you, or three days of the sword of Yahuah—days of plague in the land, with the angel of Yahuah ravaging every part of Israel.”

"David chose the third option, and 70,000 men of Israel died of plague. I won't go into the whole story; you can read it for yourselves. My point is, death by plague was judgment on Israel for their sin. The whole of Israel was in sin, not just David.

"The next passage is in Isaiah 34:1-6. It is a prophecy about Armageddon at the end of the great tribulation, but it's principle applies to all disasters:

“ ‘Come near, you nations, and listen; pay attention, you peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world, and all that comes out of it! Yahuah is angry with all nations; his wrath is upon all their armies. He will totally destroy them, he will give them over to slaughter.’

"That's verses 1 and 2. Verse 6 is the conclusion: *'The sword of Yahuah is bathed in blood, it is covered with fat ... for Yahuah has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in Edom.'*

"Jeremiah 12:12 also speaks of judgment: *'Destroyers will swarm over all the barren heights in the desert, for the sword of Yahuah will devour from one end of the land to the other; no one will be safe.'*

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*“And again in Jeremiah 47:6-7: ‘Ah, sword of Yahuah, how long till you rest? Return to your scabbard; cease and be still.’ But how can it rest when Yahuah has commanded it, when he has ordered it to attack?”*

“I am telling you this to help you see things from Yahuah’s perspective. Disaster of any kind is judgment for sin. We deserve it, and it has a purpose. Throughout their history Israel was continually in rebellion, and Yahuah used death through wars, disaster and other hardships to bring them to repentance. Yahuah himself doesn’t do evil, but he allows Satan to be his instrument.

“The whole world, including the church, is in the deep darkness of sin. Two big ones are the murder of millions of unborn babies in the Pro-choice (abortion rights / murder rights) movement, and the LGBTQ movement with its PC (political correctness) agenda of forcing, by law, to accept their actions as legitimate, or be fined and go to jail.

“You who are watching this, the evil is great, so great that we deserve this judgment—this plague with its deaths and this economic disaster with its joblessness. In fact, we deserve worse—we deserve eternal judgment in outer darkness where there is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, called hell. But Yahuah is merciful. He doesn’t want anyone to go there. So he sends judgment in this life to shake people up, to wake them up, so that they repent of their wickedness and selfishness and narcissism and turn to him.

“Let me put this in the perspective of the end-times. We are in the end-times, and what is now happening is part of that. Some time ago I gave an outline. This is a reminder.”

- Great apostacy, going on now
- 3½ years male-son ministry (could be starting very soon)
- Rapture of the Bride, ending the ministry
- Remaining Christians left behind
- Satan begins one-world government
- First half of 7-years’ Great Tribulation
- Christians, too many to be counted, martyred
- 144,000 of Israel sealed for protection from the second half
- Second half of 7-years’ Great Tribulation
- Plagues on earth as judgment for the martyring
- Battle of Armageddon
- Return of Yahushua to begin his 1,000-year rule on earth

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“Our focus is the male-son ministry. As I mentioned, in the last several years our nation has seen tremendous economic prosperity. You know it. You have experienced it. But has it brought people closer to Yahuah? No. Quite the opposite. Psalm 49:20 says: *‘A man in wealth and not understanding is like the beasts that perish.’* In Matthew 19:23 Yahushua said, *‘It is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.’*

“So how is Yahuah going to get people to turn their minds toward him? Disaster. Whether this current coronavirus scare will end soon or not, it doesn’t matter. For if it ends, something else will come to continue the hardship. A male-son ministry is going to happen, and soon. It will be spiritual prosperity in the midst of economic difficulty. Don’t worry, Yahuah has everything under control. This life is not our goal; being with him forever in his likeness is our goal.

“Yahushua—the true name of Jesus— because of his death to pay the penalty for our sins, has been given all authority over heaven and earth by the Father. Notice, ALL AUTHORITY. He has authority over all weather, all so-called natural disasters, all disease and plagues, all governments, all elections, all economies, the sea, earth, air, land and space—every circumstance. Governments and people have no authority over anything, except how to respond to circumstances arranged by him. Listen to Psalm 2:1-4:

“ ‘Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples imagining a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against Yahuah and against his anointed, “Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!” He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; Yahuah scoffs at them.’

“Yahuah created us to be in his eternal kingdom, having his nature of selfless love, and serving him and others there forever in bodies different from these, bodies that never get tired or need sleep.

“People, though, are selfish, serving themselves, and are unfit to be there. *‘All have sinned and fallen short of the splendor of Elohim,’* Romans 3:23; and *‘the wages of sin is death, but the gift of Elohim is eternal life through Messiah Yahushua our Master,’* Romans 6:23. Sin is disobedience

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to his command of selfless love, to love him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves.

“Whatever we do on our own without the direction of Yahuah, is sin. Death is eternal separation from Yahuah, in outer darkness, called Gehenna in Greek, hell in English. Yahuah doesn’t want anyone to go there, but if they don’t repent and choose him, then they have chosen the alternative. There is no middle ground. Disasters are judgment against sin to help people get their minds off themselves and turn to him for help. This requires repentance, confessing your sins, turning from them, and surrendering your life to him for him to be your all-in-all.

“What, then, is the prosperity? It is spiritual. Economic difficulty leads to spiritual prosperity. People are beginning to pray more. Revival is on the horizon. The male-son ministry will be a time of great spiritual prosperity in which millions upon millions of people are open to hear the good news of salvation through Messiah, especially when they see the signs and wonders to confirm the message.”

### **Once saved, always saved**

After another drink, Jake continued, “We move now to the next question: Why do so many churches teach that once you are saved you cannot lose your salvation, and that prayer and Bible reading and doing works are not necessary? Let me read to you what Yahushua said in Matthew 24:45-51. The context is the end-times and the rapture:

“ ‘Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. Amen I am saying to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

“ ‘But if the evil servant says in his heart, “My master is delaying,” and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards, the master of that servant will come in a day when he is not looking, and in an hour he is not expecting, and he will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“Notice the two categories of servants—those in charge of other servants, and servants under them. In the parable, the first category are

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pastors, which means shepherds, and the second are the sheep they are responsible to take care of. The warning is to the pastors. Giving them their food at the proper time means feeding them truths from Yahuah's word as Yahuah leads them. If they continue doing this up to the time of the rapture, they are blessed.

"The evil servants are pastors who beat their sheep. How are they beating them? By feeding them false doctrines, leading them to believe things that will send them to hell. The 'once saved, always saved' teaching is a lie. It sends believers to hell and is from the father of lies, the devil.

"Many other teachings are like this. Two are: 'Bible reading is unnecessary along with prayer.' 'God knows what you need before you ask, so no need to ask. He is your Santa Clause to give you your heart's desire, and he has no requirements for getting to know him and become like him in his character.'

"Another is: 'He loves you, and once you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, even though you don't live like it and don't intend to, then you have done all he requires, so sin to your heart's contents, for his grace covers it all.' Lie, LIE, LIE!

"The answer to the question, then, is selfishness. Pastors teach it because people want to hear it; and they want to hear it because it feeds their selfishness and makes them feel good. Such pastors will end up in hell with their followers, but because of their position as pastors, their judgment will be greater.

"You who are hearing this, if you are in such churches, flee. Flee for your lives. Those pastors are wolves in sheep's clothing. They pretend to love you, but they hate you and want to take you to hell with them. They may not consciously think that, and may actually think they are teaching the truth, but it is contrary to scripture, and you know it is. Read the Bible for yourself. You are responsible to Elohim for what you choose to believe."

### **Works/deeds**

"This brings us to the subject of works, or deeds. If you don't have deeds that show your love for Yahuah, then you hate him and will go to hell. On judgment day, not only is there a book of life, there are also books, plural, of works, Revelation 20:12:

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“‘And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is of life. And the dead were judged out of what were written in the books, according to their works.’

“I’m not going to belabor this point, other than to read a few verses. Christians who say works are not necessary are liars and sons of Satan, the father of lies. Their destiny is to join him in hell. Before I read the verses, however, let me give you an earthly example.

“A man says to a woman, ‘I love you. Will you marry me?’ She says, ‘Yes.’ In the marriage ceremony they both say ‘I do,’ regarding faithfulness to each other. When they get to their new home, the woman says, ‘Now that we’re married you can’t divorce me. I will do as I please, and you are my servant to do as I want, and I’ll enjoy myself with other men whenever I want. Stick that up your nose, twinkle toes! I have no responsibility to you in any way. You are here for me, not me for you.’

“Sounds terrible, doesn’t it? Would you want a marriage like that? Yet that is exactly what selfish Christians think born-again is, having no responsibilities toward the one who saved you from sin, and thinking it’s okay to sin as much as you want. Do you think Yahuah will accept you in that way? If you do, then you are deceived and hate him. Yahuah wrote a certificate of divorce to Israel because of their sin, Isaiah 50:1 and Jeremiah 3:8. He will divorce you also if you willingly continue in sin.

“Now to some verses on deeds, also called works. I’m referring first to the seven letters to seven assemblies in Revelation 2 and 3. The first letter is to the messenger—that is, the pastor—of the assembly in Ephesus. In chapter two, verse 2, Yahushua says, ‘*I know your deeds.*’ When you read their deeds, wow, they are impressive. But, he says in verses 4-5:

“ ‘But I have against you that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.’

“What were the deeds they did at first? It was doing Elohim’s will from love, not from religion. What happened? Their deeds had become religion, and thus they lost their love relationship.

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“The message to the assembly in Thyatira, Revelation 2:18-29, also mentions deeds. In verse 19 he says, *‘I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.’*

“But then he goes on to say, in verse 20: *‘But I have against you that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads my bond-servants astray so that they commit immorality and eat things slaughtered to idols.’*

“Jezebel refers to the Roman Catholic Church and the pagan traditions that have come into the assembly of Messiah through her, such as the doctrines of the trinity and god-man Jesus, the celebrations of Christmas and Easter, the cross and church steeples, to name a few. The Protestant Reformation rejected a few of the doctrines and practices, but kept many of them.

“Verses 21-22 say, *‘I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. Behold, I will throw her on a bed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.’* We see from this that deeds refer not only to actions, but what you believe.

“The letter to the assembly in Sardis, Revelation 3:1-6, also mentions deeds. Each of these assemblies represents a distinct church age, although they overlap. This one to Sardis represents the Protestant church. Verses 1-3 say:

“‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of my Elohim. So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.’

“Verse 5 says, *‘He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life.’* Note: your name can be removed from the book of life, one example of thousands of verses showing you can lose your salvation. White garments refers to the bride of Messiah. Only overcomers become the bride.

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“The message to the assembly in Philadelphia, Revelation 3:7-13, mentions deeds also. Verse 8 says, *‘I know your deeds.’* For them, it is all positive. But they are given a warning in verse 11, that they hold fast to what they have, so that no one will take their crown. The Greek for crown means victor’s wreath. We who are living in this time of history are in this Philadelphia assembly age, an age which includes the seventh and last one, Laodicea.

“The letter to the assembly in Laodicea, Revelation 3:14-22, says in verses 15-16: *‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of my mouth.’* Only overcomers will be accepted into the kingdom, verse 21.

“The message to each of the assemblies ends with these words: *‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says to the assemblies.’* Are you hearing? To hear means to take to heart and obey. Failure to take to heart and obey—obey from a heart of love—means failure to enter the eternal kingdom, and instead entering eternal darkness where there is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth.

“The scriptures frequently mention the importance of deeds. Here are a few. Yahushua said, *‘Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven,’* Matthew 5:16. In his defense before King Agrippa, Paul said, *‘I preached that they should repent and turn to Elohim and prove their repentance by their deeds.’* Did you hear that? Your actions show what you believe, not just your words.

“When you come to Yahushua to receive him as your savior, you repent of your sins, acknowledging that you have disobeyed Elohim, and are asking for his forgiveness, and are determined to leave that way of life. After that, you must show you have repented by what you do.

“Repent means to change what you are doing. Saying ‘sorry’ isn’t repenting. Stopping the wrong and doing the right is true repentance. If you keep sinning after being born-again, with no intention of stopping, then you haven’t repented and your destiny is hell.

“Hebrews 10:26-27 says: *‘If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins remains, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies (of Elohim).’*

“In his instructions to Timothy, Paul wrote: *‘Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, ... In this way they will lay up treasure for*



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*themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life,' 1 Timothy 6:18-19.*

*"Then there is this in Hebrews 10:24: 'And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.' For an extensive passage, read James 2:14-26. A shorter one is in James 3:13: 'Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.' See also 1 Peter 2:12: that 'they may see your good deeds and esteem Elohim.'*

*"Finally, on this subject, Revelation 14:13: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Master from now on. ... They will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.'*

"Need I say more? What are the deeds? They are not things we want to do, but things he wants us to do, things he prepared for us to do before creation, Ephesians 2:10. You who say you are Christians, are you doing them? Do you know what they are? Are you seeking him to find out what deeds he specifically planned for you to do? Anything else, no matter how good they seem to you or anyone else, are unacceptable. They are Cain's rejected offering, not Abel's accepted one."

### **The Fear of Yahuah**

"I have one final question to answer. Someone asked, 'What is the fear of Yahuah?' In scripture, fear has two meanings: reverence and dread. Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary says this about it:

A feeling of reverence, awe, and respect, or an unpleasant emotion caused by a sense of danger. Fear may be directed toward God or man, and it may be either healthy or harmful. A healthy fear is reverence or respect. ... The Bible teaches that ... "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov 1:7) as well as "the beginning of wisdom" (Prov 16:16). A harmful fear is a sense of terror or dread. ... (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

"For the believer in Messiah, the fear of Yahuah is a joy, for it is your delight to please him in all ways. Although dread of Yahuah—in which his awesomeness might help someone to repent and turn to him—would be a beginning of knowledge and wisdom, it is reverence for him because of

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loving him that truly opens the door to knowing him and getting his wisdom.

“The incident in Genesis 22:12 is an example regarding Abraham when he was about to slay his son. Yahuah said to him, *‘Now I know that you fear Elohim, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.’* The fear that Abraham had was not dread of disobedience, but of joyful reverence for the one he loved more than his son. When you love Yahuah, you naturally open yourself to please him, and you experience the joy of doing so. This is the fear of Yahuah you want, the positive fear, not the negative fear of punishment.

“When you love Yahuah, then you have faith in him. Faith is trust and confidence. When a storm came up that seemed to swamp the boat Yahushua and his disciples were in, the disciples feared for their lives, while Yahushua slept unconcerned, Matthew 8:23-26. He was having the positive fear of Yahuah, Isaiah 11:3.

“We live in troubled times, many dying, many getting sick. Are you worried? Are you afraid? Know this: nothing can happen to you, to your loved ones, or to anyone else, without it being in the Father’s will for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose, and that purpose is to be conformed to the image of his son, who is the image of Yahuah.

“We covered several topics this morning, but all relating to becoming the bride that Messiah is coming for, and being equipped to be a part of the last-day move of Elohim to call the bride out of the world, called the male-son ministry. Yahuah bless you all. Love him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. Do this, and you will live. We’ll close the service with a few songs, and we’ll see you next week.”

(Chorus)

It just gets better, better and better  
Every day that I know you my wonderful King  
And your love seems sweeter, sweeter and sweeter  
It seems sweeter than the day before  
And I’m going to know you better forever  
And that just thrills me so  
Knowing you better forever and ever  
For you are unfathomable

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(Chorus)

This love that I feel I feel with such zeal  
It fairly bursts right out of me  
Yahushua my Beloved, my Savior, my King  
You are all I want to see

(Chorus)

...

Esteem to the King  
Esteem and honor and majesty  
Esteem to the King  
Esteem to Yahuah our King  
Let his name be lifted high above the heavens  
Declare his mighty deeds throughout the land  
In purity and righteousness he rules over all  
Hallelu-Yah to the great "I am"

(repeat 3x)

...

Isn't it wonderful just to love him  
Isn't it wonderful to praise his name  
Isn't it wonderful to give him all the honor  
Oh let's praise Yahuah  
For he is worthy, worthy,  
Yahuah is his name  
For he is worthy, worthy,  
Yahuah is his name

(repeat 3x)

...

Delightful, delightful, thoroughly delightful  
Yahuah, you are my delight  
I'm in love, I'm in love, I'm in love with you  
Yahuah, I am all yours  
Esteem and honor and praises to you  
Magnificent, and marvelous King  
Your loveliness exceeds all others, Adonai  
Yahuah, I am all yours

(repeat 3x)

## **Twelve: Raptured**

**T**HIS IS A SPECIAL REPORT,” began Shirley Mayberry, the KMTV anchorwoman.

“You’ve all been aware of the amazing miracles and healings that have been going on these past few years all over the world, and especially through our own Pastor Jacob Starr of Sword of Yahuah here in Middleton. The dead have been raised back to life. Amputees have had their limbs restored. Club feet have been made straight. The blind see and the deaf hear. Cancers disappear. Missing teeth are no longer missing. Lepers have their disfigurements gone. Those with Dementia, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s have been healed. The list is long. Name the sickness, and people have been healed of it. As a result, millions upon millions—too many to count—have converted to Christianity, people from every religion and from no religion. This has been the big news until it has become common and not news at all. Something has happened, though, to change that.”

Her face sobered, and it was clear she was trying to control her emotions. “I’m sorry about that,” she said when she got herself under control. “It was here, in our studio. I was having an interview with Pastor Jake and his wife Maria about why all the miracles these last few years were happening, and about what he was teaching regarding a male-son ministry, the rapture, the antichrist 666 mark and martyrdom during that time, when suddenly—just suddenly—they disappeared, clothes and all. The interview was video recorded. This is a clip of it.”

After showing the clip she said, “We wondered if this was some kind of magician or illusionist trick. So we searched around, and nothing. They were simply gone. Then we were getting reports of similar events here in the United States and abroad. A taxi driver said he was talking to his passengers, a middle-aged couple, looking at them in his mirror while driving, when suddenly they were gone. He immediately pulled over to look behind the seat, but no one was there, just a briefcase and a purse. An airline pilot reported that as they were coming in for a landing, his copilot disappeared. He landed apart from the terminal and had a headcount of the crew and passengers. Several had also disappeared,

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including a female flight attendant. Eight college students were sitting in the back singing Christian songs, when two of them disappeared.

“The accounts are too many to relate now. It would appear that this is what Pastor Jake was talking about. That it’s real. And if that’s real, then the antichrist government is about to rise and the remaining Christians will be killed, one way or another.”

(The Beginning of the End)

### **After Word**

FICTION REQUIRES PLOT, a protagonist and an antagonist, and a development of character in which the protagonist, and perhaps others, change. Does this story do those things? You be the judge for yourself, but for me, the author, it does. This is not just fiction; it has a purpose, a spiritual one. It is using the characters to move you, a believer in Messiah, to become ready for the rapture. The antagonist is the lukewarm church.

The protagonists, Jake and Maria, change from being an unbeliever and a backslidden Christian to being on fire for Messiah with unwavering faith, continuing strong up until the rapture. They are given as an example. Much of fiction is escapism, for people to identify with heroes and heroines in order to escape from their dull lives and problems. This story, however, is hope. Dull lives and problems can be overcome, and Yahuah requires it. The heroes need not be unattainable fiction, but reality.

Life on earth is a test, to prepare us for the next one. This method of writing is to help you, believers in Messiah, become his bride, and for it to be a witnessing tool to help others become the same. If this story helped and encouraged you, consider passing it on. The books I have written go into detail on the subjects in this book. (see BOOK STORE on the website.) Below is an excerpt (used by permission and edited) from a message Pastor Douglas A Morris gave on April 12, 2020. It blessed and encouraged me, so I include it here.

Sincerely,

*Gilbert W Olson*

## **The Heart of the Bride** **By Pastor Douglas A Morris**

**T**HE REASON MOST PEOPLE do not and cannot walk in the spirit is because they will not. Walking in the spirit is a life completely surrendered to the desires of the Father, a surrender to his will and ways, being directed by his leading and no longer following the desires and leading of your flesh. When you walk in the flesh, your personal desires and opinions are taken into account for every decision. However, if your personal desires are taken into account, you will not do his will, his will being the deeds he prepared in advance for you to do.

How many times have you made decisions in your life about what you will or won't do, based on what you want? I repeat: How many times have you made decisions in your life about what you will or won't do, based on what you want or don't want?

Think about this. Have you been serving your selfish desires, or the will of Yahuah? Are you ever allowed to do what you want over what he wants in your daily life? That would be never!

Is this the reality of your life? Do you decide the what, the when, and the where of everything in your life, including ministry? Deeds are ministry. If you decide, then you are in control, and not in submission. We will all be judged in eternity based on our deeds or works.

Why? What is the purpose? When you are aware of coming judgement, or the evaluation of every person's deeds, this could cause some anxiety. So ask yourself: Are you looking at this from the Father's perspective, or from your carnal, selfish understanding?

Many churches today are teaching that heaven, God/Elohim, Jesus/Yahushua, and our salvation, have nothing to do with works. Their perspective of works refers to doing good things to make up for the bad you have done. This is wrong. Deeds or works have nothing to do with making up for our bad behavior. Deeds (works) that were prepared by Yahuah for us to do from before the foundation of the world are something entirely different.

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Doing the will of Yahuah and completing the deeds he has prepared for us to do is a response of love, that through these actions we are transformed. These deeds test our decision to surrender and submit to Yahuah's ways. They will test our commitment to him and that we are really choosing the kingdom over our own selfishness. We should look at it from the perspective of the bride's understanding of Yahuah's purpose. This is what she says. This is her heart. Can you say these things?

1. After what you have done for me, Father, and the price that was paid by you and Yahushua, I am going to have an overwhelming and unending gratitude for you both.

2. Your love and mercy for me, after my wrong choices, are completely undeserved, completely unwarranted. I will show in my life an appreciation and gratitude that is overwhelming and all-consuming for the rest of eternity.

3. Your purpose for my life, decided before creation, is that I become like you in your nature, to walk in your love and presence, to hold your wisdom, understanding, and knowledge. You want me to walk in your council, and power. You expect me to have the fear of Yahuah, because of a great love, admiration, and respect for all that you are, having a desire and concern that I never hurt your heart or anyone else's. You expect me to love you and others in the same way that you showed your love to me personally.

4. You did everything, with the understanding that after seeing my error, and what you intend for me, that I would see the folly of my own ways, of my own understanding, of my own leading, and return to yours; that I would love your ways over my selfish and foolish decisions; that I can see what is the outcome of rebellion; that the hurt, pain, destruction, hatred, darkness and the loss of true love would repulse me and cause me to come back to you, the same as the prodigal son.

5. Your hope for me is that I come to realize and understand your all-consuming love, and that I would want to embrace all that you are, that through this I would give up all desires that are contrary to who and what you are;

6. That through this understanding of your will, I would be joyously consumed with returning to you and becoming like you as fast as I am able; that my joy would be a continuing drive of passion; that that drive would excite my heart to show you and others, in every aspect of my life, how much I love you;

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7. That my passion, to run from darkness where I once lived, would be absolutely delightful to me;

8. That given the chance to do your will in my everyday life would be my deepest heart's desire, especially when I understand, that through obedience to you, I force myself to choose your love and light over my love of darkness; that choosing your choices of suffering you have for me will actually transform me into your image and likeness; that through this my heart would actually be changed. With this in mind, I can hardly wait to be transformed.

9. I now hate sin and its consequences as much as I love you and the results of what you are now bringing about in me.

10. I desire that my deeds, which are my actions that are a result of listening to you and obeying, would come because I adore you, and are my response to all you are, all you have done, and all you will do.

11. I want to show you how much I love you. I will never, never, never, stop. Thank you Yahuah and Yahushua for the opportunity to express my love and appreciation for you.

12. Deeds are my opportunity to express in my actions all of my heart for you and my neighbor as myself.

13. I am delighted to become your servant and your bride. It is not a burden to serve you, Yahuah.

14. I am excited to see the books of deeds opened in heaven. I want everyone to see how much I have loved you.

Now we understand why Satan is trying to rob the church of this truth of the importance of deeds and their life-changing experience. It is easy to tempt the church to become selfish. This is because that in our nature, our flesh nature—we are selfish. But when you fall in love, truly in love, this all changes. Have you been robbed from your destiny, by allowing yourself to be tempted with your own selfishness? Love overcomes selfishness. Becoming like Yahuah is our destiny. For this we were created.