

VICTORY of the Last Day of Unleavened Bread

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Summary: There's a fantastic meaning to the last day of Unleavened Bread. It has everything to do with spiritual victory ending in the righteousness of God and being created in the image of God. But as usual, there are many more poignant meanings for this day. We cover a lot, including putting out our Ishmael human efforts to produce God's work vs. faith/Isaac work of God. Eve/Adam and the spiritual bride of Christ. A lot is covered in a short time, so print a transcript first and listen to the message with a transcript.

I remember years ago on any holyday, our older pastor general – who died in 1986 -- **used to have a signature start** to his holyday sermons. Who remembers what he used to ask? “WHY are we here today?” And then he would rehearse the meaning of the holyday. These holydays indeed are rehearsals.

In Lev. 23, we can see that the Eternal God Yahweh commanded we assemble and keep His holydays or “feast days”, including this one on the 21st day of the first Hebrew month Abib, the 7th and final day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. We normally think of food and drink when we hear the word “Feast” – but in the Hebrew the main meaning is something other than feasting. It includes feasting, but there's more.

The word for “feast” in Hebrew is “moed” (or “moedim” in plural) which actually mean “divine appointments, appointed times”. So one translation I use (Apologetics Study Bible) translates “feasts” in Lev. 23:2 this way... “...these are **my appointed times**, the times of Yahweh which you will **proclaim as sacred assemblies**.”

So God is calling these holydays not “feasts” so much as “**divine appointments**”. It's as if God put these days in his Day-Timer or appointment book and expects His children to be there with Him. Don't miss it!

Now the next words in Lev. 23:2 – “**holy convocations, sacred assemblies**” – comes from the word “**MIQRA**” – and one of its meanings is “**REHEARSAL**”. So I've given sermons in the past about how these days enacted in precise detail what they were foretelling, long before the events. So let's rehearse what happened on this day and see the spiritual meaning we are to glean from that.

Quick review of what came before this:

- PASSOVER – a perfect lamb or goat of first year (young) was picked on the 10th day of the first Hebrew month and lived with the family for 4 days. It was as good as slain. Christ, God's “lamb”, was slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). Just as the lamb lived with the household, our God liked to live among His people. He walked with Adam and Eve, then selected a chosen people and camped among them – in a tent (the Tabernacle) just like they did.
- The lamb was killed and its blood was splashed on the home's door post and lintels – referring to our head and hands/actions. Could that have been picturing the crucifixion?
- We broke and ate the broken MATZAH. As you raise a piece of matzah up to the light, you see stripes. It's also pierced in many places as well.

Psalms 22:16-18

For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.

They pierced My hands and My feet; [crucifixions were unknown when David said this]

17 I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.

18 They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.

Zechariah 12:10

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; **then they will look on Me whom they pierced.** Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

John 19:34

34 But one of the soldiers **pierced His side** with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. (read also v 37 which points back to Zech 12:10).

In the past I spoke of the **AFIKOMAN** in the Passover service, the only Greek word in the Hebrew Seder service. If you have no idea of what I'm talking about, go and hear the sermon on "Passover emblems". That middle matzah, in Greek, means "He came". This reminds us of what He said. Turn to John 12:24 please. Remember he said HE is the bread of life. HE was born in Bethlehem which means "the house of bread". He produces the spiritual bread – the living bread, that when we eat of it, we shall never die the eternal death.

John 12:24

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain"

To this day, when Jews "ask the blessing" over their bread, they say "Blessed are you, LORD, King of the Universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth." (Transliteration is *Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, ha-motzi lehem min ha-aretz.*)

When Jews understand that they crucified their Messiah, the real bread from Yahweh who came forth from the earth after His resurrection, they will weep and repent bitterly.

Zechariah 13:6-7 (context v 7 onwards is clearly Messianic)

6 And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will answer, ***'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'***

7 "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd,
Against the Man ***who is My Companion,***" says Yahweh of Hosts.
"Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered;
Then I will turn My hand against the little ones.

- Israel then left Egypt on the eve of the 15th of first barley month Aviv – on a full moon.

YHVH'S WORD PICTURE

Every letter in the Hebrew alphabet has a numerical equivalent as well as a word picture and a musical note. Let's look at the word pictures behind the Tetragrammaton YHVH. The letters are pronounced in Hebrew as "Yod Hey Vav Hey".

Yod is the 10th letter of the alphabet, a tiny letter, with the **word picture of NAIL or tent peg**. It's also the first letter for the names YAHWEH, Yisrael, Yerushalayim, Yehudah (Judah). Latin had no Y sound so they substituted Y's for J's – Jehovah, Judah, Jerusalem.

HEY – 5th letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Number of Grace. Hey's word picture is "to BEHOLD, to see".

Vav – 6th letter in Hebrew alphabet. 6th? Vav in word picture is "HAND".
Hey - 5th letter again – behold.

What does YHVH spell in Hebrew word picture? "Behold the nail, behold the hand." Could the very name of our God have as its word picture what happened on Calvary, when God so loved us that He sent His only son to die by crucifixion?

- **We know Yeshua fulfilled the His role as the Lamb of God perfectly.** He was examined for 4 days, lived among us. At the very minute they were tying the lamb of the nation to the altar, he was being nailed to the cross with a nail in his hands – or more likely his wrists (9 a.m. – called "the third hour" – Mark 15:25). I know Yeshua himself invited Thomas to put his hand in the hole in Christ's hand and side (John 20:26-27). He didn't say "wrist". But there's no problem. *The Greek for "hand" includes the wrist.* A crucified man could not support his body weight by being nailed through the palms of his hands. But a nail through the wrists would support a man's weight. Archaeological evidence also supports the fact that crucifixions were done with nails through the wrists and ankles.
- At exactly 3 pm as the High Priest was slitting the throat of the lamb for the nation, and said, "It is finished ..."—those same words were being said on Calvary, as the Lamb of God died for us. John 19:30; with Mark 15:34-37.
- Saturday night just before sunset, the first sheaves of the Passover barley were cut to the ground, released from the earth. Yeshua gave ONE sign only of being the true Messiah – that he would be 3 days and 3 nights in the earth or tomb (Matthew 12:40). If he wasn't exactly that period of time in the tomb, then he could not be our Messiah. He was put into the tomb on a Wednesday night before the annual holyday began, the first day of Unleavened Bread, and then just before sundown the end of the 7th day of the week, he was released from the ground – resurrected. He was put into the grave just before sundown on the 14th Aviv, at beginning of 15th – just as we're celebrating the Night to be Much Observed (NTBMO).
- At 9 am early on the "first of the weeks" as John 20:1 should be translated, on Sunday morning, the High Priest would raise up the fine beaten flour, so fine you could put your hand in it and have nothing stick to your hand. This would begin the 7 weeks of counting the omer to the "feast of Weeks" or Pentecost. On that day our Savior said to Mary Magdalene, "I must ascend to my father and your father" – John 20:19 The Bible says he was "lifted up" to heaven. So – he was between heaven and earth during that time of ascension. He was the go-between, the MEDIATOR. He was **WAVED IN OUR BEHALF... to make the rest of the spiritual harvest of souls acceptable.**
Leviticus 23:10-11
10 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall **bring a sheaf of the firstfruits** of your harvest to the priest. 11 He shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh, **to be accepted on your behalf**; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it."
- **NOW GET THIS: his sacrifice, resurrection and life and ascent to heaven was to MAKE US ACCEPTABLE.** This makes the rest of the harvest holy. We can't understand the crucifixion and resurrection without understanding the Passover and the Wavesheaf.

BACK TO Israel and the Red Sea

- Let's get back to talking about the prototype –Israel and the Exodus. Remember this was to picture OUR deliverance from spiritual Egypt, spiritual bondage and to follow our true Leader, Yahweh.
 - Israel apparently traveled miraculously *day and night* in order to travel the 120-150 miles to the Gulf of Aqaba Red Sea crossing. Without Yah's spiritual help and giving them energy, I don't see them going that far within 7 days. The Bible records only 3 pauses/camps in those first days before crossing the Red Sea. Without a miracle this would have been impossible or very difficult.

Exodus 13:20-21 APOLOGETICS

They set out from Succoth [tents] and camped at Etham on the edge of the wilderness. 21 Yahweh went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to lead them on their way during the day and in a pillar of fire to give them light at night, **so that they could travel day or night.**"

WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS LAST DAY?

2 major events we know of: *We know for sure on this day they circled Jericho* (Joshua 6:15-21) and the resistance of the pagan world in the new land tumbled down before them by God's power. This was to picture our soon-coming total victory over the god of this world and its kingdoms.

But we also think this could have been the day they crossed the Red Sea. We can't show you scripture and verse for that, but it makes sense. Jewish tradition certainly teaches that. Earlier all the gods of Egypt had to be crushed. But even Pharaoh was a god, and even he had to be crushed. Practically every living thing was one of their gods, except by **the way, a LAMB**. The 10 plagues crushed their confidence in the power of the NILE, the gods depicted by frogs, bulls, and finally 9th plague – SUN GOD RA, DARKNESS over the land. Then the firstborns.

This day pictures VICTORY. WHOSE victory? OURS? No, the victory of our great God, our Elohim Yahweh.

Exodus 15:1-6

Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to Yahweh, and spoke, saying:

"I will sing to Yahweh,

For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider

He has thrown into the sea!

2 Yah is my strength and song, and **He has become my salvation; (YAH has become my YESHUA!)**

He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him.

3 Yahweh is a man of war; Yahweh is His name. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his **army He** has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.

5 The depths have covered them; they sank to the bottom like a stone.

6 "**Your right hand, Yahweh,** has become glorious in power; (who is on the right hand of God?)

Your right hand, Yahweh, has dashed the enemy in pieces.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Psalms 98:1

Oh, sing to Yahweh a new song! For He has done marvelous things;

His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

WHO is on God's right hand? THE ONE WHO BECAME YESHUA, Jesus THE CHRIST.

Psalm 110:1 – “Yahweh said to my Adonai, (the LORD said to my Lord), sit at my right hand....”

Matthew 26:64 Jesus said to the High Priest –

“from now on you'll see the son of Man sitting **on the right hand of the Power** and coming in the clouds of heaven”.

1 Pet 3:22 and numerous other passages all confirm Yeshua is at the right hand of God Most High.

The Passover crucifixion and then the victory over sin and death by the resurrection of our Master was depicted from the very beginning:

Exodus 6:6:

“Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am Yahweh; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, **and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm** and with great judgments.”

What does “**outstretched arm**” make you think of at Passover time? * It also means by his POWER, but I'm just asking about the word picture you get with the phrase “outstretched arm” (crucifixion?).

So “the right arm of God” – could it be a cryptic reference to Jesus the Christ? We'll see more references as we go along, but first let's settle some things about the Red Sea. Scholars claim they never actually crossed the Red Sea, but some marshy area they want to call Reed Sea for THAT marshy area in the Nile Delta.

THE CONFUSION OVER THE RED SEA – LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT

Bible maps never show Israel actually crossing the Red Sea. We can't be 100% sure of the crossing point or the camp sites. Scripture speaks of crossing the Red Sea with towering walls of water on either side. It was also in a place that was outside of the boundaries of Egypt. Where the maps show a “crossing” through some marshes in the Nile Delta was still a part of Egypt – hardly “out of” Egypt.

Joshua 24:6 quoting Yahweh

6 'Then I brought your fathers **out of Egypt**, and you came to the sea; and the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea.

RED SEA in Hebrew is YAM CUWPH (SUPH). Yam = to roar, ocean, sea. Cuwph (Suph) = REEDS. So liberals thought it was the Sea of Reeds in the Nile delta. But Scripture also explains where this Reed Sea was – called in Hebrew Yam Suph.

Whatever this Red Sea or Yam Suph was – notice where it is clearly identified!

Solomon had a fleet – clearly identified as modern day Eilat – at the top of Gulf of Aqaba.

1 Kings 9:26

26 King Solomon also built a fleet of ships at Ezion Geber, which is **near Elath (modern Eilat) on the shore of the Red Sea (Yam Suph in Hebrew), in the land of Edom.**

This Eilat and Red Sea is speaking of the right “arm” of the Red Sea—the Gulf of Aqaba.

Remember they were also on the way to Mt. Sinai, which scripture says was in Arabia (Gal. 4:25). Moses worked for Jethro in Midian which is nowhere near the traditional site of Mt. Sinai. Also

remember Moses was fleeing from Pharaoh, so he wanted to be far enough to be safe. The traditional site, picked by Constantine's mother (Helena) is not far enough away. And there's no evidence any large group ever camped there!

Exodus 2:14-15

So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!" 15 When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. **But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian;** and he sat down by a well.

Midian is at the northwestern edge of Arabia, on the eastern side of the Gulf of Aqaba. Look at a map. It was while he was tending Jethro's *flocks in Midian* that he saw the burning bush. **HOW FAR would you take a flock? Moses did not walk his flock to the traditional site of Mt. Sinai!**

Exodus 3:1

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. [Mt. Sinai and Horeb – 2 names for the same mountain]

WHEN did they cross?

Scripture does not give a definite answer on the date, but we know they camped three times and it is implied they did some traveling day and night sometimes during that first week. Jewish tradition teaches they crossed the Sea on the 21st of Abib, which is today, the last day of Unleavened Bread.

Where they crossed is described in Ex. 14:1-2 and Num. 33:5-9 – but for time's sake I will let you read it. There's an excellent video you can order called "The Exodus Revealed", which shows their probable crossing site and how they've even seen evidence of the Egyptian chariots on the ocean floor bottom – now all encrusted in coral.

Seeing the Son of God, Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus the Christ) in the "Old Testament"

The Egyptians were baptized too – immersed—but did not do the other HALF of baptism – the resurrection on the other side! And there's a huge rock at the Arabian Mt. Sinai "mountain of God" that's clearly split – SPLIT ROCK! That Rock pictured Jesus the Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:1-5

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, **and that Rock was Christ.** 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

So we're seeing that the one who came to be our Savior was the same one interacting with them. Now I want you to consider that Yeshua may have been pointed to in other ways – as "the right arm of God" for example. Perhaps also as "the Word of Yahweh (the LORD)". There are scores of scriptures which speak of "the Word of the Lord" (Yahweh)--

For example Gen 15:1 - "the WORD OF THE LORD came to Abram..."

WHO is this WORD of God, of Yahweh? It was the One on the RIGHT HAND of Yahweh, who gave them the victory. We know the Word of God is the One who became known to us as Yeshua – or Jesus.

"In the beginning was the WORD, and the Word (LOGOS) was with God and the Word was God." John 1:1

John 1:14 goes on to say that this Word became FLESH – a human being. GOD the Word became a man named Yeshua, Jesus of Nazareth.

Psalms 33:6

6 By the word of the Lord (Yahweh) the heavens were made,
And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.”

(Of course that’s what COL. 1:16 and John 1:3 both say as well! The Word created all things.)

1 Samuel 3:7

Now Samuel did not yet know Yahweh, nor was the word of YHWH (the LORD) yet revealed to him.

1 Samuel 3:21

Then Yahweh appeared again in Shiloh. ***For Yahweh revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD (by the word of Yahweh).***

Over and over, Scriptures says “***the word of the LORD (Yahweh) came to...***” – Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea and so many. Was it just that they realized a concept, or heard some words? I think it’s possible “the WORD OF GOD CAME TO” them just as it says! Who was the Word? I believe Scripture is telling us that the one who became Yeshua (John 1:1-3) appeared to these men of old!

Are you seeing it? Hearing it? Are you getting to see Yeshua our Messiah all through scripture!?! “The Word was WITH God and the Word WAS God”. “The Word of the Lord” – could that be saying “Jesus” or “Yeshua”?

So when we read the over 260 passages which speak of “the Word of the Lord”, be thinking Jesus, Yeshua the Messiah for many of those instances, perhaps seeing Him more visibly in scripture than you ever have before. ***It will make Him far more visible to you in scripture than ever before.***

NOW THE VICTORY MESSAGE:

Who put the wall of fire between Israel and Egyptian army? Yahweh.

Who opened the Red Sea? Yahweh Elohim – the Eternal God.

Israel had to march across, and have faith in God thru those high watery walls – but it was God’s doing.

In the same way, on this day, they marched 7x around Jericho. We march, we obey, trust our God – but who gives the victory? God does! It’s the same for us. We do have to fight too, following Him – and we do have BELIEVE – but HIS WORK brings the victory. We see that over and over.

Now, the victory is Yahweh fighting for His Son’s bride! The “Night to be Much Observed” is really a night when God was observant, a night of vigils, is what the meaning denotes.

YAHWEH IN THE HIGHEST is PREPARING A HOLY BRIDE FOR HIS SON

Yahweh created the first man Adam *outside* the garden of Delights and invited him into His presence (Gen. 2:7-8). **Man was created first, and then his bride was not made separately from the dirt as Adam had been** – but from Adam’s side, his rib, flesh and bone. She came *out of* him and was *part* of him.

The Bride had to be of the same type of being – and that became clear as Adam named the animals.

Remember: “but for Adam, no helper comparable to him (help meet) was found” among the animal kind

(Gen. 2:18-20). Animals were not of the same genre or same KIND as Adam. Kind has to marry kind -- of his own kind (Gen. 1:21, 24-25). So in Gen. 2:21 Yahweh built a woman from the side of Adam.

Very important: Eve was not formed from the dust of the ground as Adam had been, but from the body of her husband - Adam. She was formed inside the garden, where Adam was by this time. We too, the Bride of the Messiah, are to be built from the inside out – from the body of the 2nd Adam, the Messiah. And we're being built "inside the garden" – in God's place, God's house, so to speak. This has everything to do with victory over Egypt – a type of sin – so follow along.

We read in Gen 2 that the man and woman were from one flesh – and **were to become ONE FLESH** again. Remember that. God is into oneness and total unity. **But God is not flesh.** Elohim's original purpose was to make mankind "in our image, after our likeness" (Gen. 1:26). *The Bride of God has to be of the same kind as He is – or it is confusion.* 1 John 3:2 says "we shall see Him as He is, for we shall be LIKE Him". We are of the body of Christ but not "one flesh" with Him. We are "**one spirit**" with the Messiah (1 Cor. 6:17).

There are more parallels to the bride of Christ. **When Abraham's servant was looking for a bride for Isaac, a type of the Christ,** he found Rebekah at the living springs of water (KJV says "well" but the Hebrew denotes a living, vibrant, flowing spring – **Gen. 24:10-18**) and she was of the **HOUSE OF BETHUEL** (Gen. 24:24) – which means "**Dweller in God**". Remember that! One who DWELLS IN God. Father, who also is the one selecting the Bride for His Son, started His church (the Bride) also from the fountains of living water (Acts 2 – the granting of the Holy Spirit, and the start of the new covenant church, the bride of Christ). And yes, only those who are in Christ, and IN God, will be part of the Bride.

If you haven't heard my "in Him" series, look on the web a few years back, and be sure to study that. Without being in Christ and in God, we have no spiritual future. This must be grasped. Remember, God not only lives in US by His Spirit, but we must also be found living in HIM, in God (1 John 4:13-16; John 17:21). We are baptized INTO HIM, into HIS body, by HIS Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13). This is more than JUST having God be in us. We can be in holy God the Father only by being first a part of the completely holy body of Christ. "For we died, and our lives are hidden in Christ in God..." (Col. 3:3). Verse 4 goes on to say "Christ is our life" now. The Messiah says we must make Him our abode, our dwelling place – that's what "abide in me" means; make Him our abode (John 15:5).

2nd Adam was CHRIST. THE BRIDE OF CHRIST is the body of called out ones – commonly referred to as the church (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph 5:25-32). The church is not an organization but simply people with God's spirit. The Bride of Christ must be of the same KIND as He is or there will be confusion. SO the marriage takes place after we are *changed* and are perfect, incorruptible spirit like He is (1 Cor. 15:53-54). **1 John 3:2** says we shall see him, for we shall BE LIKE HIM. It doesn't and can't just mean becoming a spirit being. It must mean what it says – "BE LIKE HIM".

If we are to be "like Him", what is God like? We will be everything God is – love, joy, peace – and all the descriptives of His Spirit, the fruit of His very being. Neither shall we be able to be tempted by sin, for whosoever is "born of God cannot sin" – 1 John 3:9. THEN the Son of God can marry His Bride, who will be like Him – FAULTLESS (Jude 24) because of Him. Perfect because of Him. Victorious over sin, because of Him.

What is THE SON OF GOD LIKE? He is the EXACT IMAGE, the "express image" of His Father (Heb. 1:3). Some translations say the "exact expression of His nature". He is with God, and IS GOD. HE is just like the Father. "If you've seen me, you've seen the father" (John 14:6). So Jesus must have also been perfect LOVE, perfect joy, and perfect peace. At that time, we also will be perfect love – and should be growing more and more into that even now, day by day, "until Christ is formed in you" (Gal. 4:19).

So are we then also “one flesh” with Messiah? NO! Something BETTER! We ARE OF HIS BODY – and the church is called the BODY OF CHRIST (Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:27). We are baptized into the body by the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 12:13). That makes us part of HIS body (Eph. 1:22-23) which is Spirit. God is a spirit (John 4:24).

1 Corinthians 6:17

But anyone joined to the Lord is *one spirit with Him*.

VITAL POINT: *once that happens, once we have the Holy Spirit, though we are still fleshly, we are not considered by God to be “in the flesh, but in the spirit” (Romans 8:9).*

As the Bride of Christ, just as Eve was part of the body of Adam, **we are part of the holy, perfect body of Christ**, no matter what body part we are. *Every body part of Messiah can only be holy. Even you. If you are in the body of Christ, you are holy, you must be holy. That’s why we’re called “holy ones”, hagios in Greek, translated as “saints”. Not because of anything we do, but because of HIS holiness. Messiah has no unholy body parts, CANNOT have any unholy parts. We are holy, because He is holy.* I cannot make myself holy. But where God’s presence is – is holiness. If He can make dirt on Mt. Sinai holy, He can make even you and me holy. Remember what He said to Moses: “The DIRT, the ground you stand on is holy ground.” I am only holy because I am a part of Him and He is a part of me. What follows now is a crucial concept to grasp. It has deeper meaning I think than first realized.

Bear with me, for this has everything to do with the meaning of this day: the victory over sin in Messiah, the Son of Yahweh.

Being “in Him” and part of His body is far more than just being a part of His called-out ones. It includes that, but it has far, far deeper ramifications. We are experiencing the Son of God by being in Him. For example, Paul teaches that we died *with Him* in His crucifixion (Gal. 2:20) since we are part of His body. Romans 6:3 says we were baptized into HIS death. Have you ever pondered that? Not just YOUR death of the old way, but we became a part of HIS experiences, including His ascension to heaven. That’s how much a part of being “in Him”, and part of His body, we are! Brethren, this is exciting stuff if you will see it and hear it and grasp it.

Romans 6:3

Or do you not know that as many of us baptized *into Christ Jesus* were baptized into His death?

Ephesians 2:6-7

He also raised US up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavens, in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages He might display the immeasurable riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Eph 2:8 and many other verses go on to say we have been saved now. Many other verses show we must continue to hang on to, abide in Christ, for “he who endures TO THE END shall be saved”, is also true (Matthew 24:13).

The process of forming the bride is already happening – but now we have to take it to the end, abiding with Him to end. We’re saved now, in one sense according to Eph 2:8-10 and many others – but we are completely saved if we endure to the end (Matt. 24:13). We have to hang on to our Savior to the end.

Back to Adam and Eve. She didn't make herself. The 2nd Bride isn't going to create herself either.

- There is only one Savior – and it's not ourselves. If I could save myself, then I would be my own savior and wouldn't have needed a Savior. We don't save ourselves. If I could make myself righteous, then Christ died in vain (see Gal. 2:21).
- When I was born, I had nothing to do with it. I have one Father (Eph.4:6). One God. One Savior. One Creator. The glory is His. There is only one Creator of the new creation as well, and it's not us! I don't create my new creation that I'm supposed to be.
- OUR ability to be righteous will be HIS doing. We are HIS workmanship—Eph 2:10.
- The victory therefore over sin will be total, and it will be totally HIS victory and glory.
- The righteousness you and I are to have is not our own, must not be our own, for our own righteousness will never measure up. We must have righteousness that exceeds that of the Pharisees' righteousness. We can have our own righteousness – or God's righteousness.

Philippians 3:9-11

“...and be found in Him, ***NOT having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith***; 10 that I may ***know Him*** and ***the power of His resurrection***, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

The way this victory happens is to come to know the power of ***HIS*** resurrection. He must come and live again, this time in us, this time cleaning the Father's House once more (WE are the house of God!). **Our job is to work hard in abiding, trusting, loving Him** – and then totally trusting Him so we surrender, give up, everything about the self. At that point, HE can really grow in us. But not before there is total surrender.

Whose work is the victory over sin? Whose fruit? Whose increase?

We are to bear the fruit of HIS spirit.

Col 2:19 – increase is from God

Phil. 2:12-13—for it is GOD who works in you both to will (the desire) and to do!

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, ***who became for us*** wisdom from God — **and righteousness** and sanctification and redemption — 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

The EVIDENCE of my SALVATION AND YOURS – IS THAT WE SURRENDER SO FULLY, SO COMPLETELY, THAT Christ is formed in me. When that starts to happen, HIS NATURE BECOMES MORE AND MORE EVIDENT.

The Lesson of Abraham and Ishmael: victory is by faith, not by our own works.

We don't see enough of Father's working in us because we still are trying to work it out ourselves. I realize we have emphasized James 2 a lot – that faith is PROVEN by our work. *Our lives must be in synch with what we profess.* I get that! I agree with that! But don't mistake all that to mean it is OUR work that saves us or makes us righteous or gives us the victory or that overcomes sin! If it were our own work that does it, we wouldn't need a Savior (Gal. 2:21). Indeed our faith will be tested, to see if we will obey when it's tough, as Abraham was tested when God asked him to sacrifice his son, his only son Isaac.

Abraham was called the “Father of the Faithful”. **But even Abraham, when no promised son materialized over the years, decided they had to work it out themselves.** So he impregnated Hagar, and produced a son by their own work, their own effort. *But Yah made it very clear that Ishmael was not God’s work, but Abraham’s work.* So in the end, Abraham had to surrender his own work – Ishmael – before he could appreciate that Isaac was his son, his ONLY son, the son of Promise.

Abraham loved Ishmael. He even half-argued with Yahweh and begged God to just use Ishmael as the promised son and said, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you” (Gen. 17:18).

But Ishmael was not the work of God, but the work of Abraham. Ishmael was not the result of faith—but the result of work.

We have to give up the “Ishmaels” in our lives too -- the human work we try to do to earn godliness and righteousness. All of our own efforts and work is an “Ishmael”. Even the things we consider the good things in our lives have to be surrendered up, as Paul explains in Philippians 3.

Giving up what we consider “the good” of our lives, gets in the way of what’s “the best” from God! God burns up the entire universe, so all the physical things end and are replaced with the spiritual, eternal things of God. We want to be entirely new. An entirely new creation. The spiritual newness, the new creation starts with God making US new, spiritually.

God in us will live Godly in us. If we’re not living Godly as a way of life at least, then God cannot be in us. But it is HIS work, HIS life, His doing.

Our whole viewpoint changes. I’m seeing more and more that when I pray, **to pray less for God to change circumstances and things in my life –and more and more that God would change ME because of, and by,** the trying circumstances in my life. I want to come to know Him, to be more like Him.

When I study God’s word, I am slowly learning it is not so much for head knowledge and learning technical data so much – though I still like that too – but **the purpose of studying Scripture is to reveal the Son to me,** and bring me to HIM, that I might have life. As I study I am not to just learn the book, but the AUTHOR.

John 5:39-40

39 **You search the Scriptures,** for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. **40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.**

So we’re one spirit with Him. We are to have his perfect righteousness. But are we that way now? Will any of us in this call and meeting EVER be like that in this life? But we also know that there is a standard for the kingdom of God, and it is God’s holy perfect, righteousness and nothing less. So how and when and where does our victory over sin come?

ADAM and Eve failed and were cast out of God’s presence. That meant everything that came from their bodies – their offspring – were also cast out. By one man Adam sin entered the world. **We all come from the body of Adam and Eve, so we were figuratively cast out as well. Now get this: the reverse is also true now.** Now that we are in Christ, in HIS body, when He ascended to heaven and sat at the right hand of God, we did too (Eph. 2:6-7) – IN HIM. **IN him is how we can come boldly before the throne the grace** (Heb. 4:16). In Him we can ask “in Jesus’ name” and it shall be done according to God’s will.

The few righteous in the Scriptures were those who were righteous by FAITH – they believed God. “Abraham believed in Yahweh and it was accounted to him as righteousness” (Gen 15:6). **Heb. 11:7** says Noah became

“...heir of the righteousness that is according to faith”. We are to seek the kingdom of God and ITS righteousness (Matt. 6:33) – not the best *we* can do, but the best *GOD* can do!

Faith leads to good works (Eph 2:8-10). A changing life is the PROOF that we are living by faith in fact. True conversion, truly changing, is proof of grace and salvation at work in our lives according to Eph 2:8-10.

What follows is a shorter summary of what I took two entire sermons in Nov-Dec. 2010 to explain in depth: ***that true righteousness and victory over sin, that this day depicts, is by faith in the righteousness of GOD Himself, that He will give to those who believe. He will impute His righteousness to us.*** As He does, and as we get ourselves out of the way (big point!), Christ lives in us like He lived before on the earth: obediently and perfectly.

Many Messianics and Church of God people seem determined to be their own savior and creator though – so we just don't hear sermons about “imputed righteousness”. Many Protestants teach it, but they believe once that happens, we can do nothing to lose salvation – and thereby ignore the whole book of Jude, much of 1-2 Peter, much of Hebrews 3-4, the whole books of 1, 2, 3 John, and many of Paul's teachings!

We have to let Christ live in us, and if we do, He will live righteously in us again. We are saved by his LIFE (Romans 5:10). His blood paid the death penalty (**Rom. 6:23**), and redeemed us, but it is His new life being lived once more in us that saves us and gives us the total victory.

CREDITED RIGHTEOUSNESS – and victory over sin

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. **21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

Jesus was perfect. How can He “become sin for us”? Do you remember how on the Day of Atonement and even when sin offerings were being offered, that the offerer would impute his sins on to the goat or lamb by putting his hands on his head. The animal did no wrong, but “became sin” for the one doing the offering. Our sin was imputed to Him who did no sin.

How will we come to have the righteousness of GOD Himself? God's righteousness must be imputed, GIVEN, to us – who have never done the 100% sinless righteousness of God. We speak of the gifts of God and yet miss one of the GREATEST gifts – one I don't hear people speaking about: the gift of righteousness.

We have a choice: either we can be perfectly righteous and qualify for the kingdom, or accept Father's forgiveness for past sins and Jesus' righteousness imputed to you to cover your life going forward. That's what Romans 2-3-4 is all about. You *can* be justified by works if you can obey perfectly. But no one has, so we're all under sin and its penalty.

Rom. 2:13 – The doers of the law are justified before God

But then the rest of Romans 2 and most of Romans 3 goes on to say that no one has been able to accomplish that. No one (except Christ) could be a true doer of the law. If we fail even in one, we have failed in all and are guilty of sin. So therefore, he concludes that – “sure, if we can keep Torah perfectly, we'd be justified. But no one has”, so he says in Romans 3:20:

“therefore it is evident that by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in his sight”.

The only one who was a perfect doer of the law was the Messiah. None of us could do it, aren't doing it perfectly even now, even with God's spirit, as Paul himself admitted (Romans 7). So God offers His grace to forgive us, we accept it, and our sin debt is cancelled. **Now we're back to zero balance. No debt, but no "assets" either.** So we'll see that God puts a large amount of assets – righteousness He gifts us – into our account. And what happens when we sin going forward, after forgiveness?

Romans 4:23-24

Now it was not written for his sake alone that it [righteousness] was imputed to him, 24 **but also for us. It [righteousness] shall also be imputed to us who believe in Him** who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead..."

Romans 5:17-19

17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace **and of the GIFT of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, *even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.* 19 For as by one man's disobedience [Adam] many were made sinners, *so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.*"

- **God offers us another gift – the gift of His very own righteousness**, which we accept by faith. It is faith in the righteousness of God and Yeshua. It is the standard of the kingdom of God's righteousness, and nothing less.
- Paul states clearly the kind of righteousness HE wants in Philippians 3:9-11 – NOT his own righteousness that is from Torah, but the righteousness of GOD that is by faith. Many COG groups try to dismiss this verse by saying Paul was referring to the oral law, the customs and traditions, and thereby negate the whole book of Galatians, much of Romans, and step back into being their own creator of their new creation! It comes back to the many verses that say that righteousness of God is by FAITH (Heb. 11:7; Phil 3:9-10), and that if we could be righteous by keeping the law, Christ died in vain (Gal. 2:21 – "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.")

Given a choice, would you choose the best you can do as you keep Torah and obey God's laws – or would you pick the best God has done, which is perfect, sinless righteousness?

Romans 3:20-23

20 Therefore *by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight*, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

21 But now **the righteousness of God apart from the law** is revealed, *being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets*, 22 even the righteousness of God, **through faith in Jesus Christ**, to all and on all **who believe**. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."

There's only ONE perfect acceptable righteousness for the Kingdom: Yahweh's own! Why aren't we hearing this preached more when it's all through the Bible? It's the righteousness of God by faith, which Paul especially says over and over. *It's the same righteousness that Abel had, that Enoch and Noah had, that Abraham, David and Isaiah spoke of.* Hear my sermons in Nov-Dec. 2010 for more detail.

BUT FOR THIS TO WORK, IT MEANS TOTAL SURRENDER TO HIM AND TO HIS LIFE. IT MEANS ABIDING IN HIM. THAT'S THE HARD WORK WE HAVE NOW – JOHN 15

Our new life – really the Messiah living in us – is not passive. The King has come into you to make your body the temple of His Spirit, of His residence. He wants it to be His father's House of Prayer. He wants your life and body to be a clean place of godly worship. So the King is going to actively be "cleansing His temple", fighting sin, giving you the power to resist and overcome. We will hear feelings and thoughts to do or not do certain things if we listen. This will be a process that can move along fairly quickly if we are serious about it, or growth can be slow. He is turning you into a perfect replica, an exact image of Himself over time – if you stay close to Him.

Once we really start to "see" this, surely we can sing at the top of our lungs, "How Great thou art". Let's let God get to work in us. Let's be holy ground for His divine presence.

SO WHY DO WE STILL LOSE SO MANY BATTLES – IN OTHER WORDS, WHY DO WE STILL SIN? That happens when we don't use HIS strength, live in HIS righteousness, let HIS life shine in us...We are to be witnesses of HIS resurrection. How? By the way he lives in us!

There are 2 natures in us – the old flesh nature and now we are also partakers of the Divine Nature (2 Peter 1:2-4). These two natures war against each other. The nature we listen to, or feed and nurture wins in our lives.

So now we have two natures in us. *It's almost like a Dr. Jekyll (the good side) and Mr. Hyde (the "dark side") situation. This is why "good people" can still do bad things. Including you and me.*

Scripture calls responding to the old self as living "according to the flesh". When we open the door to Yeshua the Messiah, and let *His* mind and actions work in us – we are living "in the spirit". We are flesh and blood, but that's not what it means when it says "in the flesh". It has to do with listening to the carnal nature vs. listening to the spirit divine nature we now have.

Romans 8:8-9

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

*I'm convinced You and I would never sin again if we would let Jesus perfectly rule as Lord of our lives every single second we live and breathe. Yeshua has never sinned. He will not sin in us either. But we sin as we put any distance between Him and us and as *we don't let Him be our new life.* That's Gal. 5:16 all over again -- "Walk in the spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh".*

I'm confident, *not* in my own human performance but in the perfect, flawless obedience of my Savior. That is the life Father sees now. In the flesh we died, but in the spirit He sees the perfect life of Yeshua fulfilling His own good and holy law perfectly in us. I am saved by His LIFE (Rom. 5:10).

Romans 8:3-4

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, ***God did by sending His own Son*** in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: ***He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.***

We can't claim He lives in us and keep doing the sinful things we've always done. But take heart. Paul likened it to a pregnancy. For the first few months, you may not even know a woman is pregnant. But at some point, it becomes clearly apparent: a new life is forming in her! (Gal. 4:18-19).

If Messiah lives in us, we will look more and more like Him. As time passes, we will increasingly talk, act and live as He would have lived.

Get this! Godliness is God living His life, being Godly. Godliness is not you trying to be godly, for you aren't God and can't perform at that level. Godliness happens when GOD is being God in us, not us trying to be like God. What I've just said is more than just words. It's the very power of God.

When I began to “see” that, this whole concept of having faith in God's righteousness, and living in Him, and being part of Him, and part of His body started to make more and more sense.

I'm out of time.... And we'll have to cover more topics later, including having fruit of HIS spirit, rather than fruit of our own work. Remember the fruit is HIS fruit, HIS Spirit. Yeshua said HE is the tree, the VINE – AND WE ARE THE BRANCHES. Philippians 1:11 says we should be filled with fruits of righteousness “which are by Jesus Christ....”. Did you get that? The fruits of righteousness are by HIM! It's HIS fruit, HIS life, His works.

The Tree/vine produces the fruit. The Branches display the tree's fruit. We are just the branches on the tree that is Jesus Christ. When we see lots of fruit, we never marvel at “what an awesome *branch* that is” – but “what an awesome *tree* that is; can you see all the fruit on it”-- when the tree is bearing fruit. Are you getting this? It's His fruit. It's His work. After all – back to the other metaphor: *it's HIS body. It's HIS life. It's His Vine.* We are to stay attached and display what He is doing in our lives

This should be obvious, but many don't seem to understand what I'm about to say: ***You and I can't make ourselves become like God. It is HIS doing. HE gives birth to us. HE creates the new creation we are. The fruit in our lives is the fruit of HIS spirit – not fruit of our hard work.***

It is HIS victory, HIS doing.

Our job is to acknowledge Him, obey Him, trust him, and surrender to Him and get out of His way so He can live in us, save us (Rom. 5:10), and be formed in us as the new life: Himself all over again.

We started by saying these holydays are Elohim's divine appointments – and rehearsals. The rehearsal for the last day of unleavened bread is about the victory we have in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Rev. 14:1-5 says the 144,000 stand on the sea of glass – with no deceit, “for they are without fault before the throne of God.” TOTAL VICTORY.

Revelation 15:1-4

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, **and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name,**

standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. 3 **They sing the song of Moses**, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:

"Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty!

Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!

4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? *For You alone are holy.* [WE are holy only IN HIM, who alone is holy; as part of HIM, which He invites us to be.]

For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

Isaiah 61:10-11

10 I will greatly rejoice in Yahweh, My soul shall be joyful in my God;

For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its bud,

As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth,

So Yahweh God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Praise our Holy God for the victory over sin and death that He has given those who trust and obey Him. Today is about victory in Him, by Him, and thru Him.

Next time, Yahweh willing, I'll talk more about how He is preparing a place for us, and what that means. And what a great love story it is... and how Jerusalem above is our city, the city of the first fruits.

This has been your brother Philip Shields, sharing the good news of God's salvation and victory!