

Road of the Pilgrims

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Scripture: Let Us Study

ALL Scripture

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of Yahweh, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of Yahweh may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

Are you a Scripture-believing person? If the answer is “Yes”, that is good. But... stop and think for a minute: Do you believe all of the Scriptures? From the book of Matthew through the book of 2 Peter, we see “the Scriptures” mentioned 52 times. What are Yahshua and His followers referring to? Are they speaking of “the New Testament”? No. They are referring to the books preceding Matthew.

When Yahshua was born as a baby, not one of the “New Testament” books was written. After His death, resurrection, and ascension, we see a few of the books being written, namely, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts. And then, little by little, other books were written, like the books of Peter, Jude, etc. We know that the majority of “New Testament” books were written by Paul, who was not even a follower of Yahshua when He was carrying out His mission on earth. So it took a while before he started writing all the letters that compose most of the “New Testament”, like Corinthians, Timothy, Romans, etc. Moreover, when Luke sat down to write about Yahshua’s time on earth, he had no idea he was writing Scripture. When Paul wrote letter after letter to the assemblies, he did not even imagine that people 2000 years later would be reading his letters as Scripture. So then, from all of this we can safely conclude that the writers of Matthew through Revelations were not referring to those books when they spoke of “the Scriptures”.

Let us look at some examples of where the words “Scripture” and “Scriptures” are used. What did the “New Testament” writers, and Yahshua Himself, think of the “Old Testament”? Matthew 22:29 — Yahshua answered and said unto them, “Ye do err, **not knowing**

the Scriptures, nor the power of Yahweh.” Luke 24:27 — And beginning at Moses and the prophets, Yahshua expounded unto them, **in all the Scriptures, the things concerning Himself.** Luke 24:45 — Then opened He their understanding, **that they might understand the Scriptures.** John 5:39 — “**Search the Scriptures..... which testify of Me (Yahshua).**” Acts 17:2 — And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and **three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures.**” Acts 17:11 — These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, **and searched the Scriptures daily**, whether those things were so. Acts 18:24,28 — And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and **mighty in the Scriptures.....** mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, **shewing by the Scriptures that Yahshua was the Messiah.** Acts 28:23 — And when they had appointed Paul a day, there came many to him into his lodging, to whom he expounded and testified the Kingdom of Yahweh, persuading them concerning Yahshua, **both out of the Law of Moses, and out of the Prophets**, from morning till evening. Romans 15:4 — For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we, through patience and **comfort of the Scriptures** might have hope. 2 Timothy 3:15 — And that from a child thou hast **known the set-apart (holy) Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Yahshua the Messiah.** We can clearly see that Yahshua and His disciples upheld the Law, Prophets, Psalms, etc. A brief rundown of the previously listed verses reveals the following to us: *We are to search, study, understand, and know well the “Old Testament” Scriptures, for they comfort us, reveal unto us the only begotten son of Yahweh, and make us wise unto salvation.*

Seeing all of this, why don't we take a few minutes to familiarize ourselves with some of the basic doctrines of salvation, as found in the “Old Testament”, more properly referred to as the Tanak.¹

~All have sinned. Psalms 14:3 — They are all gone aside, they are together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

~ Apart from Yahweh, and continuing in sin, we are void of peace.

¹ “Tanak” literally means “Instruction (Law), Prophets, and Writings (as in Psalms, etc.).”

Isaiah 57:20-21 — But the wicked are like the troubled sea when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. “There is no peace,” saith Yahweh, “to the wicked.”

~ Only in Yahweh can we have peace. Numbers 6:24-26 — Yahweh bless thee and keep thee; Yahweh make His face shine upon thee, and be favorable unto thee; Yahweh lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Isaiah 26:3 — Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee.

~ We must repent of our sins. Ezekiel 33:11 — Say unto them, “As I live, saith Yahweh, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways, for why will ye die?”

~ The blood of Yahshua washes us and makes us clean. Leviticus 17:11 — It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. Psalms 51:7,9 — Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Isaiah 53:5-6 — But He (Yahshua) was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and Yahweh hath made the iniquity of us all to meet on Him.

~ In Yahweh, our hearts are cleansed, and we become a new creature. Psalms 51:10 — Create in me a clean heart, O Yahweh, and renew a right spirit within me. Ezekiel 36:26 — Yahweh says, “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”

~ Now we walk in obedience to Yahweh’s Word. Ezekiel 18:21 --- Yahweh says, “If the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all My statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.” Psalms 119:4 — Thou hast commanded us to keep Thy precepts diligently.

~ On this renewed heart that Yahweh gives us, He writes His Law. Jeremiah 31:33 — “After those days,” saith Yahweh, “I will put My Law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts, and will be their Almighty One, and they shall be My people.”

~ As a new creature, we do not live to please ourselves. Rather, we live to please Yahweh. Deuteronomy 6:25 — “And it shall be our righteousness if we observe to do all these commandments before

Yahweh our Almighty One, as He hath commanded us.”

~ As servants of Yahweh, we have a mission to help others see the truth as well. Psalm 51:13 — Then will I teach transgressors Thy way, and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.

~ This also means we must bring our children up in the way. Deuteronomy 6:7 — And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. Proverbs 22:6 — Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it.

~ We must not be ashamed of our faith in Yahweh. 1 Kings 22:14 — And Micaiah said, “As Yahweh liveth, what Yahweh saith unto me, that will I speak.” Psalm 51:15 — O Yahweh, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall shew forth Thy praise.

~ We must constantly look to Yahweh in prayer. Psalm 55:17 — Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice. Proverbs 3:5-6 — Trust in Yahweh with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

~ If we remain forever steadfast unto Yahweh, loving Him with all our hearts, and diligently obeying His voice, we shall receive the reward of eternal Life with Him. Deuteronomy 30:19-20 — I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live, that thou mayest love Yahweh thy Almighty One, that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him; for He is thy Life, and the length of thy days.

We have seen that when Yahshua and His followers talked about “the Scriptures”, they were referring to the Tanak. We have also realized that they upheld these Scriptures. And moreover, we have beheld the basic doctrines of salvation, presented to us in the Tanak as clearly as they are presented in the latter portion of the Scriptures. Of a truth, **All Scripture is given by inspiration of Yahweh, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of Yahweh may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.** (2 Timothy 3:16-17) HalleluYah!

-Rivqah (Rebekah Coover), 01-2005

Articles

A Woman Who Excels

Hello, my dear sisters. I just want to share with you some from “the virtuous woman passage”. The other night as I was reading and praying, Yahweh just seemed to reveal all kinds of wonderful thoughts on this passage, and I felt led to write them down.

[10] An excellent wife, who can find? Some versions say, “a virtuous wife”. It is very hard to find a woman who excels in virtue. Am I found before Yahweh as a virtuous and excellent woman? I pray that I am. This chapter helps us to see just what an excellent woman is.

For her worth is far above jewels. (Her price is far above rubies.) Think of that! Am I that valuable? Am I living in a way that Yahweh is able to truly appreciate and value me as one of His handmaidens? I am striving to. Do those around me value me? A truly virtuous woman is indispensable. People depend on her, for she is dependable.

[11] The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. Yes, a virtuous woman is trustworthy. Her father can say, “I want you to not do such and such a thing”, and he can go about his business, without a single doubt that she will transgress even the smallest command. Her mother can say, “Do this list of things,” and rest completely assured that she will faithfully and cheerfully perform her tasks. Her husband can say, “I would prefer you don’t do such and such a thing”, and he can be confident that she will not. Or he can request, “Honey, please check up on this”, and be at peace as much as if he were checking on it himself. Why is all of this so? Because she honors others above herself. She is careful to be submissive. She has the interests of others always in her mind, first and foremost. It is not her things that matter, but the things of others. Those who depend on her need not fear lack of gain, for she

treats them and their things with utmost care and respect.

[12] She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.

This verse speaks of several good attributes. For one thing, this kind of a woman is a servant. She is ever busy about serving others. She is not her own. Her life is devoted to bettering the lives of those around her, through thoughtfulness and servanthood. The concerns of others are her concerns. Her father's burdens are her burdens, and she seeks to help lighten them. Her husband's dreams are her dreams, and she strives to make them come true. She is a servant in all respects of life.

Another thing this verse speaks of is constancy. She does not serve for a little while, and then tire of it. No, the flame that burns in her heart is one of motivation to help others. That is her zeal and her passion. She loves to do good to others.

Lastly, this verse brings out the fact that a virtuous and excellent woman is considerate. She seeks to not harm others in any way. She is ever doing good, and has no room for hurting others with unkindness, carelessness, etc.

[13] She looks for wool and flax. Isn't this wonderful? The excellent woman seeks work. She does not hide in her prayer closet, being "pious", hoping no one will show up to "employ her". While her prayer time is very important, she is a workable and useful woman. She does not hide from work, but seeks it out. She looks for ways to serve. She doesn't wait to be asked TO work; rather, she asks FOR work.

She also is a skillful woman. She knows how to keep a home. She knows how to take care of her family. She is learned in the occupation that she has been called to. She has devoted herself to learning all she can about being a faithful and useful woman.

And works with her hands in delight. An excellent woman has her heart in what she is doing. As the apostle Shaul (or Paul) tells us, when we work for others, we are working for the Master, and we are to do our work heartily. We must remember that we are serving Yahweh, not men. (Colossians 3:23-24; Matthew 25:40) A virtuous woman takes great delight in being a servant. As said before, her zeal and passion is to serve others. Her heart is full of song and her face radiant with joy, for she delights in filling her place in the home.

New Living Translation reads, **She finds wool and flax, and**

busily spins it. An excellent woman loves to be busy. She realizes that an empty life will be taken over by the devil (Luke 11:24-26), and she does all she can to be occupied about the Father's business. (Luke 2:49; John 4:34)

[14] She is like merchant ships; she brings her food from afar.

The excellent woman does not do things the easiest way, but rather, the best way. She will go far for good deals. She will search for the healthiest foods. She does not just feed her family to keep them alive. Instead, she throws her heart into her job, and seeks to be the wisest shopper she can be. However, she is not obsessed with saving every penny she can, thus buying things that are not good quality, just to save money. She is also not a "health fanatic" who won't let her husband have his favorite meals. She buys for the wellbeing and pleasure of everyone.

[15] She rises also while it is still night, and gives food to her household, and portions to her maidens. The virtuous woman is disciplined. She puts her family's needs above her own desires. Proverbs 20:13 advises us, "Do not love sleep, or you will become poor; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with food." The virtuous woman seeks to obey this verse.

Another interesting point is that, even though this woman may have servant girls, she is very busy herself. She does not just sit and give orders. She is a part of the daily tasks, working with her servants, should she have any.

There is something else very insightful about Proverbs 31:15, when we read it in the New Living Translation. **She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plan the day's work for her servant girls.** An excellent woman is a planner. She is orderly. She goes about life in an organized fashion. She takes a sufficient amount of time to plan and make priorities.

[16] She considers a field and buys it. Hmmm, she considers before she buys. This is very significant. A righteous woman does not just do, but she thinks ahead, she weighs a matter carefully, she gets her husband's advice, and then she buys. This is part of planning. She is never the haphazard type that just whips here and there, doing this and that, without even thinking about her actions. No, because that kind of a woman heaps upon herself many regrets. The excellent woman considers before she does, and then **from her**

earnings she plants a vineyard. She makes wise choices, and then joys in the rewards that she receives from those choices.

From her earnings she plants a vineyard. An excellent woman is a skillful woman. While she does not leave the home to look for a career, she does have earnings. She does things in her home that can help her family financially. They are not things that distract her from her family. Rather, they are things that require womanly skill, thus, things that her daughters can do along with her. So in earning money, she is also training her daughters to be women.

She plants a vineyard. A virtuous woman has some knowledge of gardening. Nowadays (at least in America) we tend to depend on the supermarket. But it is still good to have some gardening knowledge and experience, for we never know when the supermarkets will no longer be there for us to depend on.

[17] She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong. Some women seem to have this idea that in order to be feminine, you have to be petite and dainty, letting everything strenuous up to your husband. I do not think that Proverbs 31 embraces this idea. While women are the weaker vessels (1 Peter 3:7), that does not mean that cannot do anything that requires a little bit of strain on the back muscles. The women are the weaker vessels, yes, but they are also to be helpers meet for their husbands and families (Genesis 2:18, 21-22)

New Living Translation reads, **She is energetic and strong, a hard worker.** This verse speaks of a woman who joys in her work, who is enthusiastic, who throws her all into her domestic duties.

[18] She senses that her gain is good; her lamp does not go out at night. The excellent woman is wise. She takes notice to what things are profitable for her to be spending her time in, and what things aren't. And then she devotes her energies to the profitable things.

She also does not tire of doing what is profitable. Even at night, after a hard day's work, her spirits are bright and she is optimistic and hopeful. "And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9, KJV) "So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time." (Galatians 6:9, NLT)

[19] She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hands grasp the spindle. A virtuous woman reaches for work, and takes a hold on her duties with pleasure. By her skill, she blesses both her family and others, and she delights in doing so. She loves to have her hands busy. **Her hands are busy spinning thread, her fingers twisting fiber.** (NLT) 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 “... and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need (not need to depend on others to meet your financial needs. NLT)

[20] She extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy. An excellent woman reaches out to others. She is not so wrapped up in her duties that she forgets the poor. She reaches out a loving hand to those in need, and is a blessing to all she meets. **She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy.** (NLT) She is helpful. Her arms and heart are open. She has a great heart of love. Oh, may we all fit this description.

[21] She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet. NLT translates “scarlet” as “warm clothes”. So then, why is she not fearful? Because she is prepared. The excellent woman needs not to fear, worry, and fret. She is prepared. She is confident. She “can do all things through Him who strengthens her”, that is, Messiah. (Philippians 4:13) She knows that in quietness, confidence, and trust is her strength. (Isaiah 30:15) She humbly looks to Yahweh for strength and provision, full of confidence and trust that He will give it to her, and then she acts upon her faith. She does what she can do to be prepared.

[22] She makes coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. The virtuous woman dresses like a woman. She does not wear things that would make her look like a man. She is woman through and through, for the inside all the way out. She knows that it is more than the heart that matters, but also the outward appearance. She dresses becomingly, so as not to appear shabby, and thus turn others off to the beauty of womanhood and keeping a home.

She quilts her own bedspreads. (NLT) This woman has a great variety of skills, as we have seen thus far. In Proverbs 31, cooking, spinning, making clothes, weaving, making belts, gardening, and

quilting are given as examples of skills. While every excellent woman may not do all of these things, an excellent woman is to be skillful and useful, with a variety of ways in which she can provide for her family's needs, reach out to others, and beautify her home. Some other examples are as follows: Providing For Her Family's Needs – mending; getting creative in ways to help her children with their education (e.g. creating supplementary school sheets; coming up with good art projects; taking time to do activities that reinforce what they have learned, as well as teach new things) Reaching Out To Others – being a letter writer, as a means of encouraging others; being generous with loaning out / giving away encouraging books; taking time to visit the lonely; sharing garden produce or baked goods with people; handing out tracts Beautifying Her Home – embroidery; knitting; crocheting; macrame; dried flowers; painting; calligraphy

[23] Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. This verse is VERY important. An excellent woman is a hidden woman. She does nothing for her own esteem (Philippians 2:3; 1 Corinthians 13:4-5), but rather seeks to bring honor to Yahweh and her husband (1 Corinthians 10:31). Her husband is the one who is known in the gates. She is not rivaling for attention, praise, and esteem. She is content to be a hidden woman in her home. She does not wear a humble look, while inwardly hoping for compliments from visitors, etc. Her mission is to serve, and she is content without praise.

[24] She makes linen garments and sells {them,} and supplies belts to the tradesmen. As was mentioned before, the excellent woman brings in money where she can, without neglecting her duties as a wife, mother, and homemaker. She obviously makes good use of her time!

[25] Strength and dignity are her clothing. A virtuous woman is a strong woman. She is dignified and noble. She is above reproach. She does nothing that would be an appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Her whole being is noble, from the inside out. Her thoughts are pure (Philippians 4:8); her words are pure (Psalm 19:14); her motives are pure (Philippians 2:3); her actions are pure (Matthew 7:12); her emotions are pure (Colossians 3:2). She is a woman of dignity. She will not give in to sin, no matter what. She keeps her flesh under (1 Corinthians 9:27), and gives none occasion

unto sin (Proverbs 13:14). She will not compromise truth for acceptance. She stands firm in what is right, nobly keeping her eyes fixed on the goal (Colossians 3:1). She is a woman of purpose, trust, purity, and steadfastness.

And she smiles at the future. Because this woman is so strong and noble, she is confident that Yahweh will lead her through even the dark valleys. While she is not overly confident, nor puts her trust in herself, she believes Yahweh when He says that His favor is sufficient for her, and she does not worry about the future. She puts her trust in her Savior, and smiles in the sweet peace of His assurance.

She also commits her family to Him. She does not have to worry that her children will go astray, for she has put each one of them in the Father's hands, and is doing her part to make them steadfast and noble as well.

[26] She opens her mouth in wisdom. We read in Sirach 21:26 that the heart of the foolish is in his mouth, but the mouth of the wise is in his heart. A foolish person thinks of what she is going to say, and before she knows it, her words have flown out of her mouth. Why? Because they have no distance to go. Her heart is right at the door of her mouth. It is so easy for her to speak. Why should she take the time to think about her words first? It is no effort at all to speak them. A wise person, on the other hand, keeps her mouth in her heart. She thinks before she speaks. She applies wisdom. Along her mouth's journey to her lips, she encounters these and other such questions: Will my words edify another? Will they minister favor unto the hearers? Are these words true? Will they in any way hurt another? If at any time along her journey, she receives a sign that she should go back, she does so. She is not like Balaam, going for self interest and gain. She only goes if Yahweh says "Yes". (Oh what a challenge this is! But it is a noble one!)

And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. The excellent woman is kind. Everything about her is kind. She does not harbor bitterness in her heart. She does not seek to revenge. She does not hold grudges or entertain angry thoughts. No, she is kind in every way. She speaks to her husband with kindness. She speaks to her children with love, and teaches them to be loving and kind as well. She speaks to friends and strangers with favor. Her words to the poor are full of compassion. She is kind through and through, and those

around her cannot help but pick up (at least a little bit, if not a lot) on her gentle ways and graceful spirit.

[27] She looks well to the ways of her household. She is observant. She does not let negative attitudes in her children slide by. She does not neglect to discipline when necessary. She makes certain that things are in order. She is a watch-woman, guarding her family with all tender care and concern, looking well to the ways of her herds, so to speak (Proverbs 27:23), and putting her heart into caring for their spiritual welfare and success. (NLT) She is not a woman who “just trusts Yahweh to make things turn out right”; she does her part.

She does not eat the bread of idleness. Or as NLT reads, she **does not have to bear the consequences of laziness.** She is not slothful. She is busy like the ant. She is not a sluggard; she makes wise use of her time. No one who knows her can say that she is lazy. She is steadfast, immoveable, ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF YAHWEH, knowing that her toil is not in vain in Yahweh. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

[28] Her children rise up and bless her. The virtuous woman raises her children to bless Yahweh and their parents, both by their words and their deeds.

A righteous woman will raise her children so that she can trust them. She will join her forces with her husband’s to make them strong and noble, and children that they shall never be ashamed of. She will put all her energies into creating sons who will stand in the gates with her husband (Psalm 127:5). She will devote herself to making fruitful plants of her sons, and polished cornerstones, fit for a temple, of her daughters (Psalm 144:12). She will unite with her husband to raise up children like unto themselves (Sirach 30:4), like unto Yahweh (Romans 8:29). She will behold her children, and they will be as verdant olive plants round about her and her husband’s table (Psalm 128:3), and her heart shall rejoice over them (Sirach 30:2).

The children of the righteous woman shall rise up and bless her. They shall say, “You are a wonderful mother.” They shall say it sincerely, and mean it with all their hearts. They shall love and respect her, and feel indebted to her. Their hearts shall be full of gratitude for their wonderful mother.

My sisters who are single like myself, this verse relates to you too. How do your siblings “rate” you? Do they love to be around you? Do they seem, over all, to think you are a good person? If they don’t, then most likely, neither will your children. Be the kind of woman, as a sister, that you want to someday be as a mother.

Her husband also, and he praises her, saying “Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all.” Ah, what a calling! We are to live so that our husbands (or parents) can say such a thing of us. Your husband (or parents, if you are single) know more about you than anyone else in the world. Can they bless you with that blessing? Can they say that you are a woman who excels in nobility, virtue, and womanhood? Live so that they can.

[30] Charm (or favor and gracefulness) is deceitful, and beauty is vain (or passing), {but} a woman who fears Yahweh, she shall be praised. An excellent woman is not concerned so much about the outward adorning, but more so about the inward adorning, which is not corruptible, that is, a meek and quiet spirit, which is, to Yahweh, of great price (1 Peter 3:3-4, KJV). She is known by all for the unfading beauty of her gentle quietness, which is so precious to Yahweh and to those who associate with her. (See 1 Peter 3:3-4, NLT)

She shall be praised. [31] Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates. Or, as NLT reads, **A woman who fears Yahweh will be greatly praised. [31] Reward her for all she has done; let her deeds publicly declare her praise.** So we see that though the righteous woman’s motive is not to bring praise and esteem to herself, yet she is blest, praised, and esteemed both by her family, and by others who know and observe her. Her life of servanthood, zeal, faithfulness, selflessness, and noble womanhood has earned her the reputation of “a woman who excels”. Truly, **“a favorable woman attains honor”** (Proverbs 11:16).

Blessings to you all, a sister in Messiyah, Rivqah

All Scriptures that were not otherwise indicated were taken from the New American Standard Bible. I found both this and the New Living Translation to be very insightful, when it came to the significance and meaning of this passage. It is my prayer that you, my readers, were as blessed by these thoughts as I was. Shalom, and blessings to you, Rivqah Yahsepha (Rebekah Josepha)

The Poem Page

The Crown of Life

*Though the thorns may prick thee in thy flesh,
Yet I am with thee.
My favor is wholly sufficient
When thou art very weak.*

*Though the fire burn thy inward parts,
Yet I'm by thy side,
Feeling within My very being
That pain, for I too died.*

*Though all that's beautiful and good
Seems to pass away,
Remember that I soon am coming
With eternity's day.*

*Though thou are hated of all men
Because of My Name,
Thou shalt soon receive the Crown of Life,
If steadfast thou remain.*

-Rebekah Coover

You Shall Rise Up

dedicated to our deceased brother, George Wingert, who
passed away at 6:03 AM on 02-20-2005

*His soul is gone to You,
His body is at rest.
He ne'er again shall know
Earth's trials and its tests.*

*All regrets and sorrows,
All pain and wishful thought
Now are laid at Your feet,
And accounted as nought.*

*His soul is still, waiting
For Your Son's sure return.
As we remember George,
Our hearts, too, for You yearn.*

*O may we all be joined as one
In that place of perfect rest.
You shall rise up at His return,
And in Him, George, you'll be blest.*

-Rebekah Coover

The Guardian

Important Qualities for a Young Man to Cultivate

John Coblentz

1. A young man needs to know how to walk with [Yahweh].

Because “Noah walked with [Elohim]” (Genesis 6()), he was able to lead his family to deliverance in spite of worldwide violence and immorality.

2. A young man needs to have courage to do right even under pressure to do wrong.

A woman wants a man who is strong. Physical strength is impressive for a while, but it means little to a wife if she finds that her husband does not have strength of character.

3. A young man needs to have wisdom.

Wisdom is a perspective, a way of seeing people, situations, and possessions the way [Yahweh] sees them. Gaining wisdom is a lifelong task, but it needs to start when you are young.

4. A young man needs to have a [Scriptural] understanding of love.

[Scriptural] love includes (a) Commitment, (b) Selfless giving, and (c) Faithfulness.

A [righteous] woman finds it especially distasteful when a man:

- a. Is harsh with people.
- b. Holds others to a higher standard than he is willing to follow.
- c. Is spiritually unstable or inconsistent.
- d. Is spiritually indifferent.
- e. Has a problem with lust.
- f. Uses his position for personal advantage.
- g. Brags or shows off.
- h. Compromises his character to win the approval of people.
- i. Doesn't have time for, or interest in, children.
- j. Avoids taking responsibility.

A [righteous] woman is attracted to a man who:

- a. Is courteous.
- b. Protects the young and weak, and enjoys children.
- c. Can acknowledge his weaknesses and mistakes.
- d. Can be honest about his feelings.
- e. Is sensitive to how others think and feel.
- f. Knows what he believes and why.
- g. Lives what he believes.
- h. Is morally pure and faithful.
- i. Works hard, but does not make work his idol.
- j. Values families, and knows how to build strong relationships.

The above study is some excerpts from Looking at Myself Before Loving Someone Else, by John Coblentz.

Prayer Request Corner

Please pray for the scales to be removed from the eyes of Yahudah, Ephrayim, and Yishmael (Acts 9:17-18), that the sons of Avraham might be united, to choose Messiyah as their head, and rise up as a strong and mighty people (Hosea 1:11). Pray that the sons of Avraham might look unto the rock whence they were hewn (Isaiah 51:1-2) and return to the ancient paths of truth and righteousness (Jeremiah 18:15; 6:16). Pray for the days of tribulation to be shortened (Matthew 24:22; 2 Esdras 2:13), and for Messiyah to return soon (Revelation 22:20). Pray for faithfulness in troubles (Matthew 26:41), and beseech the Almighty that we might be accounted worthy to partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 2:10; 19:7-9). "Pray for the peace of Yahrushalayim; they shall prosper that love thee." (Psalm 122:6)

The Keeper At Home

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (for mothers)

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven:

A time to relax, and a time to be busy.....

A time to sleep, and a time to be up all night with Precious.....

A time to have everything “just so”, and a time to let the counter be a mess.....

A time to do dishes, and a time to play.....

A time to clean your room, and a time to rock your little girl.....

A time to write letters, and a time to wash out diapers.....

A time to enjoy a cup of tea and some sweet fellowship with your husband, and a time to give your little boy a bath.....

A time to read, and a time to sing lullabies.....

A time to talk on the phone, and a time to teach your children.....

A time to take a nap, and a time to make cookies for your husband and children.....

A time to think of self, and time to think of others.....

A time to do temporal things, and a time to invest in eternity.

-Rivqah (Rebekah Coover)

Important Qualities for a Young Woman to Cultivate

John Coblenz

1. A young woman needs a [Scriptural] understanding of love.

Characteristics of true love include:

1. Excluding all other partners from the heart.
2. Sharing your hearts with one another.
3. Being confidential with what is shared from the heart.
4. Remaining faithful to commitments.
5. Cultivating close friendship.
6. Enjoying [love] together, appropriate to the level of the relationship.
7. Laughing together.
8. Working through problems together.
9. Making decisions with mutual input according to mutual goals.

2. A young woman needs to cultivate a gracious spirit.

Graciousness includes:

1. Being pleasant and congenial in attitude.
2. Being hospitable toward guests.
3. Keeping a pleasing appearance.
4. Showing kindness and courtesy irrespective of social class.
5. Remaining calm and reasonable under stress.
6. Understanding and following proper decorum in varying circumstances and levels of relationship.

3. A young woman needs to cultivate a meek and quiet spirit.

A gracious spirit makes us pleasing to be around. A “meek and quiet spirit” makes us especially pleasing to [Yahweh], or as Peter says, it is “in the sight of [Elohim] of great price” (1 Peter 3:4).

Meekness is not natural to women or to men. The Greek word translated *meek* means, “being strong enough to respond gently when provoked.” It stands in contrast to spouting off, lashing out, or “flying off the handle.” Meekness means being humbly submissive, especially in response to [Yahweh] or to difficult circumstances or people [Yahweh] allows in our lives. This is an important quality for everyone, but [Yahweh] especially wants a woman to have this quality in relating to her husband and children.

4. A young woman needs to be discreet.

- a. She will be pleasant and courteous in her facial expression,

but she will avoid bold or inviting eye-to-eye contact, as well as subtle glances and eye movements to attract the attention of men.

b. She will have a sense of humor and speak pleasantly, but she will avoid loud talking and laughing, silliness, gushiness, or flattery in relating to men.

c. She will walk and move with grace, but she will avoid body movements or positions that accent or flaunt her feminine form.

d. She will dress with clothing of pleasing color and fit, but she will avoid clothes that call attention to her body – such as short skirts, low necklines, slinky or form-fitting clothes, slits in clothing, V-lines, etc.

e. She will be especially discreet with the parts of her body that have specific sexual appeal to men.

A [righteous] man finds it especially distasteful when a woman:

- a. Is outspoken or argumentative in speaking to others.
- b. Has a critical spirit.
- c. Is loud or bold in manner.
- d. Is bossy.
- e. Is flirtatious or silly.
- f. Has a know-it-all attitude.
- g. Always has the latest negative information about others.
- h. Is a busybody in other people's affairs.
- i. Is a gadabout.
- j. Has a self-pitying manner.

A [righteous] man is attracted to a woman who:

- a. Has a gracious manner.
- b. Is pleasant and cheerful with a healthy sense of humor.
- c. Is discreet in the use of her body.
- d. Has an upbeat, hopeful view of life.
- e. Is not easily distraught.
- f. Can express her personal views without being forward or pushy.
- g. Has a good way with children.
- h. Is comfortable with herself as a woman.
- i. Has initiative and a healthy imagination.
- j. Is faithful and trustworthy with information.

The above study is some excerpts from Looking at Myself Before Loving Someone Else, by John Coblentz.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

The Happy Family

by Lydiyah Coover

Once upon a time, there was a happy family. There was a mommy and a daddy. Then they had three happy children. Their children were Lucy, Jake, and Kelly. One day, this family decided to go to the park. So they went. The three happy children all played on the toys together until Mommy and Daddy said that it was time to go and eat lunch at McDonald's. So they went and they all had a wonderful lunch together. The next day the happy family went to the park again. But this time they did not go to McDonald's afterwards. This time they went back home to eat lunch. They had a wonderful lunch there too, but Kelly didn't think it was quite as good as the McDonald's lunch had been. Of course she didn't tell Mommy that though. That night, when Lucy and Kelly crawled into bed together, they talked about how fun it had been going to the park two days in a row and eating lunch at McDonald's and everything. But Kelly did not tell Lucy that she thought the McDonald's lunch was better than Mommy's lunch. (She had liked Mommy's lunch very much too.) Jake's room was right next to the girls' room and he heard them talking. "It was fun, wasn't it?" he said. "Yes," the girls answered together. "It was!"

Science and the Scriptures

The Costly Mistake

Robert J. Baker

Some years ago a friend drove his freshly polished car to my home in an attempt to get an explanation for a mysterious development on a door panel of that car.

He showed me what was puzzling him and it was intriguing to say the least. Running in a fairly straight line diagonally across that door were forty to fifty tiny pinhead size spheres cemented on quarter inch filaments projecting out from the polished surface. What were we seeing?

The golden-eyed lacewing insect is well named, having pale green gossamer-like wings that contrast nicely with its yellow eyes. Although the lacewing insects look delicate, their appetite is not. Their ravenous appetite keeps them feeding on aphids and other small insects, the larvae so greedy they are called "aphis lions."

The most distinctive trait of this insect, however, is the way the female lays her eggs. She usually deposits them on leaves so that when the young larvae hatch from the eggs they will have plenty of food at hand. But the eggs are not deposited directly upon the leaf. Instead, the female secretes from her abdomen a tiny drop of gelatinous liquid which she then draws out by raising her posterior end. The thread quickly hardens and upon the upper end of the stalk she now cements an egg. She usually does this for all her eggs; thus when the operation is complete we see those eggs standing like tiny lights upon their individual lampposts.

Why does the golden-eyed lacewing choose this strange, unorthodox method of egg placement? Some entomologists believe it is because of the fact that when the young lacewing larvae hatch from their eggs, they are quite willing to feast upon their unhatched brothers and sisters. If they were not safely perched on their tiny "tree houses" they might eat each other up!

So now we know what the tiny pinhead objects were on the thread size stalks that my friend found on his car. But why were they

there? Why did the golden-eyed lacewing place her eggs on the side of a car? When the young would hatch in five to twelve days, no tiny aphids were likely to be found on the painted surface for them to feed on. Had mother lacewing made a mistake?

Yes, she had---an understandable mistake, but a fatal one for her children. Remember, the car had been freshly polished. Sitting in the sun, the door panel must have reflected, mirrorlike, the leaves from a nearby tree. And this particular egg-laying insect mistook the reflection for the real thing. It was a mistake that provided an interesting object lesson to my friend and me.

How often we are fooled as [believers]. We see things around us that are not real, permanent, nor lasting. They are reflections only from carefully polished surfaces. We sample them, try them, and imagine that they are genuine, but they are only artificial---attractive but deceptive limitations which beguile us. The tragedy is that our children often are the ones to suffer.

Satan uses many tricks to beguile us. He is a master at deception, presenting to us tempting reflections, suggesting to us that we hew out new cisterns. But they turn out to be broken cisterns that can hold no water. And our children thirst.

The golden-eyed lacewing was fooled. She yielded to a reflection, and her egg laying efforts were wasted. Perhaps as a parent of today the polished surface that attracts me is materialism. When I substitute such a fleeting, dancing, temporal thing of this world for the reality of [Yahweh's favor] and mercy, I'm a loser. But worse yet, my children are losers.

Our insect friend who chose a reflection in the place of the genuine could be excused. Her elementary nervous system permitted no thinking. As [believing] parents, our responsibility is of a higher level. When we place our children in a sterile, hostile environment where they will suffer spiritual hunger, perhaps even starvation, [Yahweh] will hold us accountable.

Perhaps every polished and shiny car should be a reminder to me as a parents that I can give my children all the things of this world, but nothing can compare with the satisfaction and happiness that will come to them through a personal relationship with [Yahshua Messiah}. He is genuine, not a reflection.

For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Jeremiah 2:13

This was copied from the book "Insect Parables" by Robert J. Baker.

Recommendations

Oral Law

Dear brethren and sisters,

As always, satan is busy trying to build dividing walls between the children of Yahweh, separating us into little cliques and groups that cannot get along. As of late, one thing that he has presented is the question of the Orthodox Jewish Oral Law and the rabbis' "authority" over us as believers in Messiah. It is with great concern that I view many Nazarene / Messianic believers placing trust and respect in the rabbis.

I urge you to order a copy of the cassette messages **Oral Law # 1** and **Oral Law # 2** by Brother Don Esposito. These tapes go into things that I never ever imagined about Rabbinical Judaism. They contain information that is so eye-opening it is shocking. Please read Don's letter (below) concerning these cassettes, and order a copy of them for yourself and your family.

Shalom.

Dear Brethren,

Greetings and shalom in the wonderful names of Yahweh and Yahshua. I pray that all of Yah's set apart Saints had a most meaningful Passover. We had a most spiritual Passover in the newly reopened church building of Andrew Dugger, with his Daughter, Naomi, and the brethren that were in Jerusalem for Pesach. Sister Naomi shared many stories with us about her 55 years in that building with her father, Andrew Dugger, and her husband, Gordon Fauth.

Many things are continuing to move ahead on the world scene. One thing that amazes me was the outpouring of grief over the death of the Pope all over the world. All religions, including Islam and Judaism, claimed that the world was losing its greatest spiritual man on earth; yet, not once in his 26 years as head of the Catholic Church did I ever hear the Pope say that repentance and the belief in the blood of Yahshua was the only way to eternal life. Nor did I ever hear him speak of the return of Yahshua to earth to set up His 1,000 year millennial reign. How could the entire world be so deceived? How could the world's most spiritual man be steeped in pagan worship,

wear the hat of the fish god, Dagon, and call himself “supreme holy father”, a title for only Yahweh Himself. *Matt. 23:9: “And call no man Father upon the earth, as you have one Father which is in heaven”*.

Most of you reading this letter see this very clearly, but yet billions...not millions...but billions around the earth do not. They see a man as the Pope, who wants to unite all religions as one, as the most spiritual man on the earth. No wonder Rev. 12:9 states: “...*that Satan has deceived the whole world.*” Yet many true believers, who would totally agree about the false religious spirit of Christianity, have blinded themselves to the false religious spirit of Orthodox Judaism. Let me plainly state that religion today is a man-made entity from the second century onward. Whether that is Christianity, Islam or even Judaism, it is not scriptural. All three religions are filled with paganism and man-made laws. Some will mock the Koran for being blatantly false (AND IT IS) because it claims Mary, the sister of Moses, was the same Mary that was the mother of Yahshua. I, too, have clearly showed this error to Muslims to prove that the Koran is false. But, these same people will justify the Talmud when it is filled with the same fairy tales. It claims Adam and Eve knew Rabbi Akiva, who lived in the first and second century of the common era, and was the father of Orthodox Judaism. This is just one of hundreds of fairy tales in the Jewish oral law. But, more than fairy tales, it continues to downright blaspheme by claiming that Yahweh is only one of 70 Rabbis and must submit to the authority of the Rabbis. It claims that to disobey Torah is a small offense, but to disobey a Rabbi is punishable by losing your eternal life.

Rabbi Akiva, as these two tapes dogmatically prove, was an evil man worse than any Pope ever was. He had more Jewish believers killed because of their belief in Yahshua than any other man in history. These tapes will shock you, as you see the clear, dogmatic proof of the pagan origins of modern Judaism. But, **THEY ARE TRUE**, with full references from the Talmud to back them up.

I know some who are Judaisers will be quite offended at what is in these tapes and even make lies about me being against our brother Judah. This could not be further from the truth. I love my brother Judah and this is why, just as I have exposed the pagan origins of Christianity out of love for those people, I must expose the same in Judaism for my love for Judah. No idolater will inherit the kingdom,

so if I know something is without a shadow of a doubt pagan and idolatrous, then it must be exposed.

I challenge those that have embraced Orthodox Judaism, even invited Orthodox Jews to speak at their congregations, (some of those invited speakers have turned 100's away from believing in Yahshua) to look into their hearts and see who their master really is. *Matt. 6:24- "For you can not serve two masters, for you will either hate the one and love the other, or despise the one and cleave to the other."*

So much has been said about the spirit of Anti-Messiah, everything from keeping a different calendar to not saying Yahweh's name as someone else does. But what does scripture say the spirit of anti-messiah really is? *1 Jn. 2:22- "Who is a liar but he who denies that Yahshua is the Messiah? He is anti-messiah that denies the Father and the Son."*

This is clearly the doctrine of anti-messiah. The one who denies that Yahshua is the Messiah. And what should be our reaction to those who reject Yahshua as Messiah? This also is very clear. *2 Jn. 10-11 - "If anyone comes to you not bringing this doctrine (that Yahshua is the Messiah) receive him not into your house (or fellowship) and do not even speak a greeting to him. For one even greeting him shares in his evil."*

It is very clear from scripture that we should not invite into our fellowship as teachers, those that deny Yahshua as Messiah..... Scripture states that in the end time many will deny Yahshua and if possible even the elect will be deceived. We have entered those days and we have seen many turn away and stop believing in Yahshua as Messiah. There is nothing worse in the world that could happen to someone than this. Please listen to these tapes with a sober mind and thank Yahweh that he has revealed the deception of not only Christianity, but of all man-made religion to you in a world where so many billions are deceived. Praise his Holy Name.

B'Shem Yahshua, Don

Oral Law # 1 and **Oral Law # 2** can be ordered from:
Congregation of YHWH
PO Box 832
Carteret, NJ 07008

Thank-you, Brother King, for sharing the tapes and letter with us. Shalom.

Thoughts to Ponder

True Education for Young Women

Rosa Parks writes about her education while attending the school where her mother taught. She writes of her mother:

"She was a very good teacher. she was very creative about doing other things besides reading and writing and studying. We girls did sewing, crocheting, knitting, needleworking. We made baskets out of corn shucks and pine needles. My mother was my teacher until I was eleven."

- "Rosa Parks: My Story", page 42 (by Rosa Parks)

Later on, she attended the Montgomery Industrial School, and shares this about her schooling there:

"... in those days education for young ladies was mostly home economics.

"I think they called it domestic science. They taught us cooking, sewing, and the care of the sick. We had a textbook on how to look after patients in the home, make the beds, feed them, give them whatever care they needed. In those days, especially in the South, people didn't go to hospitals that much. And because most hospitals and doctors were whites, most black people were cared for in the home by black women.

"Then the school had what they called occupational therapy. We made things, including garments. I learned quite a bit about sewing. The older students had rug weaving. I never got to that."

- "Rosa Parks: My Story", page 49 (by Rosa Parks)

In "The Earth Is Round", a story about a colony of Mennonites in the late 1800's, a fourteen-year-old girl thinks about what it means to be a woman. Consider the following description:

"A few more years --- and so much to learn. How to be a homemaker --- how to bake bread and buns. How to cook food. How to make butter and keep a dairy clean. How to make

sauerkraut and pickles. How to make a garden and keep it clean. How to raise chickens and geese, calves and piglets. How to make soap. How to make quilts and comforters. How to card wool, and spin it, and knit it into stockings and caps, mittens and sweaters and scarves. How to sew men's shirts and trousers. How to keep a house clean. How to make a home. A few years for all the hundreds of howtos! After that a Mennonite girl was thought to be ready to become a wife and mother."

- "The Earth Is Round", page 192 (by Margaret Epp)

Hmmmm..... how many young ladies are totally unprepared? How many young ladies are uneducated?

Ponder this.

In The Hebrew Tongue

אמונה

"... the just shall live by his faith."

Habakkuk 2:4

The Hebrew word for "faith", as used in this verse, is #530 in the Strong's Hebrew dictionary. The word is "emuwnah", and is defined as:

"lit. *Firmness*; fig. *Security*; mor. *Fidelity*"

Clearly, true faith in Yahweh produces faithfulness and loyalty to Him and His Word.

Let us live lives of faith, emuwnah, אמונה

I would also like to apologize for an error in the last issue's Hebrew section. Mashiyach is spelled mem, sheen, yod, chet. Thus it does not end on "yah" in the Hebrew at all. (The "chet" and "heh" look very similar, thus the mistake.) While I do like to spell it "Messiyah", that is not the original Hebrew. Please forgive me for any confusion I caused my readers.

The Missionary Column

STEPS IN LEADING A SOUL TO [MESSIAH]

Milo Kauffman

1. Pray definitely that [Yahweh] will lead you to the one to whom you should speak. It is well to pray at the beginning of each day that [Yahweh] will lead you to someone you can help that day. Pray that He may give you the grace and wisdom in dealing with the individual.

2. Find the person with whom you are to deal. Find out as soon as possible his spiritual condition. Before the doctor can help his patient, he must know what is wrong with him. Just so, the personal worker must know whether the individual is lost, whether he is a backslider, whether he knows the way, whether he wants to be saved, etc.

3. Lead him to realize his lost condition. Before he will care to be saved he must realize he is lost. To bring conviction use such Scriptures as the following: "All have sinned and fallen short of the [esteem] of [Yahweh]" (Rom. 3:23). "*They are all gone aside, they are together become filthy, there is none that doeth good, no, not one*" (Psa. 14:3). "There is none righteous, no, not one." (Rom. 3:10). "All we like sheep have gone astray" (Isa. 53:6). "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves" (1 Jn. 1:8). He may argue that he has never done anything bad. Ask him what the greatest commandment is. Read Matthew 22:37-38 to him. "[Yahshua] said unto him, Thou shalt love [Yahweh] thy [Elohim] with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and greatest commandment." Then ask him if he is living up to this. If he is guilty of breaking the greatest commandment, is he not a great sinner even though he may not have committed what society may call a crime?

4. Show him his need of a Saviour. Having shown him that he

is a lost sinner, show him that there is nothing he can do for himself. “By the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified” (Gal. 2:16). *“For by favor are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of Elohim, not of works lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in MessiYah Yahshua unto good works, which Elohim hath before ordained that we should walk in them”* (Ephes. 2:8-10). *“But Elohim commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, MessiYah died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him”* (Rom. 5:8-9). He must find help outside of himself, for we are not saved by works. Good works will not atone for the past. [Messiah] is the door; through Him man must enter. (Jn. 14:6; 10:7)

Show him that [Yahweh / Yahshua] is the Savior that he needs. “For [Yahweh] so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting Life” (Jn. 3:16). *“I, even I, am Yahweh, and beside Me there is no Saviour”* (Isa. 43:11). *“I am Yahweh, and there is no elohim else beside Me; a just Elohim and a Saviour, there is none beside Me. Look unto Me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am Elohim, and there is none else”* (Isa. 45:21b-22) “Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). “But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of [Elohim], even to them that believe on His Name” (Jn. 1:12). *“I am Yahweh thy Elohim from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no elohim but Me; for there is no saviour beside Me”* (Hos. 13:4)

6. Press for a decision. Having shown him his lost condition, and the way of escape through [Messiah], help him to see that it is now up to him to accept [Messiah] by faith. Show that salvation is for him — for “whosoever will” (Rev. 22:17). Show him that now is the accepted time (2 Cor. 6:1-2; Zech. 1:4) Be prepared to meet his excuses readily. Some personal workers bring their persons near the point of decision, but leave them outside the kingdom. While one should not overpersuade, it is well not to give up too soon.

7. Get the person on his knees as soon as possible. Sometimes those not quite decided will consent to kneel in prayer, and sometimes it is more easy to get them to open their hearts to [Messiah] while on their knees. It is very important that the individual himself call upon the [Master], even if he can say no more than “[Yahweh] be merciful to me a sinner.” Sometimes the personal worker must help the seeker in forming his prayers.

8. Stay with the individual until he has the assurance that his sins are forgiven. There is too much superficial work done by many workers. Because the individual has said he wants to be a [child

of Yahweh], or because he has prayed is no sure sign that he has pardon. When a person is willing to accept [Messiah] is the time to help him. Make sure that he has the assurance, and that he has made a full surrender to [Messiah]. Use of the precious promises from the Word to help him to assurance, such as the following: “If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn. 1:9). “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the [Master Yahshua] and shalt believe in thine heart that [Yahweh] hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Rom. 10:9) “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of [Elohim] abideth on him” (Jn. 3:36). “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life” (Jn. 5:24). “*If the wicked shall turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all My statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die*” (Ezek. 18:21). “*Believe on the Master Yahshua MessiYah, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house*” (Acts 16:31).

It is often better to use but one verse than to present a number. Ask him what the condition mentioned in the verse is, and whether he has accepted it. Then ask him what the promise is, and whether by faith he can believe it.

9. Show him how to live the victorious life, for there is victory for all who meet the conditions (1 Cor. 15:57; 1 Esdras 4:59; 1 Macc. 2:19-20). Help him to see that it takes the same faith to live the victorious life that it takes to be saved (Hab. 2:4). Be sure he confessed to [Yahweh] his sins (1 Jn. 1:9), and that he has turned from sin (2 Kgs. 17:13; Ezek. 33:11). To live the overcoming life he must read the Word daily (Acts 17:11; Deut. 17:19-20), pray daily (1 Thess. 5:17; Psa. 55:17), and work for the [Master] (1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9). Help him to see the importance of obedience to [Yahweh]. Most of the promises of [Yahweh’s] Word have some requirement on the part of the individual. “Whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (1 Jn. 3:22) Point out the fact that temptations will come, but that [Yahweh] promises a way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13). Also teach him how to lead others to [Messiah], and encourage him to do personal work (Psa. 51:13). It will be a great help to him in his [born-again] life.

10. Keep praying for him, and encouraging him. Follow up the work, and continue to show personal interest in him. Satan will try to overcome him, and your help may keep him from backsliding.

1. Name the steps in leading a soul to [Messiah].
2. How would you help a person to assurance?
3. Give suggestions for [spiritual] growth.

MEMORY VERSES

Romans 3:23 — For all have sinned and fallen short of the esteem of Yahweh.

Isaiah 53:6 — All we like sheep have gone astray: we have turned every one to his own way; and Yahweh hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Acts 4:12 — Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 1:12 — But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of Elohim, even to them that believe on His Name.

Isaiah 45:21b-22 — I am Yahweh, and there is no elohim else beside Me, a just Elohim and a Saviour, there is none beside Me. Look unto Me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am Elohim, and there is none else.

Revelation 3:20 — Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.

Words in brackets were placed there by the editress, in place of words of impure origin. Italicized Scripture verses were added by the editress.

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A Voice to the Young

Rejoice in Yahweh always: again I say, Rejoice.

(Philippians 4:4)

Dear brothers and sisters, Yahweh has been impressing on my heart something that I would like to share with you. It is that we are to ALWAYS rejoice. And not only are we to rejoice, we are to rejoice in HIM. That is the only key to successfully rejoicing.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 we are instructed, “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of Elohim in Messiyah Yahshua concerning you.” But how can we give thanks in everything? How can we give thanks when a sibling says something unkind to us? when a great disappointment comes our way? when someone very near and dear to our hearts dies? etc.? The answer is this: Our rejoicing is in Yahweh.

“Where the soul is full of peace and joy, outward surrounding and circumstances are of comparatively little account.”¹ This quote has made a great impression on my heart. Regardless of what is going on around us, we can rejoice. Of course this is not to say that there won’t be times of mourning, but hope must always shine through, and rejoicing must always prevail. Why? Because, as Yahweh’s children, we give Him the esteem and the praise no matter what. Our hearts must rejoice in Him because He is Yahweh and His plan is perfect, even if our plans are destroyed because of His. He knows best, and we can rejoice in the providence of His love.

Something to remember is that we, as mortal men and women, tend to look at things with a very short-term perspective. Yahweh doesn’t. He says, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9) Yahweh always views things in the light of eternity. He loves us enough to do things that hurt, because they will

¹ Hannah Whithall Smith

have the best effect on eternity. He does things that seem to make no sense at all to our foolish human minds, because He knows that they do make sense, and their outcome will be better than the outcome of our desires would be. So when things happen that threaten to make us sad, angry, or bitter, we must remember that Yahweh is doing everything the best way possible, for the best eternity possible. And when that day comes, we won't even remember the little pains and heartaches we experienced in this earth. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the splendor which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18)

Therefore, my beloved brethren, let us rise above our human emotions, and rejoice in Yahweh, no matter what. I leave you with this admonition: "Rejoice evermore." (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

Love in Messiyah Yahshua,

Rivqah Yahsepha Coover

Moreover, let us give thanks to Yahweh our Elohim, which trieth us, even as He did our fathers. Remember what things He did to Abraham, and how He tired Isaac, and what happened to Jacob in Mesopotamia of Syria, when he kept the sheep of Laban, his mothers brother. For He hath not tried us in the fire as He did them, for the examination of their hearts, neither hath He taken vengeance on us; but Yahweh doth scourge them that come near unto Him, to admonish them. Judith 8:27

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in Yahweh, I will joy in the Elohim of my salvation. Habakkuk 3:17-18

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