

ABRAHAM WAS IN RIGHT STANDING WITH YEHOVAH ELOHIM BECAUSE OF HIS TRUE FAITH SHOWN BY HIS OBEDIENCE!

By Joy Collins Lyle, © October 16, 2024

The premise of this article is that there was more required of Abraham than to have a mere spiritual "FAITH" (belief) to be in right standing with Yehovah Elohim (to be RIGHTEOUS) as Paul claimed in his letter to the Galatians in the New Testament. ABRAHAM WAS REQUIRED TO "FOLLOW THROUGH" on that faith and DO WHAT YEHOVAH COMMANDED HIM TO DO!!!

ABRAHAM HAD TO PHYSICALLY OBEY EVERYTHING YEHOVAH TOLD HIM TO DO! I BELIEVE HE ACTUALLY DID and THAT IS WHY YEHOVAH MADE AND CONTINUES TO KEEP THE OATH HE MADE TO ABRAHAM AND HIS SEED, THE NATION OF ISRAEL, NOT FOR THEIR OBEDIENCE, BUT "FOR THE SAKE OF THE FATHERS," WHICH ARE ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB/ISRAEL, as is stated in Deuteronomy 9:1-6:

[Deuteronomy 9:1-6 KJV] "1 Hear, O Israel: Thou [art] to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven, 2 A people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and [of whom] thou hast heard [say], Who can stand before the children of Anak! 3 Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God [is] he which goeth over before thee; [as] a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee. 4 Speak not thou in thine heart, after that the LORD thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness the LORD hath brought me in to possess this land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD doth drive them out from before thee. 5 Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but FOR THE WICKEDNESS OF THESE NATIONS THE LORD THY GOD DOTH DRIVE THEM OUT FROM BEFORE THEE, and THAT HE MAY PERFORM THE WORD WHICH THE LORD SWARE UNTO THY FATHERS, ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB. 6 Understand therefore, that the LORD thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou [art] a stiffnecked people."

THERE WAS ANOTHER REASON: "FOR THE SAKE OF HIS HOLY NAME" as stated in Ezekiel 36:22.

AS WE WILL SEE BY REVIEWING ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB'S LIFE, THEY ALL WERE OBEDIENT TO YEHOVAH'S DIRECT COMMANDS!

THE NEED TO SHOW THIS IS BECAUSE PAUL INSISTS THAT ABRAHAM'S RIGHT STANDING WITH YEHOVAH (RIGHTEOUSNESS) WAS BASED SOLELY ON HIS "FAITH" WITHOUT ANY CORRESPONDING ACTUAL OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMANDS. I PROPOSE TO SHOW THAT IS ABSOLUTELY FALSE BY MANY SCRIPTURES. Paul's takes one sentence in Genesis 15:5-6 to the exclusion of all the following quoted scriptures to make his point: [Genesis 15:5-6 KJV] "5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. 6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness." PAUL'S PREMISE IS THAT FAITH IS ALL THAT IS REQUIRED BY YEHOVAH NOW BY BELIEVERS IN YEHOSHUA, IN THE NEW COVENANT, TO PLEASE HIM AND BE IN RIGHT STANDING WITH HIM...BECAUSE THAT IS ALL HE REQUIRED OF ABRAHAM (in his opinion). I believe Paul's doctrine is false. ABRAHAM'S LIFE, AS WELL AS THE LIVES OF ISAAC AND JACOB (ALL THE FATHERS' LIVES), ABSOLUTELY SHOWS US THAT FAITH IN YEHOVAH IS ONLY SHOWN TO BE TRUE WHEN ONE FOLLOWS THROUGH IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMANDS, NO MATTER THE COST!

So, let us begin.

First, we should establish that ABRAHAM WAS FROM THE LINEAGE OF SHEM, the son of Noah to whom Noah prophesied a blessing TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH YEHOVAH. After the flood, this occurred:

[Genesis 9:18-27 KJV] "18 And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham [is] the father of Canaan. 19 These [are] the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread. 20 And Noah began [to be] an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: 21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. 22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. 23 And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid [it] upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces [were] backward, and **THEY SAW NOT THEIR FATHER'S NAKEDNESS.** 24 And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. 25 AND HE SAID, CURSED [BE] CANAAN; A SERVANT OF SERVANTS SHALL HE BE UNTO HIS BRETHREN. 26 AND HE SAID, BLESSED [BE] THE LORD GOD OF SHEM ("YEHOVAH ELOHEY SHEM"); AND CANAAN SHALL BE HIS SERVANT. 27 **GOD SHALL ENLARGE JAPHETH, AND HE SHALL DWELL IN THE TENTS OF SHEM; AND CANAAN SHALL BE HIS SERVANT."**

As we will see, Yehovah either inspired Noah to prophesy this or He has honored it and has caused it to affect world history...forever.

So, let us get more of the history of Shem and his descendants all the way to Abraham.

[Genesis 11:10 KJV] "10 **THESE [ARE] THE GENERATIONS OF SHEM:** Shem [was] an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood: ...

Genesis 11 continues to list all of the descendants of Shem to Eber and then onto **Terah** (the significance of Eber will need to be discussed in a later article):

[Genesis 11:26-32 KJV] And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran. 27 Now these [are] the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot. 28 And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees. 29 And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife [was] Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. 30 But Sarai was barren; she [had] no child. 31 **And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there. 32 And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran."**

So, Terah started the migration upwards from Ur of the Chaldees in lower Mesopotamia to eventually go down into the Land of Canaan, but he stopped short and settled in Haran ("Charan" in Hebrew) in Paddan-Aram before crossing the Euphrates River into Canaan's Land. My understanding is that this upper land, which was still between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, also called Aram-Naharaim ("Aram between the Rivers"), was considered part of Mesopotamia, so it was still Abram's native land. It must have been sometime at this point that **YEHOVAH CHOSE ABRAM FROM THE LINEAGE OF SHEM and COMMANDED HIM** to go forward into "a land that He would show him" (the Land of Canaan). Yehovah was beginning, through Abram, the process to give the Blessing on Shem and the Curse on Canaan spoken by Noah. **THE LAND THAT CANAAN POSSESSED WAS TO BECOME "THE LAND SHEM POSSESSED" ...:**

[Genesis 12:1-4 KJV] "1 NOW THE LORD HAD SAID UNTO ABRAM, GET THEE OUT OF THY COUNTRY, AND FROM THY KINDRED, AND FROM THY FATHER'S HOUSE, UNTO A LAND THAT I WILL SHEW THEE: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. 4 SO ABRAM DEPARTED, AS THE LORD HAD SPOKEN UNTO HIM; and Lot went with him: and Abram [was] seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran."

NOTE: IF ABRAM HAD NOT BEEN OBEDIENT TO YEHOVAH'S FIRST COMMAND TO "LEAVE AND GO," I DO NOT BELIEVE HE WOULD HAVE RECEIVED THE BLESSING OF THE COVENANT WITH YEHOVAH!!! HE HAD TO PHYSICALLY OBEY WHAT YEHOVAH TOLD HIM TO DO!!!

LATER, GENESIS 15 SHOWS US THAT YEHOVAH COMMANDED ABRAM WHAT SACRIFICES TO BRING TO HIM, AND ABRAM DID IT. HE OBEYED YEHOVAH'S DIRECT COMMAND! ONLY THEN DID YEHOVAH MAKE A COVENANT WITH ABRAM. YEHOVAH DID NOT TELL ABRAM THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO MAKE A COVENANT WITH HIM....HE SIMPLY OBEYED.

Paul in the New Testament lifts Genesis 15:6 out of the passage below to insist that Abraham was declared to be in right standing with Yehovah (righteous), BASED SOLELY ON HIS SPIRITUAL "FAITH" without any action on Abraham's part [SEE GALATIANS 3, ROMANS CHAPTER 4], DISREGARDING THAT ABRAHAM HAD ALREADY OBEYED YEHOVAH'S VERY FIRST COMMANDMENT TO ACTUALLY GET UP AND LEAVE HIS FATHER'S HOUSE, ALL OF HIS FAMILY, AND HIS NATIVE COUNTRY, AND GO TO A LAND HE HAD NEVER BEEN TO BEFORE!!! THAT WAS A MIGHTY BIG ACTION THAT SHOWED HIS FAITH!!! YEHOVAH HAD SAID HE WOULD SHOW HIM WHERE TO GO, SO ABRAHAM HAD TO HAVE REAL FAITH IN HIM IN ORDER TO FOLLOW THROUGH AND OBEY HIM! TRUE FAITH OBEYS (NO MATTER WHAT THE COST)!!! Paul also disregards the fact that Yehovah, in the very next verse, COMMANDS ABRAHAM TO BRING SACRIFICES TO HIM in order to make the Covenant with Him and HE WISELY IS OBEDIENT.

I WONDER WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF HE WAS NOT?!?!?! WOULD HE HAVE RECEIVED THE COVENANT TO INHERIT THE LAND OF CANAAN???

[Genesis 15:1-21 KJV] "1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I [am] thy shield, [and] thy exceeding great reward. 2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house [is] this Eliezer of Damascus? 3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. 4 And, behold, the word of the LORD [came] unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. 5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. 6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. 7 And he said unto him, I [am] the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. 8 And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? 9 AND HE SAID UNTO HIM, TAKE ME AN HEIFER OF THREE YEARS OLD, AND A SHE GOAT OF THREE YEARS OLD, AND A RAM OF THREE YEARS OLD, AND A TURTLEDOVE, AND A YOUNG PIGEON. 10 AND HE TOOK UNTO HIM ALL THESE, AND DIVIDED THEM IN THE MIDST, AND LAID EACH PIECE ONE AGAINST ANOTHER: BUT THE BIRDS DIVIDED HE NOT. 11 And when the fowls came down upon the carcases, Abram drove them away. 12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. 13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land [that is] not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; 14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. 15 And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: FOR THE INIQUITY OF THE AMORITES [IS]

NOT YET FULL. 17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. 18 IN THE SAME DAY THE LORD MADE A COVENANT WITH ABRAM, SAYING, UNTO THY SEED HAVE I GIVEN THIS LAND, FROM THE RIVER OF EGYPT UNTO THE GREAT RIVER, THE RIVER EUPHRATES: 19 THE KENITES, AND THE KENIZZITES, AND THE KADMONITES, 20 AND THE HITTITES, AND THE PERIZZITES, AND THE REPHAIMS, 21 AND THE AMORITES, AND THE CANAANITES, AND THE GIRGASHITES, AND THE JEBUSITES."

(NOTE: ALL OF THESE TRIBES ARE DESCENDANTS OF CANAAN, EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS ONLY ONE CALLED SPECIFICALLY "CANAANITES." THE NAMES OF THE TRIBES VARY THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES.

[Genesis 10:6, 15-19 KJV] "6 And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan. ... 15 And Canaan begat Sidon his firstborn, and Heth, 16 And the Jebusite, and the Amorite, and the Girgasite, 17 And the Hivite, and the Arkite, and the Sinite, 18 And the Arvadite, and the Zemarite, and the Hamathite: and afterward were the families of the Canaanites spread abroad. 19 And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon, as thou comest to Gerar, unto Gaza; as thou goest, unto Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Admah, and Zeboim, even unto Lasha."

THE MAIN BLESSING ON ABRAHAM WAS MULTIPLICATION OF HIS SEED TO INHERIT THE LAND OF CANAAN...BECAUSE OF THE BLESSING ON SHEM, THE CURSE ON CANAAN, AND BECAUSE OF THE CANAANINTES' INIQUITY!)

Next, in Genesis 17, Yehovah Elohim COMMANDS ABRAM to "WALK BEFORE ME AND BE THOU PERFECT" ("tam" in Hebrew – blameless). I believe He means, according to all of these scriptures, FOR ABRAM TO BE COMPLETELY OBEDIENT TO WHATEVER YEHOVAH COMMANDED HIM. WE KNOW THAT THE WRITTEN TORAH WAS WAY OFF IN THE FUTURE, BUT WHATEVER HE WAS COMMANDED TO DO AT THAT TIME, HE WAS TO DO!!! AS WE HAVE SHOWN, HE WAS OBEDIENT UP TO THIS POINT! So, Yehovah then COMMANDS ABRAHAM to circumcise himself at age ninety-nine and all the males of his household (even the slaves born in his house as well as those he buys, of any stranger that is not of his seed). Remember, Ishmael is the only biological seed Abraham has at this point, and he has to be circumcised too, at age thirteen. The eternal circumcision commandment was NEVER only for the biological seed of Abraham – it was for whoever belonged to Abraham...whoever was part of his household:

[Genesis 17:1-27 KJV] "1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I [AM] THE ALMIGHTY GOD; WALK BEFORE ME, AND BE THOU PERFECT. 2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. 3 And Abram fell on his face: and GOD TALKED WITH HIM, SAYING, 4 AS FOR ME,

BEHOLD, MY COVENANT [IS] WITH THEE, AND THOU SHALT BE A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS. 5 NEITHER SHALL THY NAME ANY MORE BE CALLED ABRAM, BUT THY NAME SHALL BE ABRAHAM; FOR A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE THEE. 6 AND I WILL MAKE THEE EXCEEDING FRUITFUL, AND I WILL MAKE NATIONS OF THEE, AND KINGS SHALL COME OUT OF THEE. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for AN EVERLASTING COVENANT, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. 8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, ALL THE LAND OF CANAAN, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. 9 And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. 10 THIS [IS] MY COVENANT, WHICH YE SHALL KEEP, BETWEEN ME AND YOU AND THY SEED AFTER THEE; EVERY MAN CHILD AMONG YOU SHALL BE CIRCUMCISED. 11 And YE SHALL CIRCUMCISE THE FLESH OF YOUR FORESKIN; AND IT SHALL BE A TOKEN OF THE COVENANT BETWIXT ME AND YOU. 12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations ('L'DOROTEYCHEM'), he that is born in the house, or bought with money OF ANY STRANGER, WHICH [IS] NOT OF THY SEED. 13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and MY COVENANT SHALL BE IN YOUR FLESH FOR AN EVERLASTING COVENANT. 14 And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant. 15 And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah [shall] her name [be]. 16 And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be [a mother] of nations; kings of people shall be of her. 17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall [a child] be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? 18 And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee! 19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, [and] with his seed after him. 20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. 21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year. 22 And he left off talking with him, and God went up from Abraham. 23 And Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all that were born in his house, and all that were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house; and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the selfsame day, AS GOD HAD SAID UNTO HIM. 24 And Abraham [was] ninety years old and nine, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 25 And Ishmael his son [was] thirteen years old, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 26 In the selfsame day was Abraham circumcised, and Ishmael his son. 27 and all the men of his house, born in the house, and bought with money of the stranger, were circumcised with him."

ABRAHAM was COMPLETELY OBEDIENT to YEHOVAH'S ETERNAL COMMAND to circumcise himself and the males of his seed and his household!!!

(AS A SIDE NOTE, AGAIN NOTICE THAT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, THE ETERNAL COMMAND TO BE CIRCUMCISED WAS NOT JUST FOR THE MALES OF ABRAHAM'S NATURAL SEED, BUT FOR ALL THOSE WHO BELONGED TO HIS HOUSEHOLD...WHICH IS WHY IT IS STRANGE THAT PAUL IS THE ONE WHO INITIATES THE ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS SIMPLE COMMANDMENT SO VEHEMENTLY, SINCE HIS CLAIM IS THAT ALL BELIEVERS IN YEHOSHUA ARE PART OF ABRAHAM'S HOUSEHOLD NOW... COULD THIS BE HOW NOAH'S SON JAPHETH'S DESCENDANTS ARE TO "DWELL IN THE TENTS OF SHEM"???.....PAUL BELIEVES THAT EVEN ALL GENTILE BELIEVERS IN YEHOSHUA INHERIT THE BLESSING OF YEHOVAH'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM... BUT HE DENIES THAT THEY HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITY TO OBEY THIS ETERNAL COMMANDMENT OF CIRCUMCISION THAT IS THE SIGN OF THIS COVENANT- WHY??? YEHOAH MADE HIMSELF VERY CLEAR, I BELIEVE... I EXPLORE THIS MORE IN CHAPTER 17 AND 18 OF MY FREE BOOK THE HOLY ARM OF YEHOVAH [SEE RECOMMENDED READING]. BUT, ONE LAST SIDE NOTE, IF GENTILE BELIEVERS ARE TO INHERIT "THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM," THEN THAT HAS TO MEAN THAT THEY WILL BE INHERITORS OF THE LAND OF CANAAN/ISRAEL WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS SEED, BECAUSE THAT IS THE MAIN PROMISE GIVEN TO ABRAHAM!!! SEE EZEKIEL 47:21-23 TO SEE THAT THEY WILL!!!)

Later, in the story of the wrath poured out on Sodom and Gomorrah, Yehovah makes it clear that HE EXPECTS ABRAHAM'S OBEDIENCE TO HIS WAYS:

[Genesis 18:17-19 KJV] "17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; 18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 FOR I KNOW HIM, THAT HE WILL COMMAND HIS CHILDREN AND HIS HOUSEHOLD AFTER HIM, AND THEY SHALL KEEP THE WAY OF THE LORD, TO DO JUSTICE AND JUDGMENT; THAT THE LORD MAY BRING UPON ABRAHAM THAT WHICH HE HATH SPOKEN OF HIM."

ONCE ISAAC WAS BORN, ABRAHAM FOLLOWED THROUGH AND OBEYED YEHOVAH'S COMMANDMENT, right on time:

[Genesis 21:4 KJV] "4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, AS GOD HAD COMMANDED HIM."

There comes a point where it was necessary to separate Ishmael from Isaac. God COMMANDS ABRAHAM to do all that Sarah asked him to do, and ALTHOUGH IT WAS TRULY HARD FOR ABRAHAM, AS HE LOVED ISHMAEL, who was at least a teenager by this time (Genesis 17:25), He OBEYED God!!!:

[Genesis 21:9-14 KJV] "9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. 10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, [even] with Isaac. 11 AND THE THING WAS VERY GRIEVOUS IN ABRAHAM'S SIGHT BECAUSE OF HIS SON. 12 AND GOD SAID UNTO ABRAHAM, LET IT NOT BE GRIEVOUS IN THY SIGHT BECAUSE OF THE LAD, AND BECAUSE OF THY BONDWOMAN; IN ALL THAT SARAH HATH SAID UNTO THEE, HEARKEN UNTO HER VOICE; FOR IN ISAAC SHALL THY SEED BE CALLED. 13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he [is] thy seed. 14 And ABRAHAM ROSE UP EARLY IN THE MORNING, AND TOOK BREAD, AND A BOTTLE OF WATER, AND GAVE [IT] UNTO HAGAR, PUTTING [IT] ON HER SHOULDER, AND THE CHILD, AND SENT HER AWAY: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba."

NOW, FOR WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN *THE HARDEST COMMAND OF YEHOVAH ABRAHAM EVER HAD TO OBEY...* IT WAS A TEST OF HIS OBEDIENCE...:

[Genesis 22:1-24 KJV] "1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt ("TEST" IS A BETTER TRANSLATION OF THE HEBREW WORD "NASAH") Abraham, and said unto him, ABRAHAM: and he said, Behold, [here] I [am]. 2 AND HE SAID, TAKE NOW THY SON, THINE ONLY [SON] ISAAC, WHOM THOU LOVEST, AND GET THEE INTO THE LAND OF MORIAH; AND OFFER HIM THERE FOR A BURNT OFFERING UPON ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS WHICH I WILL TELL THEE OF. 3 AND ABRAHAM ROSE UP EARLY IN THE MORNING, AND SADDLED HIS ASS, AND TOOK TWO OF HIS YOUNG MEN WITH HIM, AND ISAAC HIS SON, AND CLAVE THE WOOD FOR THE BURNT OFFERING, AND ROSE UP, AND WENT UNTO THE PLACE OF WHICH GOD HAD TOLD HIM. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. 5 AND ABRAHAM SAID UNTO HIS YOUNG MEN, ABIDE YE HERE WITH THE ASS; AND I AND THE LAD WILL GO YONDER AND WORSHIP, AND COME AGAIN TO YOU. 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid [it] upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. 7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here [am] I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where [is] the lamb for a burnt offering? 8 AND ABRAHAM SAID, MY SON, GOD WILL PROVIDE HIMSELF A LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING: so they went both of them together. 9 AND THEY CAME TO THE PLACE WHICH GOD HAD TOLD HIM OF; AND ABRAHAM BUILT AN ALTAR THERE, AND LAID THE WOOD IN ORDER, AND BOUND ISAAC HIS SON, AND LAID HIM ON THE ALTAR UPON THE WOOD. 10 AND ABRAHAM STRETCHED FORTH HIS HAND, AND TOOK THE KNIFE TO SLAY HIS SON. 11 And THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CALLED UNTO HIM OUT OF HEAVEN, AND SAID, ABRAHAM, ABRAHAM: AND HE SAID, HERE [AM] I. 12 AND HE SAID, LAY NOT THINE HAND UPON THE LAD, NEITHER DO THOU ANY THING UNTO HIM: FOR NOW I KNOW THAT THOU FEAREST GOD, SEEING THOU HAST NOT WITHHELD THY SON, THINE ONLY [SON] FROM ME. 13 AND ABRAHAM LIFTED UP HIS EYES, AND LOOKED, AND BEHOLD BEHIND [HIM] A RAM CAUGHT IN A THICKET BY HIS HORNS: AND ABRAHAM WENT AND

TOOK THE RAM, AND OFFERED HIM UP FOR A BURNT OFFERING IN THE STEAD OF HIS SON. 14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said [to] this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. 15 AND THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CALLED UNTO ABRAHAM OUT OF HEAVEN THE SECOND TIME, 16 AND SAID, BY MYSELF HAVE I SWORN, SAITH THE LORD, FOR BECAUSE THOU HAST DONE THIS THING, AND HAST NOT WITHHELD THY SON, THINE ONLY [SON]: 17 THAT IN BLESSING I WILL BLESS THEE, AND IN MULTIPLYING I WILL MULTIPLY THY SEED AS THE STARS OF THE HEAVEN, AND AS THE SAND WHICH [IS] UPON THE SEA SHORE; AND THY SEED SHALL POSSESS THE GATE OF HIS ENEMIES; 18 AND IN THY SEED SHALL ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED; BECAUSE THOU HAST OBEYED MY VOICE. 19 So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba. 20 And it came to pass after these things, that it was told Abraham, saying, Behold, Milcah, she hath also born children unto thy brother Nahor; 21 Huz his firstborn, and Buz his brother, and Kemuel the father of Aram, 22 And Chesed, and Hazo, and Pildash, and Jidlaph, and Bethuel. 23 And Bethuel begat Rebekah: these eight Milcah did bear to Nahor, Abraham's brother. 24 And his concubine, whose name [was] Reumah, she bare also Tebah, and Gaham, and Thahash, and Maachah."

"FOR BECAUSE THOU HAST DONE THIS THING" in verse 16 is extremely revealing! In Hebrew it is even more specific!:

כִּי יַעַן אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה (WESTERN LENINGRAD CODEX) – **"Ciy ya'an asher asiytah et-hadavar hazeh"**

"Ciy" is translated as "for" and it has a usual translation of "because" on its own. But, it is followed by **"ya'an,"** which Strong's #H3282 translated as "because." A literal translation of this phrase then would be "because because"! However, many times "ya'an" is translated as **"ON ACCOUNT OF."** The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon states this:

STRONGS H3282:

Abbreviations

96 יַעַן properly substantive, purpose, intention, but always used as preposition or conjunction, **ON ACCOUNT OF**, because (for יַעֲנֶה, of the form יַעֲנֶה etc., Sta§ 259 Köii. 403; compare bdb077402 mean, intend): —...

2. As conjunction:

a. יַעַן אֲשֶׁר (32 times), usually with perfect, as Genesis 22:16 יַעַן אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ זֶה **because that thou hast done this**, Deuteronomy 1:36 (Joshua 14:14), Judges 2:20; 1 Samuel 30:22; 1 Kings 3:11; 1 Kings 8:18; Jeremiah 19:4; Jeremiah 25:8; Jeremiah 29:23 (not Isaiah) +; with imperfect (in frequent. sense) Ezekiel 44:12. †b. כִּי יַעַן, Numbers 11:20 יַעַן

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עֶקֶב ['êqeb, ay'-keb; from **H6117** in the sense of **H6119**; a heel, i.e. (figuratively) the last of anything (used adverbially, for ever); also result, i.e. **COMPENSATION**; and so (adverb with preposition or relatively) on account of:—**×** because, by, end, for, if, **REWARD**.

STRONGS H6118:

1. Isaiah 5:23 מַצְדִּיקִי רָשָׁע יֵקֵב שָׁחַד (adverb accusative) in consequence of a bribe. Psalm 40:16 (= Psalm 70:4) עַל יֵקֵב בְּשִׁתָּם (pleon.) according to the consequence of their shame, i.e. in consequence of the disgrace falling upon them. Hence as conjunction יֵקֵב אֲשֶׁר AS A CONSEQUENCE OF (THE FACT) THAT, BECAUSE, GENESIS 22:18 אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקוֹלִי ע' Genesis 26:5; 2 Samuel 12:6; so Samuel 12:10; Amos 4:12 יֵקֵב לךְ ע'; alone, Numbers 14:24, and (followed by imperfect) Deuteronomy 7:12 ע' תִּשְׁמַעוּן in consequence of your hearkening, etc., Deuteronomy 8:20.

3. end (of time), adverb accusative, Psalm 119:33 וְאֶצְרֶנָּה to the end, Psalm 119:112 ע' לעולם (compare Eccles 16:3; Targum עקבא (rare)).

10

The above amazing story of the testing of Abraham's fear of Jehovah shows us that Abraham did have great faith in Him. How do we know? HIS IMMEDIATE AND COMPLETE OBEDIENCE TO YEHOVAH'S COMMAND SHOWS US HIS FAITH! Jehovah had declared previously to him that Isaac was his son that would be made into a great nation, and he must have absolutely believed that Jehovah would raise Isaac from the dead if he killed him and burnt him as a burnt offering as Jehovah commanded him. BUT, NOTE, YEHOVAH DID NOT TELL HIM THAT AGAIN TO REASSURE HIM AT THIS TIME!!! ABRAHAM OBEYED YEHOVAH REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YEHOVAH WOULD RAISE ISAAC UP OR NOT... Abraham told the men with him to wait and "I AND THE LAD WILL GO YONDER AND WORSHIP, AND COME AGAIN TO YOU"! When he actually bound Isaac and placed him on the wood to burn him, and RAISED THE KNIFE, Jehovah had His angel shout for him to stop – He knew at that moment that Abraham truly feared Him, BECAUSE he did not withhold his beloved son from him. BECAUSE ABRAHAM OBEYED HIS VOICE - OR "AS A CONSEQUENCE OF," "AS COMPENSATION FOR," OR "AS A REWARD FOR" ABRAHAM OBEYING HIS VOICE - YEHOVAH SWORE BY HIMSELF THAT HE WOULD FULFILL SPECIFIC PROMISES TO HIM! YEHOVAH ACTUALLY MADE AN OATH THAT CAN NEVER BE BROKEN TO ABRAHAM AS A CONSEQUENCE OF HIS OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMAND! To review the specific promises of that Oath, let us look at them again:

[GENESIS 22:17-18 KJV] THAT IN BLESSING I WILL BLESS THEE, AND IN MULTIPLYING I WILL MULTIPLY THY SEED AS THE STARS OF THE HEAVEN, AND AS THE SAND WHICH [IS] UPON THE SEA SHORE; AND THY SEED SHALL POSSESS THE GATE OF HIS ENEMIES; 18 AND IN THY SEED SHALL ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED!!!

Jehovah commits Himself by an **ETERNAL OATH**, as compensation for (on account of, as a consequence of) Abraham's obedience to this command to offer up his beloved son, to give his seed (and the seed of Isaac, and the seed of Jacob/Israel) these specific promises! **I believe that is why He has not wiped them off the face of the earth for their disobedience to his covenant with them made at Mount Sinai.** In that covenant, He told the descendants of Jacob how to be blessed by their obedience or how to be cursed by their disobedience. **HE FULLY EXPECTED THEM TO OBEY HIM, AS EVIDENCED BY HIS PUNISHING THEM SEVERELY WHEN THEY DID NOT!!!** But, when they just **WOULD NOT** obey Him, **INSTEAD OF COMPLETELY WIPING THEM OUT, HE MADE A NEW COVENANT WITH THEM TO GIVE THEM A NEW HEART AND SPIRIT THAT DESIRES TO OBEY HIM** – He has MADE SURE that HE WILL HAVE A REMNANT PEOPLE OF ISRAEL to whom He can keep HIS OATH TO ABRAHAM BECAUSE THEY CHOOSE TO OBEY HIM FROM THEIR NEW HEART (See Isaiah 65:8-10, 17-25; Ezekiel 11:14-20)!!! However, the people of Israel who don't choose to obey Him, **THE REBELS**, will be cut off and destroyed at the end of this age (Isaiah 65:1-7, 11-16; Ezekiel 11:21; Zechariah 13:8-9 among many other prophecies!)

The following passage is a review of the first covenant Yehovah made with the descendants of Jacob /Israel at Mount Sinai:

[Exodus 19:1-8 KJV] "1 In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they [into] the wilderness of Sinai. 2 For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come [to] the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount. **3 AND MOSES WENT UP UNTO GOD, AND THE LORD CALLED UNTO HIM OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN, SAYING, THUS SHALT THOU SAY TO THE HOUSE OF JACOB, AND TELL THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL;** 4 YE HAVE SEEN WHAT I DID UNTO THE EGYPTIANS, AND [HOW] I BARE YOU ON EAGLES' WINGS, AND BROUGHT YOU UNTO MYSELF. 5 NOW THEREFORE, IF YE WILL OBEY MY VOICE INDEED, AND KEEP MY COVENANT, THEN YE SHALL BE A PECULIAR TREASURE UNTO ME ABOVE ALL PEOPLE: FOR ALL THE EARTH [IS] MINE: 6 AND YE SHALL BE UNTO ME A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS, AND AN HOLY NATION. THESE [ARE] THE WORDS WHICH THOU SHALT SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. 7 AND MOSES CAME AND CALLED FOR THE ELDERS OF THE PEOPLE, AND LAID BEFORE THEIR FACES ALL THESE WORDS WHICH THE LORD COMMANDED HIM. 8 AND ALL THE PEOPLE ANSWERED TOGETHER, AND SAID, ALL THAT THE LORD HATH SPOKEN WE WILL DO. AND MOSES RETURNED THE WORDS OF THE PEOPLE UNTO THE LORD."

YEHOVAH THEN, IN AN AWESOME DISPLAY OF HIS GLORY AND HIS OWN THUNDERING VOICE, GIVES THE DESCENDANTS OF JACOB (THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL) THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, INSCRIBED BY HIS OWN FINGER!!! He gives Moses Mishpatiyim (Judgments) to share with them too, and finally establishes the blood COVENANT WITH THEM AT THE FOOT OF MOUNT SINAI.

WHEN THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL IMMEDIATELY DISOBEY HIS COVENANT by making a Golden Calf, calling it Yehovah, and bowing down to it, HE WAS READY TO WIPE THEM OUT RIGHT THEN AND THERE! We see that Moses reminds Yehovah of THE ETERNAL OATH THAT HE SWORE BY HIMSELF TO ABRAHAM, saving their lives!!!

[Exodus 32:1-14 KJV] "1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for [as for] this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. 2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which [are] in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring [them] unto me. 3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which [were] in their ears, and brought [them] unto Aaron. 4 And he received [them] at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These [be] thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 5 And when Aaron saw [it], he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow [is] a feast to the LORD. 6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play. 7 **And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt,**

have corrupted [themselves]: 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These [be] thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 9 AND THE LORD SAID UNTO MOSES, I HAVE SEEN THIS PEOPLE, AND, BEHOLD, IT [IS] A STIFFNECKED PEOPLE: 10 NOW THEREFORE LET ME ALONE, THAT MY WRATH MAY WAX HOT AGAINST THEM, AND THAT I MAY CONSUME THEM: AND I WILL MAKE OF THEE A GREAT NATION. 11 And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? 12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? **TURN FROM THY FIERCE WRATH, AND REPENT OF THIS EVIL AGAINST THY PEOPLE. 13 REMEMBER ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND ISRAEL, THY SERVANTS, TO WHOM THOU SWAREST BY THINE OWN SELF, AND SAIDST UNTO THEM, I WILL MULTIPLY YOUR SEED AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN, AND ALL THIS LAND THAT I HAVE SPOKEN OF WILL I GIVE UNTO YOUR SEED, AND THEY SHALL INHERIT [IT] FOR EVER. 14 AND THE LORD REPENTED OF THE EVIL WHICH HE THOUGHT TO DO UNTO HIS PEOPLE."**

I BELIEVE IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT ABRAHAM'S FAITH AND OBEDIENCE TO YEHOVAH IS WHAT PUT HIM IN RIGHT STANDING WITH YEHOVAH!!!

Just before the children of Israel/Jacob finally get to enter the Land of Canaan to possess it, after their 40 years of wandering for their disobedience of not going in the first time, Moses tells them the following. **THEIR OBEDIENCE TO HIS VOICE WILL BE REQUIRED, EVEN IN THE LATTER DAYS, TO GET BACK INTO RIGHT STANDING WITH YEHOVAH, TO BE PART OF THE REMANT OF ISRAEL YEHOVAH SAVES!**

[Deuteronomy 4:25-31 KJV] "25 When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and ye shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt [yourselves], and make a graven image, [or] the likeness of any [thing], and shall do evil in the sight of the LORD thy God, to provoke him to anger: 26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong [your] days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. 27 And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you. 28 And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. 29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find [him], if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. 30 When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, [even] in the latter days, IF THOU TURN TO THE LORD THY GOD, AND SHALT BE OBEDIENT UNTO HIS VOICE; 31 (For the LORD thy God [is] a merciful God;) HE WILL NOT FORSAKE THEE, NEITHER DESTROY THEE, NOR FORGET THE COVENANT OF THY FATHERS WHICH HE SWARE UNTO THEM."

Later, in the story of Abraham sending his servant to choose a wife for his son Isaac from his kindred (from Shem's blessed lineage), not from the daughters of the Land of Canaan (Canaan's lineage, which was cursed), Abraham had told his servant:

[Genesis 24:40 KJV] "40 And he said unto me, THE LORD, BEFORE WHOM I WALK, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house:"

In the above passage, Abraham is confirming that he is walking before and obeying Yehovah Elohim.

Interestingly, Isaac later tells his son Jacob to not marry one of the daughters of Canaan either, and sends him back to his family in Paddan-Aram to get a wife too!

In this next passage, YEHOVAH ELOHIM GIVES COMMANDS TO ISAAC AND ISAAC OBEYS HIM AS WELL! Yehovah makes it absolutely clear to Isaac that ABRAHAM'S OBEDIENCE TO HIM IS WHY HE WILL FULFILL THE OATH THAT HE MADE TO ABRAHAM! Isaac and his seed will be the recipient of the blessings of that Oath.

[Genesis 26:1-6 KJV] "1 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And ISAAC went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. 2 And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, GO NOT DOWN INTO EGYPT; DWELL IN THE LAND WHICH I SHALL TELL THEE OF: 3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I WILL PERFORM THE OATH WHICH I SWARE UNTO ABRAHAM THY FATHER; 4 I will make THY SEED to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto THY SEED all these countries; and in THY SEED shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; 5 BECAUSE THAT ABRAHAM OBEYED MY VOICE, AND KEPT MY CHARGE, MY COMMANDMENTS (MITSVOTAY), MY STATUTES (CHUKOTAY) , AND MY LAWS (TORATAY). 6 And ISAAC DWELT IN GERAR:"

Verse 5 again uses the Hebrew word "EKEV" and translates it simply as "because," but it could better be translated as **"AS COMPENSATION FOR" Abraham obeying My Voice!**

Hopefully, it is clear that Paul's insistence that Abraham's right standing with Yehovah (righteousness) was based solely on his "faith" without any corresponding actual obedience to His Voice IS FALSE, taking Genesis 15:5-6 to the exclusion of ALL the above quoted scriptures! ABRAHAM'S LIFE ABSOLUTELY SHOWS US THAT FAITH IN YEHOVAH IS ONLY SHOWN TO BE REAL WHEN WE FOLLOW THROUGH IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMANDS, NO MATTER THE COST!

ISAAC OBEYED YEHOVAH TOO:

So, it is no surprise, after being told by Yehovah that Abraham's obedience is WHY He will fulfill His Oath to Abraham, **THAT ISAAC OBEYED HIS VOICE TOO**, and **stayed in Gerar instead of going down to Egypt!**

Later, when Isaac was still in the Land of Canaan sojourning at Yehovah's command, Yehovah appears to him:

[Genesis 26:23-25 KJV] "23 And he went up from thence to Beersheba. 24 **And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I [am] the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I [am] with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed FOR MY SERVANT ABRAHAM'S SAKE.** 25 And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well."

The story of Isaac's two sons, Esau and Jacob, starts even further back when **Yehovah speaks to Rebekkah and tells her that JACOB is the one who is to inherit the blessings of the Covenant (and Oath!) that Yehovah made with Abraham:**

[Genesis 25:19-23 KJV] "19 And these [are] the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac: 20 And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian. 21 And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she [was] barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. 22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If [it be] so, why [am] I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD. 23 **And the LORD said unto her, Two nations [are] in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and [the one] people shall be stronger than [the other] people; AND THE ELDER SHALL SERVE THE YOUNGER.**"

Continue reading to see how Rebekkah made SURE Yehovah's prophecy came to pass...**she made sure ISAAC WAS OBEIENT TO YEHOVAH'S COMMAND that the Elder (Esau) shall serve the Younger (Jacob)!!!**

[Genesis 27:21-29 KJV] "21 And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou [be] my very son Esau or not. 22 And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice [is] Jacob's voice, but the hands [are] the hands of Esau. 23 And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him. 24 And he said, [Art] thou my very son Esau? And he said, I [am]. 25 And he said, Bring [it] near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought [it] near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine, and he drank. **26 And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son. 27 And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son [is] as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed: 28 THEREFORE**

GOD GIVE THEE OF THE DEW OF HEAVEN, AND THE FATNESS OF THE EARTH, AND PLENTY OF CORN AND WINE: 29 LET PEOPLE SERVE THEE, AND NATIONS BOW DOWN TO THEE: BE LORD OVER THY BRETHREN, AND LET THY MOTHER'S SONS BOW DOWN TO THEE: CURSED [BE] EVERY ONE THAT CURSETH THEE, AND BLESSED [BE] HE THAT BLESSETH THEE."

Isaac continues what his father Abraham started in telling Jacob NOT to take a wife from the Canaanite women (cursed line) but instead that he needed to leave and go back to his mother Rebekkah's family in Paddan Aram to get a wife (from the blessed line of Shem). Esau had married Hittites (daughters of Heth/Canaanites). They evidently were not good to Rebekah...:

[Genesis 27:46 - 28:1-5 KJV] "46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these [which are] of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?" **1 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. 2 Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother. 3 And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; 4 AND GIVE THEE THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM, TO THEE, AND TO THY SEED WITH THEE; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham. 5 And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padanaram unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother."**

It is a good time to note **WHY** Jehovah evidently agreed with or even inspired this: that Abraham's family needed to get their wives from their own family and not from the daughters of Canaan. **Both Leviticus chapters 18 and 20, although revealed much later, details to us possibly why: BECAUSE OF ALL THE CANAANITES' HORRIBLE ABOMINABLE BEHAVIOR, INCLUDING SEXUAL PERVERSION (INCEST, HOMOSEXUALITY, AND BESTIALITY), IDOLATRY, WITCHCRAFT AND SORCERY, CURSING THEIR FATHER AND MOTHER, AND MORE.** This abominable behavior must have started years before – many people think with Ham himself, bringing the curse on Canaan and his lineage!

[Leviticus 18:24-30 KJV] "**24 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: FOR IN ALL THESE THE NATIONS ARE DEFILED WHICH I CAST OUT BEFORE YOU: 25 And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.** 26 Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit [any] of **these abominations**; [neither] any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you: 27 (For **all these abominations** have the men of the land done, which [were] before you, and the land is defiled;) 28 That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that [were] before you. 29 For whosoever shall commit any of **these abominations**, even the souls that commit [them] shall be cut off from among their people. 30 Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that [ye] commit not [any one] of these **abominable**

customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I [am] the LORD your God."

Continuing now concerning commandments to Jacob and his obedience, we find Jacob leaving his home as his father Isaac asked and making it as far as the place he will name "Bethel":

[Genesis 28:10-22 KJV] "10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. 11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put [them for] his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. 12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. 13 **AND, BEHOLD, THE LORD STOOD ABOVE IT, AND SAID, I [AM] THE LORD GOD OF ABRAHAM THY FATHER, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC: THE LAND WHEREON THOU LIEST, TO THEE WILL I GIVE IT, AND TO THY SEED; 14 AND THY SEED SHALL BE AS THE DUST OF THE EARTH, AND THOU SHALT SPREAD ABROAD TO THE WEST, AND TO THE EAST, AND TO THE NORTH, AND TO THE SOUTH: AND IN THEE AND IN THY SEED SHALL ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED. 15 AND, BEHOLD, I [AM] WITH THEE, AND WILL KEEP THEE IN ALL [PLACES] WHITHER THOU GOEST, AND WILL BRING THEE AGAIN INTO THIS LAND; FOR I WILL NOT LEAVE THEE, UNTIL I HAVE DONE [THAT] WHICH I HAVE SPOKEN TO THEE OF. 16** And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew [it] not. 17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful [is] this place! this [is] none other but the house of God, and this [is] the gate of heaven. 18 **And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put [for] his pillows, and set it up [for] a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city [was called] Luz at the first. 20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, 21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: 22 And this stone, which I have set [for] a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."**

The next few chapters describe the next twenty years of Jacob's life: Yehovah does arrange for him to meet and marry his cousin Rachel, as well as Leah whom Laban, their father, his uncle on his mother's side, deceives him into marrying first. It also describes his family life with them and the sons they have, and the two concubines, Zilpah and Bilhah, whom his wives give him to also bear him children for them! **Eventually, YEHOVAH COMMANDS JACOB to go home to the Land of Canaan, back to his family sojourning there.**

[Genesis 31:1-3 KJV] "1 And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that [was] our father's; and of [that] which [was] our father's hath he gotten all this glory. 2 And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it [was] not toward him as before. 3 **AND THE LORD SAID UNTO JACOB, RETURN UNTO THE LAND OF THY FATHERS, AND TO THY KINDRED; AND I WILL BE WITH THEE."**

JACOB IS IMMEDIATELY OBEDIENT TO YEHOVAH!!!:

[Genesis 31:4-18 KJV] "4 AND JACOB SENT AND CALLED RACHEL AND LEAH TO THE FIELD UNTO HIS FLOCK, 5 And said unto them, I see your father's countenance, that it [is] not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me. 6 And ye know that with all my power I have served your father. 7 And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me. 8 If he said thus, The speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, The ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked. 9 Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given [them] to me. 10 And it came to pass at the time that the cattle conceived, that I lifted up mine eyes, and saw in a dream, and, behold, the rams which leaped upon the cattle [were] ringstraked, speckled, and grisled. 11 **And THE ANGEL OF GOD SPAKE UNTO ME IN A DREAM,** [saying], Jacob: And I said, Here [am] I. 12 **AND HE SAID, LIFT UP NOW THINE EYES, AND SEE,** all the rams which leap upon the cattle [are] ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee. 13 I [AM] THE GOD OF BETHEL, WHERE THOU ANOINTEDST THE PILLAR, [AND] WHERE THOU VOWEDST A VOW UNTO ME: **NOW ARISE, GET THEE OUT FROM THIS LAND, AND RETURN UNTO THE LAND OF THY KINDRED.**" 14 And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, [Is there] yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? 15 Are we not counted of him strangers? for he hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our money. 16 For all the riches which God hath taken from our father, that [is] ours, and our children's: now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do. 17 **THEN JACOB ROSE UP, AND SET HIS SONS AND HIS WIVES UPON CAMELS; 18 AND HE CARRIED AWAY ALL HIS CATTLE, AND ALL HIS GOODS WHICH HE HAD GOTTEN, THE CATTLE OF HIS GETTING, WHICH HE HAD GOTTEN IN PADANARAM, FOR TO GO TO ISAAC HIS FATHER IN THE LAND OF CANAAN.**"

After Jacob enters back into the Land of Canaan, he actually purchases some land in Shechem, but he has a huge controversy with his daughter Dinah and the people of the land, which his sons decide to take into their own hands to solve. Jacob is concerned that the people will harm him, and **GOD COMMANDS HIM TO LEAVE FROM THERE, GO TO BETHEL, AND MAKE HIM AN ALTAR THERE.** Again, **JACOB IS OBEDIENT, even though he had purchased land there in Shechem!:**

[Genesis 35:1-15, 27-29 KJV] "1 AND GOD SAID UNTO JACOB, ARISE, GO UP TO BETHEL, AND DWELL THERE: AND MAKE THERE AN ALTAR UNTO GOD, THAT APPEARED UNTO THEE WHEN THOU FLEDDEST FROM THE FACE OF ESAU THY BROTHER. 2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that [were] with him, Put away the strange gods that [are] among you, and be clean, and change your garments: 3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. 4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which [were] in their hand, and [all their] earrings which [were] in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which [was] by Shechem. 5 **And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities**

that [were] round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob. 6 SO JACOB CAME TO LUZ, WHICH [IS] IN THE LAND OF CANAAN, THAT [IS], BETHEL, HE AND ALL THE PEOPLE THAT [WERE] WITH HIM. 7 AND HE BUILT THERE AN ALTAR, AND CALLED THE PLACE ELBETHEL: BECAUSE THERE GOD APPEARED UNTO HIM, WHEN HE FLED FROM THE FACE OF HIS BROTHER. 8 But Deborah Rebekah's nurse died, and she was buried beneath Bethel under an oak: and the name of it was called Allonbachuth. 9 AND GOD APPEARED UNTO JACOB AGAIN, WHEN HE CAME OUT OF PADANARAM, AND BLESSED HIM. 10 AND GOD SAID UNTO HIM, THY NAME [IS] JACOB: THY NAME SHALL NOT BE CALLED ANY MORE JACOB, BUT ISRAEL SHALL BE THY NAME: AND HE CALLED HIS NAME ISRAEL. 11 AND GOD SAID UNTO HIM, I [AM] GOD ALMIGHTY: BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY; A NATION AND A COMPANY OF NATIONS SHALL BE OF THEE, AND KINGS SHALL COME OUT OF THY LOINS; 12 AND THE LAND WHICH I GAVE ABRAHAM AND ISAAC, TO THEE I WILL GIVE IT, AND TO THY SEED AFTER THEE WILL I GIVE THE LAND. 13 AND GOD WENT UP FROM HIM IN THE PLACE WHERE HE TALKED WITH HIM. 14 AND JACOB SET UP A PILLAR IN THE PLACE WHERE HE TALKED WITH HIM, [EVEN] A PILLAR OF STONE: AND HE POURED A DRINK OFFERING THEREON, AND HE POURED OIL THEREON. 15 AND JACOB CALLED THE NAME OF THE PLACE WHERE GOD SPAKE WITH HIM, BETHEL...

27 AND JACOB CAME UNTO ISAAC HIS FATHER UNTO MAMRE, UNTO THE CITY OF ARBAH, WHICH [IS] HEBRON, WHERE ABRAHAM AND ISAAC SOJOURNED. 28 And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years. 29 And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, [being] old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him."

God was faithful to bring Jacob all the way back to his father Isaac's home, who was still alive, BECAUSE OF JACOB'S OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMANDS!!!

Below is yet another confirmation that WHEN YEHOVAH COMMANDED JACOB, JACOB OBEYED!:

After being back in the Land of Canaan from Paddan Aram for some time, Yehovah has a plan for Jacob that he had spoken to Abraham about many years prior. (Genesis 15:13). Yehovah had told Abraham that his descendants would be slaves in a land that was not their own (Egypt) for 400 years and at the end, Yehovah would deliver them and bring all His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to pass of their seed actually inheriting this Land of Canaan in which they have been sojourning! SO YEHOVAH COMMANDS JACOB NOT TO FEAR TO GO DOWN TO EGYPT, AND JACOB WAS OBEDIENT - TO LEAVE ONE MORE TIME... – AT 130 YEARS OLD!!!

[Genesis 46:1-7 KJV] "1 AND ISRAEL TOOK HIS JOURNEY WITH ALL THAT HE HAD, AND CAME TO BEERSHEBA, AND OFFERED SACRIFICES UNTO THE GOD OF HIS FATHER ISAAC. 2 AND GOD

SPAKE UNTO ISRAEL IN THE VISIONS OF THE NIGHT, AND SAID, JACOB, JACOB. AND HE SAID, HERE [AM] I. 3 AND HE SAID, I [AM] GOD, THE GOD OF THY FATHER: FEAR NOT TO GO DOWN INTO EGYPT; FOR I WILL THERE MAKE OF THEE A GREAT NATION: 4 I WILL GO DOWN WITH THEE INTO EGYPT; AND I WILL ALSO SURELY BRING THEE UP [AGAIN]: AND JOSEPH SHALL PUT HIS HAND UPON THINE EYES.

5 AND JACOB ROSE UP FROM BEERSHEBA: AND THE SONS OF ISRAEL CARRIED JACOB THEIR FATHER, AND THEIR LITTLE ONES, AND THEIR WIVES, IN THE WAGONS WHICH PHARAOH HAD SENT TO CARRY HIM. 6 AND THEY TOOK THEIR CATTLE, AND THEIR GOODS, WHICH THEY HAD GOTTEN IN THE LAND OF CANAAN, AND CAME INTO EGYPT, JACOB, AND ALL HIS SEED WITH HIM: 7 HIS SONS, AND HIS SONS' SONS WITH HIM, HIS DAUGHTERS, AND HIS SONS' DAUGHTERS, AND ALL HIS SEED BROUGHT HE WITH HIM INTO EGYPT."

Just before he died, Jacob decided to bless Joseph's two sons, and as he does, he tells us that **ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND EVEN HE, JACOB, OBEYED YEHOVAH THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES.**

[Genesis 48:15-16 KJV] "15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, GOD, BEFORE WHOM MY FATHERS ABRAHAM AND ISAAC DID WALK, THE GOD WHICH FED ME ALL MY LIFE LONG UNTO THIS DAY, 16 The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

AS WE HAVE SEEN BY REVIEWING ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB'S LIFE, THEY ALL WERE OBEIENT TO YEHOVAH'S DIRECT COMMANDS!

TO REITERATE MY PREMISE OF THIS ARTICLE, HOPEFULLY, IT IS CLEAR THAT PAUL'S INSISTENCE THAT ABRAHAM'S RIGHT STANDING WITH YEHOVAH (RIGHTEOUSNESS) WAS BASED SOLELY ON HIS "FAITH" WITHOUT ANY CORRESPONDING ACTUAL OBEIDENCE TO HIS COMMANDS IS ABSOLUTELY FALSE. PAUL'S TAKING ONE SENTENCE IN GENESIS 15:5-6 TO THE EXCLUSION OF ALL THE ABOVE QUOTED SCRIPTURES IS ALMOST LUDICROUS!!! ABRAHAM'S LIFE, AS WELL AS ISAAC'S AND JACOB'S LIVES, ABSOLUTELY SHOWS US THAT FAITH IN YEHOVAH IS ONLY SHOWN TO BE TRUE FAITH WHEN ONE FOLLOWS THROUGH IN OBEIDENCE TO HIS COMMANDS, NO MATTER THE COST!

NOW THAT WE HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT ABRAHAM'S OBEIDENCE TO YEHOVAH WAS ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL, LET US LOOK AT PAUL'S DOCTRINE, WHICH I BELIEVE IS FALSE! THE LETTER PAUL WROTE TO THE GALATIANS (CHAPTER THREE) DESCRIBES WHAT HE TAUGHT

ABOUT ABRAHAM'S "FAITH" BEING HIS ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR RIGHT STANDING WITH YEHOVAH AND THE PROMISES OF THE COVENANT. THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO PAUL, LIKE ABRAHAM, BELIEVERS IN YEHOSHUA ONLY NEED TO HAVE "FAITH" WITHOUT OBEDIENCE TO YEHOVAH'S COMMANDS TO BE RIGHT WITH YEHOVAH !!! (Again, I believe this is absolutely false.)

I do absolutely believe that FAITH THAT YEHOSHUA IS THE SON OF GOD/THE MESSIAH IS ESSENTIAL TO PARTAKE OF THE NEW COVENANT. Yehoshua is the promised Arm of Yehovah that came as a "yonek," a sucking baby, and grew up before Yehovah to become the "ASHAM" (GUILT OFFERING) for our sins when we repent and make us righteous, as promised in Isaiah 53:1-2,5-6,10-12 and Matthew 26:26-29, establishing the New Covenant. But we must remember that the New Covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob's Seed, that is later generously extended to the ends of the earth, was given because the Tribes of Jacob/Israel broke His Commandments, His Covenant. So, He gave them His Own Holy Spirit and a New Heart so that THEY WOULD DESIRE TO OBEY HIM – THAT WAS THE REASON FOR HIS NEEDING TO EVEN GIVE THEM A NEW COVENANT. They would have no excuse at all for disobedience now. (See Ezekiel 11:14-21)! Therefore, WITHOUT FOLLOWING THROUGH TO OBEY YEHOVAH'S COMMANDS, His "Chukot" (Statutes) and "Mishpatiyim" (Judgments), and the Words of Yehoshua, and INSTEAD LIVING A LIFE OF INIQUITY, a person will NOT KEEP the gift of the New Covenant at either his death (in my opinion) or the Second Coming of Yehoshua, whichever comes first! HE OR SHE WILL BE TOLD TO DEPART FROM HIS PRESENCE!

HOWEVER, PAUL SAYS THIS TO BOTH GENTILE AND JEWISH BELIEVERS IN GALATIA. "FAITH" IN THE MESSIAH IS ALL THEY NEED, BECAUSE THAT IS ALL ABRAHAM NEEDED, HE FALSELY SAYS! NO! ABRAHAM HAD TO BE OBEDIENT TO YEHOVAH'S COMMANDS! I BELIEVE WE DO TOO!

[Galatians 3:1-29 KJV] "1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? 2 This only would I learn of you, RECEIVED YE THE SPIRIT BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW, OR BY THE HEARING OF FAITH? 3 ARE YE SO FOOLISH? HAVING BEGUN IN THE SPIRIT, ARE YE NOW MADE PERFECT BY THE FLESH? 4 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if [it be] yet in vain. 5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, [doeth he it] by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 6 EVEN AS ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. 7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. 8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, [saying], In thee shall all nations be blessed. 9 SO THEN THEY WHICH BE OF FAITH ARE BLESSED WITH FAITHFUL ABRAHAM. 10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. 11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, [it is] evident: for, The just shall live by faith. 12 AND THE LAW IS NOT OF FAITH: BUT, THE MAN THAT DOETH THEM SHALL LIVE IN THEM. 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the

curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that hangeth on a tree: 14 THAT THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM MIGHT COME ON THE GENTILES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST; THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH FAITH. 15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though [it be] but a man's covenant, yet [if it be] confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. 16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. 17 And this I say, [that] the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. 18 For if the inheritance [be] of the law, [it is] no more of promise: but God gave [it] to Abraham by promise. 19 Wherefore then [serveth] the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; [and it was] ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. 20 Now a mediator is not [a mediator] of one, but God is one. 21 [Is] the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. 22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster [to bring us] unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26 FOR YE ARE ALL THE CHILDREN OF GOD BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 AND IF YE [BE] CHRIST'S, THEN ARE YE ABRAHAM'S SEED, AND HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE."

(Strange how Paul twists the Abrahamic Covenant to take away the ETERNAL CIRCUMCISION COMMANDMENT and to leave out the fact that THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM AND "HIS SEED" was very much about THE MULTIPLICATION OF HIS DESCENDANTS AND THE PROMISE OF INHERITING THE LAND OF CANAAN, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SHEM!!!! As a reminder, this is the Covenant to Abraham: Yehovah declared: [Genesis 17: 4 KJV] As for me, behold, my covenant [is] with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. 5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. 6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. 8 AND I WILL GIVE UNTO THEE, AND TO THY SEED AFTER THEE, THE LAND WHEREIN THOU ART A STRANGER, ALL THE LAND OF CANAAN, FOR AN EVERLASTING POSSESSION; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD (See also Psalm 105:7-11). There was not a promise of the Holy Spirit or Eternal Life even given to Abraham at that point...as shown by all the scriptures I quoted above, Abraham received everything from Yehovah, the Covenant and the Oath, BECAUSE OF HIS TRUE FAITH SHOWN BY HIS OEDIENCE!)

HOWEVER, YEHOSHUA (JESUS) STATES THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF PAUL! I WILL LET YOU DECIDE WHO TO BELIEVE!!!

YOUR SALVATION DEPENDS ON YOUR DECISION!

YEHOSHUA SAID THIS TO HIS DISCIPLES AT THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT:

[Matthew 7:21-23 KJV] "21 NOT EVERY ONE THAT SAITH UNTO ME, LORD, LORD, SHALL ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN; BUT HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN. 22 MANY will say to me in that day, LORD, LORD, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: DEPART FROM ME, YE THAT WORK INIQUITY."

OUR FAITH AS BELIEVERS IN YEHOSHUA, EVEN IN THE NEW COVENANT, IS ONLY SHOWN TO BE TRUE FAITH WHEN WE WILL OBEY YEHOVAH'S COMMANDS!

PLEASING YEHOVAH IS ALL ABOUT OBEDIENCE ALL THE WAY TO THE END!!!

SOURCES:

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RECOMMENDED READING:

For more information, read my book *The Holy Arm of יהוה (The Lord)* for free on www.TheHolyArmOfTheLord.com. Chapters 17 and 18 deal with Paul's doctrine in contrast with the earliest Nazarene Jewish believers' full acceptance of gentile believers in Yehoshua into the "One Fold with One Shepherd" (John 10:16) that Yehoshua said He was forming. They would not only have the full blessing but also the full responsibility of the New Covenant with Israel.