

The UNION

Get Ready to Meet the King!

God Calls His Church to
Truth, Faith and Holiness

Joan H. Richardson

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CHAPTER 23

The Messiah

For His glory, God chose the Jews to bring forth the Savior, and He chose His Word to become His Jewish Son, the Son of man, to save all who'd believe. Though the nations of the world have hated the Jews and their God, out of the nations, God has chosen Israel's inheritance. The world hates the light of truth and rejects the Savior of Israel because men *love darkness rather than light*. (See *Jn. 3:19*) Many claim they have received Him but live in shameful thoughts, sinful desires, and godless words and deeds, rejecting His light; even so, if anyone repents and believes in Jesus, He forgives him and washes him as an infant passes through the water and the blood and is born and washed.

At the time of Yeshua, the rabbis rejected Him as the Son of God, the Prophet, the Messiah. Listening to the Sanhedrin, their legal council, even the people urged His death.

When the temple authorities delivered Him into the hands of gentile rulers, no one stopped them; they all feared expulsion from their synagogues and defamation by their peers. Thus they sacrificed the just and holy One to injustice and indignities as their silence condemned them; nevertheless, God soon forgave many thousands of the same Jews who repented and believed in His Son.

After meeting with Him at night, Nicodemus, a rabbi of the Sanhedrin, returned, suggesting the synagogue rulers should listen carefully to Yeshua before judging Him. The Pharisees, known experts in the Tenakh, retorted, *Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet*. (*Jn. 7:52b*) [Verses 7:53-8:11 do not appear in any of the earliest manuscripts; the event was added much later to the text; in the literal translations, the passage continues:]

¹² Again, therefore, Jesus spake to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world; he who is following me shall not walk in the darkness, but he shall have the light of the life.'

¹³ The Pharisees, therefore, said to him, 'Thou of thyself dost testify, thy testimony is not true;' ¹⁴ Jesus answered

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and said to them, ‘And if I testify of myself—my testimony is true, because I have known whence I came, and whither I go, and ye—ye have not known whence I come or whither I go.

¹⁵ Ye according to the flesh do judge; I do not judge anyone, ¹⁶ and even if I do judge my judgment is true, because I am not alone, but I and the Father who sent me; ¹⁷ and also in your law it hath been written that the testimony of two men are true; ¹⁸ I am one who is testifying of myself, and the Father who sent me doth testify of me.’

¹⁹ They said, therefore, to him, ‘Where is thy Father?’ Jesus answered, ye have neither known me nor my Father: if me ye had known, my Father also ye had known.’ (John 8:12-19 YLT; also see ZGE)

Where is the reference for the Father’s testimony concerning the One called the Light of the world? We find it in the ninth chapter of the book of Isaiah the prophet, which also refers to the despised home of the Savior:

9 Nevertheless, the gloom of the distressed land will not be like that of the former times when He humbled the land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali. But in the future He will bring honor to the Way of the Sea, to the land east of the Jordan, and to Galilee of the nations.

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:1-2 HCSB)

Yeshua’s words refuted the Pharisees immediately after they challenged His right as Messiah, insisting the Scriptures don’t mention a prophet out of Galilee. But the Lord knew the Tenakh far better than they did: the Prophet indeed came from Galilee where His light shined on those who walked in darkness, just as His Father had testified about Him. At another time,

³⁵ Jesus answered, “The light will be with you only a little longer. Walk while you have the light so that dark-ness doesn’t overtake you. The one who walks in dark-ness

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doesn't know where he's going. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light so that you may become sons of light." Jesus said this, then went away and hid from them. (John 12:35-36 HCSB)

Since Yeshua came through David's line by His virgin birth and supernaturally rose from death, He is the legitimate heir as David's *eternal* seed, King of his *eternal* kingdom. The angelic proclamation of Yeshua's birth announced Messianic promises, fulfilled along with the everlasting kingdom, which succeeds by His resurrection from the dead.

Again, the temporal comes first; the eternal supersedes it. The Seed of the Holy Spirit is His Word, which entered mortal flesh to unite with the physical seed of David in a virgin. Since His conception, Yeshua was the firstborn of the Spirit; though cut off from His Father, His Holy Spirit renewed His life, and thus He is the firstborn from the dead.

Everyone who is spiritually-minded will be like Him: He is one Spirit in us, and we are one body as we walk in His Spirit, each ministering to the other members of the same body. His Seed remains in us by His Word and His Spirit, by which we have been born again. We are in Him because He is the Son of man, and thus together, we are family.

Now His body, once flesh like ours, is incorruptible, raised from its previous mortal condition. As His bride, we are one in the Spirit and in the body with Him for *the two shall be one flesh*. (See Gen. 2:24) His life brings together gentiles and Jews as one, and His Spirit unites us as one in Him by the love of God the Father, though great tribulation will be the melting pot:

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd. (John 10:16)
[Gentiles and Jews are not of the same sheep pen, but we will all be one in Him.]

Seed of Judah

Messiah is Judah's seed, not Levi's: *Judah is my scepter*. (See Ps. 60:7; 108:8; Gen. 49:10) He is King and Priest—not temporal as Levi but perpetual. He came as Judah's son through David to fulfill the promise, but He is also David's Lord. How can

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David's son be his Lord? *The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool. (Ps. 110:1)*
How can a mortal be the eternal King?

²⁸ Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe *became* white *and* glistening. ³⁰ And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. ³³ Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, *that* Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said.

³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" ³⁶ When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen. (Luke 9:28-36 NKJV)

Moses had experienced death, and God buried him. Elijah was translated into an incorruptible, supernatural body. Messiah would experience both death and the translation of His body; He also would ascend into heaven.

The lesser is blessed by the greater. Rejoicing in righteousness, the Father chose to send Moses the lawgiver and Elijah the prophet to speak with His Son, the Messiah—the eternal Word of the Spirit in both the Law and the Prophets. As the Sacrifice of the new covenant, He would fulfill their words:

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: (John 1:10-12)

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Son of David

When God sent His Word to be made His Son, thousands of Jews, the first to believe, were the minority of their nation. Most clung to the words of their misguided teachers and rejected the true faith, like most churches, not to mention synagogues, today. Just as the prophets before Him had upbraided the chosen people on account of their sins, Jesus would weep, speaking about the judgment of Jerusalem; yet, as the risen Son of David, the New Jerusalem is His eternal joy:

²⁷ And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him.

²⁸ But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.²⁹ For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. ³⁰ Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us.

(Luke 23:27-30)

3 What advantage then has the Jew, or what *is* the profit of circumcision? ² Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.³ For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? ⁴ Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written:

“That You may be justified in Your words,
“And may overcome when You are judged.”

(Romans 3:1-4 NKJV; cf. Ps 51:4)

The new covenant has been the hope of Jews from the time the father of our faith offered his *only son*, born of Sarah’s flesh. God had said to Abram: *And I have established My covenant between Me and thee, and thy seed after thee, to their generations, for a covenant age-during, to become God to thee, and to thy seed after thee;* (Gen. 17:7 YLT) If a virgin gave birth and her son was called *Immanuel*, or, “God with us,” who would be His Father? Before the conception, the angel Gabriel announced the birth and the reason for the birth name of the promised Son:

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³⁰ And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. ³² He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: ³³ And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. (Luke 1:30-33)

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:13-14 NIV) [I.e., “God with us”]

These are difficult words for Jews to resolve. On an earthly level, Yeshua is the Son of man whose resurrection opened the way for the vast populace of an eternal kingdom. Would the seed of Abraham be his King?

^{11b} “The LORD declares to you: The LORD Himself will make a house for you. ¹² When your time comes and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be a father to him, and he will be a son to Me. ...” (2 Samuel 7:11b-14a HCSB) – Nathan, to David

The promise wasn’t to Solomon but to Messiah, raised up after David’s death. Though David had crowned Solomon as his successor, only the Son of God could be an eternal King. The seed of David, though *mortal*, had to be an *immortal* to rule the *everlasting* kingdom. As God had said, “*I will be a father to him ...*”; thus God became a Father by His eternal Word and gave His Son in sacrifice for the iniquity and sins of the people. [Is. 53]

After conquering death, His Son became King of all. *But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the clans of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.* (Mic. 5:2) [Yeshua was born in the city of David.]

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⁵ For to which of the angels did He ever say, **You are My Son; today I have become Your Father**, or again, **I will be His Father and He will be My Son?** ⁶ When He again brings His firstborn into the world, He says, **And all God's angels must worship Him.** ⁷ And about the angels He says:

**He makes His angels winds,
And His servants a fiery flame,**

⁸ but to the Son:

**Your throne, God,
is forever and ever,
and the scepter of Your kingdom
is a scepter of justice.**

⁹ **You have loved righteousness
and hated lawlessness;
This is why God, Your God,
has anointed You
with the oil of joy
rather than Your companions.**

¹⁰ And:

**In the beginning, Lord,
You established the earth,
and the heavens are the works of Your
hands;**

¹¹ **They will perish, but You remain.**

They will all wear out like clothing;

¹² **You will roll them up like a cloak,
and they will be changed like a robe.**

**But You are the same,
and Your years will never end.**

(Hebrews 1:5-12 HCSB)

Son of Man

Yeshua was the Father's *only begotten Son*, uniquely the Word, the Offspring of His Soul, in our flesh; He was conceived by the virgin with God as His Father; He was the eternity of God in the humanity of Adam. His unique birth came by the Word from His Holy Spirit—conceived within the seed of the virgin. Never before and never again—just once, this would happen. Before His birth, the Word referred to others as “sons of God,”

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but God had not begotten them by a virgin; they were spiritual sons:

⁴ Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. ... ⁷ When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38:4, 7) [Stars emit sounds.]

He [Nebuchadnezzar] answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. (Daniel 3:25)

Angels appear as men but are holy, extraordinary, created beings of great strength in the Spirit: *Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire. (Ps. 104:4)* [His angels are unseen spirits, sons of God, who can appear.] *He also says, Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. (Heb. 13:2)*

Three of them appeared to Abram and ate lunch with him; two were angels, the third was revealed as the LORD. Daniel also spoke to Gabriel who looked like a man to him:

Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am *now* come to give thee skill and understanding. (Daniel 9:21)

In Yeshua, the Word of God, which is Spirit [He said, *My words are spirit*], genuinely identified Himself as the son of man, the only begotten Son of God. He became a man to redeem man. By His life, He made the way to eternal life; by His blood, He made the eternal atonement. Only by His Word and His Spirit can we walk in His steps to stand before Him by His grace.

The Redeemer was the Word, activating miracles and doing the will of God in Moses, Elijah, the prophets, and in all who have believed. Looking at His *outer* form, they only saw a man; they couldn't imagine who He was in truth: the Holy Word of the Creator, the Holy Seed of the Spirit, uniting us as holy—one

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new man as we receive His words, planted in our hearts:

⁵ For, let this mind be in you that is also in Christ Jesus, who, ⁶ being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal to God, ⁷ but did empty himself, the form of a servant having taken, in the likeness of men having been made, ⁸ and in fashion having been found as a man, he humbled himself, having become obedient unto death—death even of a cross, ⁹ wherefore, also, God did highly exalt him, and gave to him a name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that in the name of Jesus every knee may bow—of heavenlies, and earthlies, and what are under the earth—¹¹ and every tongue may confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Php 2:5-11 YLT)

Messiah the Branch

Of Jacob's natural branches, One stands out: the Righteous Branch of the tribe of Judah, the promised One who would save Israel. Raised in *Nazareth* [meaning "branch," or "shoot"], the LORD our Righteousness is God in Messiah.

The pieces fit together like a well-planned mystery: the seed of Eve (See Gen 3:15), the son of the virgin (See Is. 7:14), "God with us" was a descendant of David (See 2 Sam. 7:14). By His own, He was *despised and rejected*. (See Is 53) He was spat upon, beaten with rods, scourged with whips, and His beard pulled out:

- ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
- ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.
- ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
- (Isaiah 53:4-6 NKJV)

When God removed the partition that had separated Jews from the nations, He chose the nations to share in the inheritance of the Jews. We became their family by trusting in their Savior.

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Rending the curtain, God opened His heart to us, so that as we open ourselves to Him and to one another, we can be one: in the Spirit, together we are citizens of heaven, created by one truth, one will, one love, God our Father. We're living stones, fitted closely, even compressed by trials—sparkling gems of the New Jerusalem, dressed like a bride for her Bridegroom.

¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between* *US*:

¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain, one new man, so making peace;

¹⁶ And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

¹⁷ And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

¹⁸ For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; (Ephesians 2:11-19)

One day soon, Yeshua will return from heaven in glory with myriads of angels, openly revealing Himself to His chosen people. When at last they receive Him, He will open His arms to them, rescuing them, and keeping His promises to Abraham as He has for four thousands of years.

¹⁹ “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

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²¹ Heaven must receive Him until the time comes for God to restore every-thing, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

²² For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you.

²³ Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.’” (Acts 3:19-23 NIV; See Dt. 18:15, 18-19) –Peter, before his arrest, at Solomon’s Colonnade

¹⁴ But how can they call on Him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about Him? And how can they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: **How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the gospel of good things!** ¹⁶ But all did not obey the gospel. For Isaiah says, **Lord, who has believed our message?** ¹⁷ So faith comes through what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ. ¹⁸ But I ask, “Did they not hear?” Yes, they did:

**Their voice has gone out to all the earth,
and their words to the ends
of the inhabited world.**

¹⁹ But I ask, “Did Israel not understand?” First, Moses said:

**I will make you jealous of those
who are not a nation;
I will make you angry by a nation
that lacks understanding.**

²⁰ And Isaiah says boldly:

**I was found
by those who were not looking for Me;
I revealed Myself
to those who were not asking for Me.**

²¹ But to Israel he says: **All day long I have spread out
My hands to a disobedient and defiant people.**

(Romans 10:14-21 HCSB; cf. Is 52:7; Nah 1:15; Is 53:1; Ps 19:4)

If Yeshua were not the Messiah, then He could neither have fulfilled the miracles of the prophecies, nor been a true prophet

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Himself, because He said He is Messiah. His followers saw Him after He rose from the dead and died to testify that He's alive.

Two thousand years ago, He conformed to the prophets' words. He's seated at His Father's right hand; Daniel watched Him approach the throne. According to the prophecies, He'll light the skies when He returns to make Jerusalem His throne. (See Dan. 7:9-14)

² God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the Elijah section—how he pleads with God against Israel?

³ **Lord, they have killed Your prophets
and torn down Your altars.
and I am the only one left,
and they are trying to take my life!**

⁴ But what was God's reply to him? **I have left 7,000 men for Myself who have not bowed to Baal.** ⁵ In the same way, then, there is also at the present time a remnant chosen by grace. ⁶ Now if by grace, then it is not by works; otherwise grace ceases to be grace. (Romans 11:2-6 HCSB; cf. Heb 1:1; 1 Kings 19:10, 14, 18)

The distinguishing characteristics of the Messiah are in His righteousness and justice, grace and truth, love and mercy. He's the perfect One, the chosen Sacrifice. Did Yeshua prove He has the legal right to rule on David's throne forever? If the virtue of His life proved Him worthy of the everlasting throne, then He is the true Messiah. Did His innocence merit His resurrection? Then by virtue of His victory over sin and death, He is the King who reigns over all.

The week before His crucifixion, the nation hailed Him, saying, *Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.* (See Mat. 21:9; also Mk. 11:9-10, Lk. 19:38) They nearly crowned Him King!

Only a few days later, a religious council crucified Him by the hands of dogs—gentiles—Roman soldiers. *For dogs have compassed me; the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.* (Ps. 22:16) Three days later, He was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. (See Rom.

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1:4) Like Abraham, Yeshua had seen a higher Jerusalem, a city made by the Word. He therefore said, *My kingdom is not of this world.* (See *Jn. 18:36*) Here is a mystery of the kingdom:

⁴¹ *There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.*

⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. *The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.* ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ And so it is written, “*The first man Adam became a living being.*” The last man Adam became a life-giving spirit.

⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. (1 Corinthians 15:41-46 NKJV)

21 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. ² And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

(Revelation 21:1-2)

The Love of God

His Son died to taste death for every man when the Father removed His Holy Spirit from Him; cutting Him off, fulfilling the prophecy, separated from His Son—cutting His own heart, tearing the sanctuary curtain that had covered the holy place:

He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. (Isaiah 53:8)

The Spirit is life; but His Father prepared Him for the final throes of death. As the Son of man, Yeshua took death for us, and His Father shared the agony and pain of the separation.

He took our sins in His body and offered His soul for our guilt. Jesus committed His mortal spirit to the Father and died... *the body without the spirit is dead,* (See *Jas. 2:26*) Then, *Being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit* (1 Pet. 3:18), His

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soul entered the core of the earth where He preached to the spirits of men who had lived in Noah's time, *now dead* and in prison. [More on 1 Pet. 3:18-20, 4:6 in *Mysteries of the Ancient Word*]

¹⁷ ... And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:17b-21 NIV)

His Father made Yeshua His scepter, saying, *Judah is my scepter.* (See Ps. 60:7; 108:8; Gen. 49:10) He justifies all who turn to Him in repentance and faith since, by one act of obedience, He owns the right to judge and reign from David's throne forever.

¹¹ For the Scripture says, "*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*" ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For "*whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*" (Romans 10:11-13 NKJV; ref. Isaiah 28:6, Joel 2:32) [That Name is in His name.]

The Father quickened Him by His Spirit to lead Him into hell; then, as One with His Father in the Spirit, Messiah raised His own body out of death. *God ... by his Son ... when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.* (excerpts from Heb. 1:1-3)

2 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, ⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? (Hebrews 2:1-4 NKJV)