

The Laws and
Commandments of
God

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- A Revelation step by step

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SAMIR STEPHAN KUJUR

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REVELATION SERVICES

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the Almighty God who inspires, reveals, guides and takes care of me throughout my journey.

ABOUT THE BOOK

The *Torah*, also known as the Five Books of Moses, contains 613 Commandments, of which 248 are positive commands and 365 restrictions.

In Matthew 5:17-20 Yeshua says, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.” In Matthew 5:21-36 we also find that Yeshua the Messiah magnified these laws for the purpose of better understanding of these laws and commandments.

Moreover, James, one of the siblings of Yeshua says in James 2:10-12, “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.”

Then, do we have to obey all of them i.e. 613 commandments?

If we obey all of them, then we will not be the new covenant people, but remain the old covenant people of God. And if we don't obey any of those, then we are not God's people. Thus, we can infer that some of those laws are still to be obeyed and followed by the new covenant people of God.

Then, how to know which of those 613 laws are still binding on the new covenant people?

The rule is simple, we don't pick and choose what we like and leave what we don't like. We listen to what Yeshua the Messiah and first century's apostles taught through their words and actions in the New Testament about these various laws. If it is attested in the New Testament, then new covenant people have to follow it. And if it is clearly told that a particular law is fulfilled and no longer binding on us, then we don't need to follow it.

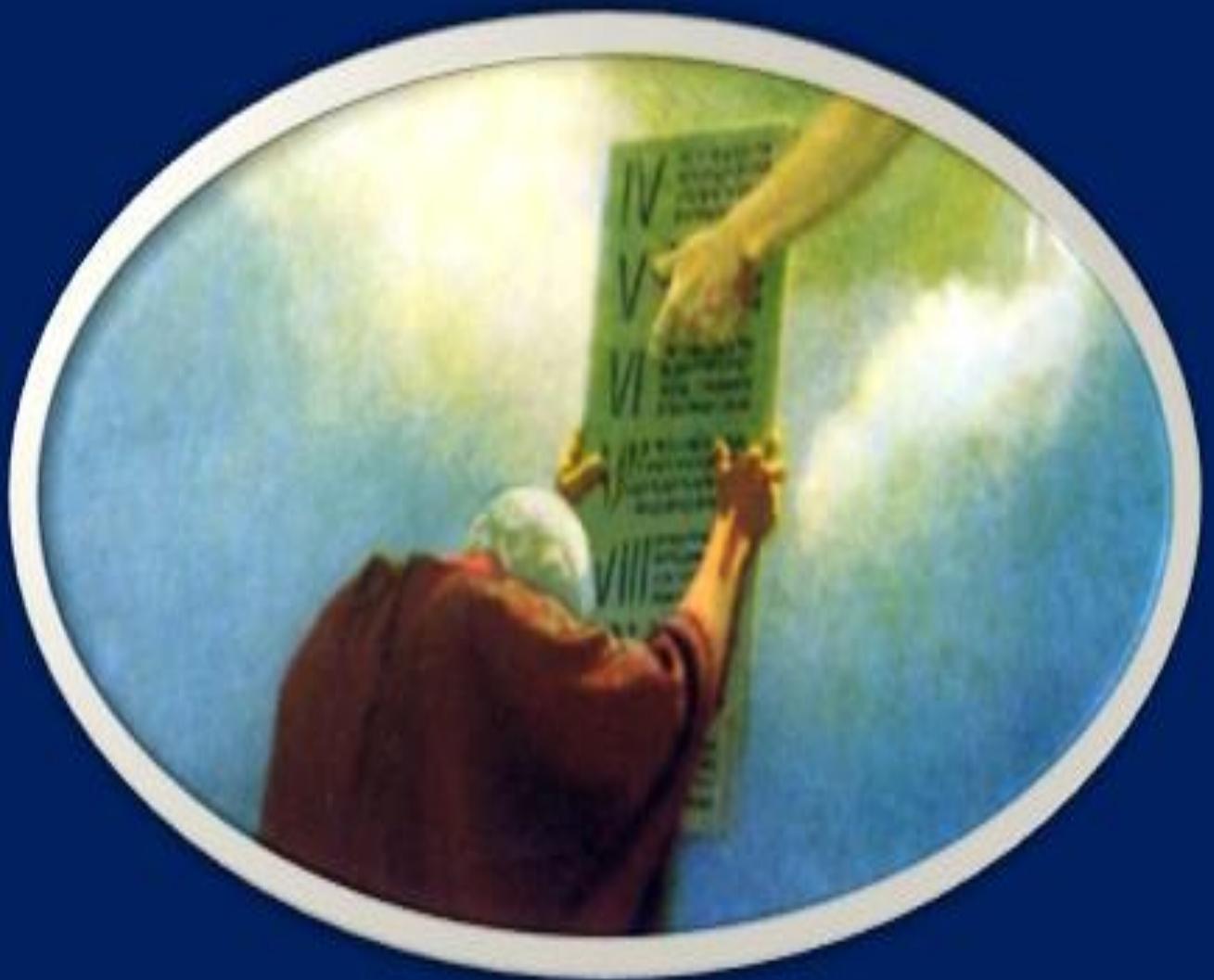
This Book will help you to examine the said laws and commandments that are attested by the New Testament. These 613 commandments are further categorized into 8 broader categories, viz. (i) The Law of Love, (ii) The 10 Commandments Law, (iii) The Dietary Laws, (iv) The Tithing Laws, (v) The Laws of Sacrifices and Offerings, (vi) The Law of Circumcision, (vii) The Civil Laws and (viii) The Laws of Ritual Purity and Uncleanliness, and examined in line with the earthly life of Yeshua the Messiah and first century's apostles taught through their words and actions in the New Testament. Remember, until and unless you are born again, keeping these Commandments and Laws of God will be of burdensome. But after born again, people of God will love to keep them.

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INTRODUCTION

The Laws and Commandments of God



According to rabbinic tradition, the *Torah* also known as The Five Books of Moses, contains 613 mitzvot (i.e. Commandments), which are divided into 248 positive commands and 365 restrictions.

These can be further categorized into 8 broader categories. They are: (i) The Law of Love, (ii) The 10 Commandments Law, (iii) The Dietary Laws, (iv) The Tithing Laws, (v) The Laws of Sacrifices and Offerings, (vi) The Law of Circumcision, (vii) The Civil Laws and (viii) The Laws of Ritual Purity and Uncleanliness.

In Matthew 5:17-20 Yeshua says, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Moreover, James, one of the siblings of Yeshua says in James 2:10-12, “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.”

Do we have to obey all of them i.e. 613 commandments? If we obey all of them, then we will not be the new covenant people, but remain the old covenant people of God. And if we don't obey any of those, then we are not God's people.

This depicts that some of those laws are still to be obeyed and followed by the new covenant people of God. Then, how to know which of those 613 laws are still binding on the new covenant people?

The rule is simple, we don't pick and choose what we like and leave what we don't like. We listen to what Yeshua the Messiah and first century's apostles taught through their words and actions in the New Testament about these various laws.

If it is attested in the New Testament, then new covenant people have to follow it. And if it is clearly told that a particular law is fulfilled and no longer binding on us, then we don't need to follow it.

CHAPTER 1

The Universal Laws



1.1 THE LAW OF LOVE

Love is one of the most powerful emotions and actions humans can experience. For believers, love is the truest test of genuine faith. Through the Bible, we discover how to experience love in its many forms and to share it with others as God intended. Four unique forms of love are found in Scripture. They are communicated through four Greek words i.e. *Eros*, *Storge*, *Philia*, and *Agape*, and are characterized by romantic love, family love, brotherly love, and God's divine love.

In the Old Testament, the Law of Love is mentioned in the Books of Deuteronomy and Leviticus. Deuteronomy 6:5 says, "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might", and Leviticus 19:18 says, "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD."

These are positively told in the New Testament. In Matthew 22:37-39, and Mark 12:28-31, Yeshua said unto him [lawyer / scribe], Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Many believers think that this is a new commandment of Yeshua, replacing the 10 commandments, and all other laws of the Old Testament. No. This is a part of the 613 laws of Moses' 5 Books.

See what was the question asked by the lawyer [scribe] in Matthew 22:36 and Mark 12:28, Master, which is the great commandment [i.e. the first commandment of all] in the law? And Yeshua replied to him referring these commandments, this is the first and great commandment [i.e. the first of all the commandments] (Matthew 22:38; Mark 12:30) and the second is like unto it (Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31). He also said in Matthew 22:40, On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Also recorded in Mark 12:31 as "there is none other commandment greater than these."

Sometimes, Christians, even preachers, throw out phrases, sayings, or words without explaining what they mean. When we believers have conversations with people about faith or the Bible, we should make sure that we help people understand what we're talking about. For example, the phrase "The Law of Love," which is used by some preachers and religious groups, can refer to the essence of God's law in the Bible, but it can also be used in ways that confuse people.

Law and *love* may mean different things to different people. In fact, some people see law and love as opposed to each other. But they're not opposing ideas in the Bible. Yeshua and the apostles Paul and John, all say that love fulfils The Law of God. In Romans 13:8-9, Paul writes, "Owe no man anything, but to love one another, for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."

For this, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not covet;' and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as yourself.'" Paul here quotes Leviticus 19:18 - "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself". This means *Love does*

no wrong to a neighbour, which shows that love has always been the fulfillment of God's law.

In Romans 13:10, Paul further writes, "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." Therefore, when we talk about the law of God, the way God wants us to live. In 1 John 5:2-3 apostle John says, "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." It's summarized by love. Love for God and loving our neighbour as we love ourselves is what obeying God's law is all about.

1.2 THE TEN COMMANDMENTS LAW

Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21 spell the summary of **Ten Commandments** of God that was given to the children of Israel by speaking to them from mount Sinai (Exodus 19; Exodus 19:20-25; 20:1, 18-20), and through Moses that was written in two tables with the finger of God (Exodus 31:18; Deuteronomy 9:10).

These commandments were existed from the creation itself (Genesis 2:1-3; Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis 4:6-12; Genesis 4:23-24; Genesis 5:22, 24; Genesis 6:2-6, 9; Genesis 9:6; Genesis 9:22-27; Genesis 19:31-38; Genesis 22:9; Genesis 39:7-20; Exodus 16:4-5, 22-30 and so on..., but for the first time it was given to children of Israel in the written form at mount Sinai.

Some believers say that 9 of the 10 commandments are binding upon us, but the 4th Commandment [i.e. Sabbath Commandment] is not clearly mentioned in the New Testament. In fact, more than the other 9, the Sabbath is mentioned the most number of times in the New Testament. In more than 50 places in the New Testament the Sabbath is mentioned and not even once Yeshua or the apostles ever said that it will be changed or that it will end.

In Matthew 19:16-20, Mark 10:17-20, and Luke 18:18-21, one rich ruler came to Yeshua and asked what good things he should do to have [inherit] the eternal life. Yeshua said you know the commandments and asked him to keep the commandments.

Here Yeshua referred the 10 Commandments. Here, Yeshua said to rich man for obeying the 6 commandments that are also mentioned in Matthew 19:19 [fifth commandment], Romans 13:9 [sixth commandment], Matthew 19:18 [seventh commandment], Romans 13:9 [eighth commandment], Romans 13:9 [ninth commandment], and Romans 7:7 [tenth commandment].

In Matthew 19:21-30, Mark 10:21-31 and Luke 18:22-30, Yeshua also asked him to help the poor, take up the cross and follow Him (Yeshua) to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven and Kingdom of God.

The other 4 commandments are also mentioned in Matthew 4:10 [first commandment], 1 John 5:21 [second commandment], 1 Timothy 6:1 [third commandment], and Hebrews 4:4-10 [fourth commandment]

James, one of the siblings of Yeshua gives further clarification on the importance of each commandment. In James 2:10-12, we read, “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.”

Apostle John made it clear that without keeping His commandments, we cannot love and know Yeshua. In 1 John 2:3-5 we read, “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.”

In the Book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible also depicts that these commandments are applicable in present life as well as in the future.

Revelation 12:17 says, “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Yeshua the Messiah.” John the apostle got this revelation that the event will take place in future, and to be very specific, it will be during the seven years of Tribulation period.

Further apostle John records in Revelation 14:6 and 12 about the harvest time when God’s people will be separated. It says, “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Yeshua.”

Apostle John also records in Revelation 21:8 that during the last judgment those who will be found not keeping the commandments will be thrown into the lake of fire, which is also called the second death. It says, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Finally, Revelation 22:14-15 also says, “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.”

We have a very direct and positive command to keep the 10 commandments even in the New Testament. So, it is clear all the 10 commandments are still binding upon us as well.

1.3 THE DIETARY LAWS

The creation story found in Genesis reveals that God created all the flora and fauna for its purpose. We find the purpose of its creation in the last book of the Bible. In Revelation 4:11 it is recorded that God created all things for His pleasure.

Therefore, the creation of all these things serves as a testament to His glory, love, grace, mercy, wisdom, power and goodness [Psalm 8:1; 19:1; 50:6; 89:5]

For many people today, the dietary laws regarding clean and unclean animals are among the most puzzling instructions found in the Bible.

In Leviticus 20:25–26 we read that for thousands of years, these laws have been a striking mark of identity separating those who follow biblical guidelines from the rest of the world. Yet, for centuries, these same instructions have also been a source of controversy and confusion among various religious groups, even those who claim to get their beliefs from the same book, the Bible.

The Bible clearly states that certain foods must not be eaten and that certain behaviours are sinful and an abomination in God’s sight. Yet professing Christian theologians have claimed for centuries that these laws were burdensome restrictions applicable only to the Jews, and that Yeshua came to abolish them once and for all.

Critics dismiss these ancient laws as outdated, bizarre, sometimes barbaric, and certainly no longer binding upon Christians. Yet, others who read the Bible carefully find it odd that God would command His chosen people to follow these laws and instructions for their own good (Deuteronomy 10:13),

When God brought the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt, He gave them laws, commandments, and statutes that would enable them to have a relationship with Him and to be blessed above all people on earth (Deuteronomy 7:14).

God plainly told the Israelites, “If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought upon the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you” (Exodus 15:26).

Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14 are the primary passages in the Bible that describe the dietary laws. These chapters provide very specific information summarized in simple, easy-to-understand principles. Israel was permitted to eat only clean food. (see Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14).

Now coming to the New Testament, most Christians who eat all kinds of flesh food quotes Peter’s vision of Act 10:13. It says, “And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But in Act 10:14 Peter said, not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.

Peter was associated with Yeshua for at least 70 weeks [the ministry period of Yeshua the Messiah] He saw Yeshua giving permission to demons to enter the swine and eventually destroyed 2000 pigs.

Remember, this was the same Peter, trained by Yeshua, who heard His statements regarding eating with hands unwashed in the manner of the Pharisees’ man-made traditions—yet he still believed years later that eating meat from unclean animals was wrong. Peter puzzled over the meaning of his vision (Acts 10:17) until three Gentile men came knocking at his door with a request to hear the Gospel explained (Acts 10:21–27).

Peter would not previously have associated with these men who were outside the covenant community, because the Jews considered the Gentiles “unclean.” When Peter put the pieces of this puzzle together, he concluded: “God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean” (Acts 10:28).

Not even once Yeshua told His apostles that the distinction between clean and unclean food will be gone. God never meant that Peter should eat unclean foods. If he did, why did He withdraw the food after instructing him to arise and kill and eat? And it was only as vision. Peter knew what God meant by the vision. Listen to Peter interpreting the vision himself. In Act 10:28 Peter was asked not to call any **MAN** common or unclean. Its **man** not **animal or fowl**.

Most Christians also argue by quoting and misinterpreting the Matthew 15:11 & Mark 7:15, which says, “Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.” But in Mark 7, Yeshua explained to critics why His disciples ate without following the Pharisees’ ceremonial hand-washing tradition.

Some Bible translations add words to Yeshua’s answer in Mark 7:19, suggesting that He did away with the dietary laws—for example, the Revised Standard Version translates this phrase, “Thus he declared all foods clean.” However, this translation is misleading and puts words into Yeshua’s mouth that He did not say!

Yeshua’s point was that orally ingested dirt, which is eventually eliminated, does not spiritually defile a person, since it does not enter the “heart” and influence attitudes (Mark 7:18–23). Dirt passes through the digestive tract and is eliminated.

Some translations treat this phrase far more accurately, such as the International Standard Version, which reads Mark 7:19 as saying, “Because it doesn’t go into his heart but into his stomach, and then into the sewer, thereby expelling all foods.”

The dietary laws regarding clean and unclean animals are simply not being discussed in this chapter of Mark—nor in Matthew 15:10–20, which discusses the same event but without the misleading translation. In fact, Matthew 15:20 plainly sums up Yeshua’s teaching: “These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

Some theologians also try to use 1 Timothy 4:1–5 to suggest that the dietary laws are no longer valid for Christians. Yet, in these verses, the Apostle Paul was discussing false teachers who were promoting the idea that Christians could be “more spiritual” by practicing asceticism and vegetarianism, abstaining from foods that God had made for us to eat.

When Paul states that “every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer,” we need to ask: Where in the Bible are any creatures “sanctified” or “set apart” by God for human consumption?

The answer is found in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14, in the lists of clean animals. And where in the “word of God” would Paul have seen unclean animals “sanctified” or “set

apart” by God for human consumption? The answer is—nowhere! Paul was not setting God’s commands aside to declare unclean animals permissible to eat. Quite the contrary: He used the word of God to correct those who were condemning believers for eating meat based on the “commandments and doctrines of men”—not based on God’s commandments (Colossians 2:21–22).

If God would have removed the distinction between clean and unclean creature, as mentioned in Peter’s vision, then why is God making the distinction again in the book of Revelation?

In the final book of the Bible, we see God still using the distinction between clean and unclean animals. Revelation 18:2 says, “And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.”

Also prophet Isaiah prophesied about the time of the next coming of Yeshua mentions about the ones who will be punished for eating swine and other unclean foods.

In Isaiah 66:15-17 we read, “For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine’s flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.”

Isaiah is plainly stating that the judgment of God will fall on those who ignore and reject His divinely inspired laws—including the biblical dietary laws of clean and unclean animals.

The Bible reveals plainly that God gave the Israelites His laws for their benefit (Deuteronomy 10:13). They were in no way meant to be a burden (cf. 1 John 5:2–3)—though so many have falsely been told otherwise.

In Exodus, we learn that God chose the nation of Israel and set them apart for a special purpose (Exodus 19:5–6), and the dietary laws contributed to that divine purpose: “I am the Lord your God, who has separated you from the peoples.

You shall therefore distinguish between clean beasts and unclean.... And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine” (Leviticus 20:24–26).

In fact, God wanted other nations to learn from Israel’s way of life, as well. Among His other purposes for Israel, God wanted their example to show the world a way of life that actually worked and brought real, measurable benefits.

The consumption of blood as food is also forbidden by the biblical dietary laws (Leviticus 3:7; 7:26-27). Yet, depending on our culture, it might come as a surprise to learn that animal blood is used in preparing many traditional foods, especially a pudding made from the raw blood of animals such as pigs or ducks.

Some in the nutrition industry even advocate for the use of blood as a food, seeing it as a “wasted product” of slaughterhouses—a potential “super food” and another way to profit off of the meat industry.

While many theologians believe the Old Testament commands about not eating blood were only for the Jews and were done away with by Yeshua the Messiah, first-century apostles were still instructing New Testament Christians, including Gentiles, that they should not eat blood (Acts 15:20, 28–29).

So the dietary laws of the Old Testimony continues in the New Testament.

In the biblical account of the two trees (Genesis 2:8–9; 3:1–7), we saw that God did not force Adam and Eve to accept His divinely revealed instructions. They chose to use human reasoning, separate from God’s directions.

To win the age-old battle against disease, each of us must make our own choices today. Will we obey God, or do we think we have a better way (Deuteronomy 30:15 20; Matthew 7:14)?

1.4 THE TITHING LAWS

Is the law of tithing in force today? Or is it an outdated artifact from a bygone time? What does the word “tithe” mean? Did Yeshua the Messiah Himself or first century apostles indicate that we should tithe?

Long before the **Law of Moses** was ever codified, the patriarch Abraham was faithfully paying tithes to God! We read in Genesis 14:17 20 how Abraham honoured God’s High Priest Melchizedek after God had delivered his enemies into his hand: **And he gave him a tithe of all.**

This is an enormously important example that is overlooked or minimized by many. Abraham was the one human being God chose to foreshadow the sacrifice that God would later make with his willingness to give up his own son (Genesis 22). He is the one God inspired the Apostle Paul in the New Testament to describe as the father of the faithful (Romans 4:1, 11, 16).

What key example did Abraham set in regard to being faithful with our resources? Abraham **tithed** to the very Personality who later became Yeshua the Messiah. Abraham did not tithe only the fruits of his labour, he tithed on a bounty that had virtually been given him by God. So tithing is not merely on the increase of one’s crops or animals—as certain critics contend—it is on any resource increase which God grants us as His created children!

Later, Jacob promised to serve the God of Abraham and stated, **Of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You** (Genesis 28:22). Still later, when God temporarily instituted the Levitical priesthood, He directed that the tithe be paid to them during that time as His human representatives: *And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s. It is holy to the Lord.... And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the*

Lord (Leviticus 27:30, 32). Now notice Numbers 18:21, *Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting.* Since God's ministry during this time was a physical ministry—of offering sacrifices and oblations—and since the Levites were fulfilling this ministry as their work, God's tithe went to them as His representatives and servants.

What is a tithe? The word **tithe** is simply an old English word meaning **tenth**. It refers to the giving of a tenth of one's income to God's ministry. And Almighty God directs that this tenth be given to Him to His true ministers to do His Work not just to be handed out anywhere.

The law of tithing simply means that the great God who made us who gave us our life, our talents, our minds, the strength with which we work, and the very land and materials that we employ in our work requires us to pay Him the first tenth of our resource increase.

As far as the direct matter of tithing is concerned, God does not consider that we are **giving** anything but are returning our Creator a very nominal amount that He requires as our Maker, our Sustainer, our Landlord, our Protector, and our God! Nevertheless, the Almighty promises, *Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine* (Proverbs 3:9–10). Yes, if you are faithful in obeying God and paying Him the first tenth or tithe of your resources, He will bless your life in many ways. He has promised and God never breaks His word! In Malachi 3:8, speaking to modern-day Jacob or Israel, God declares, *Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, In what way have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings.* God here indicts our modern English-speaking people for robbing our very Creator and His Work today! No wonder there is so little true religion left on earth! No wonder there is so much confusion and deceit going about in the name of Christianity!

God continues, *You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation* (Malachi 3:9). Then God promises in His word, *Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this, says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it* (Malachi 3:10). Here is a blistering challenge from Almighty God!

In speaking to the scribes and Pharisees, who often made a self-righteous display of strictly keeping some of the smaller points of God's law, Yeshua said, *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done [these weightier matters], without leaving the others [carefully tithing] undone* (Matthew 23:23).

Is that clear enough? Yeshua said that spiritual qualities such as mercy and faith ought to be put ahead of carefully and strictly paying tithes on every little plant that might grow in your garden—especially when that strictness leads to self-righteousness. But Messiah said **not to leave the other undone** not to fail to pay your full tithes as God has commanded!

There are many reasons for our soaring debts, chief among them being gross financial mismanagement and neglecting to “render... to God the things that are God’s” (Mark 12:17)!

There are two orders of priesthood in the Bible – the Melchizedek order and the Levite order. Both these orders of priesthood collected tithes from God’s people. The apostle Paul contrasts the two priesthoods i.e. Melchizedek and Levite and compares Melchizedek priesthood to Yeshua’s priesthood.

Paul mentions, **tithes** 7 times in that chapter of Hebrews 7. God inspired the Apostle Paul to show that the law of tithing is now altered or changed so that the tithes are once again to be paid to God’s spiritual priesthood as that of Melchizedek, to whom Abraham paid tithes.

This account is found in the seventh chapter of Hebrews. Paul describes how Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:2). Next, he describes how great Melchizedek’s priesthood must have been (Hebrews 7:3–4). Then Paul shows that the Levites themselves—through their ancestor Abraham—paid tithes to Melchizedek, obviously a greater priest in view of this fact (Hebrews 7:9–10).

In Hebrews 7:11–12, Paul shows that the Levitical priesthood was only temporary and never brought to perfection. Therefore, the spiritual priesthood of Melchizedek has been reinstated through Messiah and the tithing law is again changed so that God’s tithes go as before to the spiritual priests—the true ministers of Yeshua the Messiah.

The Apostle Paul was writing to Jewish Christians who understood at least the letter of God’s law and had no **argument** about the fact of the tithing law. While his main emphasis is the greatness of Messiah’s spiritual ministry, nevertheless it is important to realize that throughout the above New Testament passage Paul definitely speaks of tithing as a law!

And he shows that it is a law that has existed since antiquity, from the days of Melchizedek—and still exists, although now changed so that the tithes go once again to God’s spiritual ministers who are doing His Work today! So anyone who fails to tithe is breaking an important law of the Creator God! This is one reason for so many curses on our land and our personal life today!

There are many things about the priesthood. But there is only one thing recorded that the priesthood of Melchizedek did – the received of tithes.

Malachi 3 does not say that failing to pay tithes is robbing the priests. Rather, it plainly states that such behaviour is, in fact, robbing God! And that, in the eyes of the Almighty, is very serious business!

God says He will bless you if you begin tithing as He commands through faith in Him and in His word. Literally hundreds of case histories may be cited to show that God certainly does bless the tither in many ways. He may not always do so immediately you may have to obey Him and exercise faith for a while. But as you serve Him, obey Him, and trust Him, God will keep His part of the bargain.

Tithing is a perfect system of God, even to be carried out in the New Testament Church.

CHAPTER 2

The Shadow of Yeshua the Messiah and Other Laws



2.1 THE LAWS OF SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS

According to the Old Testament, sacrifice was a keyway to access, worship, and interact with God, whose personal name is YHWH pronounced as **Yahweh**, which is usually translated as **the Lord**. God is perfect and cannot be in the presence of any blemish.

God walked with man before man's rebellion entered the world. With the first failure, God and man were separated. However, God did not want to be separate from us, even in our failure.

But since God is perfect, He must enforce perfect justice. To meet both goals (reunion and justice) God set rules for judgement. Each mistake must be paid for with equal value. God's only currency, what He values, is life / blood. However, if He were to bleed His people, that would be counter-productive to reunion.

So He instituted payment of blood through animals owned by people. Each mistake (sin) would require blood payment from the man owned animals, and in payment, God could be with man again.

The priests (who were cleansed of all sin first, so that they could aid in the sacrifice – (it's impossible to bring your payment to God if you can't get to Him) so they would take the animal from their flock, bring it to the priest.

The priest killed the sacrifice, pouring blood out on the alter and burning the rest (according to God's instruction) and pray for the man to be forgiven and restored in God's site. Sometimes sin was so great, the sacrifices were done in bulk; large animals slain and the priests would pray for the whole nation.

This is a sad thing. This is why there was so much joy when the Messiah was slain on the cross as priest and lamb. Because he brought forgiveness of our sin, past, present and future, for all time. Once and for all, restoring our union with God, forever [John 1:29; John 11:49-53; 1 John 2:2; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 10:10; Romans 6:10; Hebrews 9:28; Hebrews 9:26-28; Hebrews 9:12; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Isaiah 53:6; Ephesians 5:2; Matthew 26:28; 1 Peter 3:18-20; Hebrews 10:14; Colossians 2:14]. Oh happy day! No more animals need be killed for our transgressions! God is to be with us again!

In this context, a **sacrifice** was an offering that was given over to God in a ritualized manner i.e. through an activity system that was designed in such a way that it acknowledged belief in God.

God was seen to have instituted sacrifice as a powerfully evocative multi-purpose means for faulty human beings to demonstrate **faith in him**, draw near to him, receive his covenant to become his holy people, maintain his presence with them, be freed from guilt, regain purity, and celebrate his salvific actions on their behalf.

The first sacrifice in the Bible was God Himself killing animal, to make clothing, the coats of skins to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness. (Genesis 3:21) In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve were wearing clothes made of fig leaves. God *offered* to give them something more suitable to wear and sacrificed animal to make the clothing. God's willingness to sacrifice animal to provide clothing and protection for Adam and Eve is an act of

love and care, even in the immediate aftermath of Adam and Eve's disobedience to God.

There are five main types of sacrifices, or offerings, in the Old Testament. The burnt offering (Leviticus 1; 6:8–13; 8:18–21; 16:24), the grain offering (Leviticus 2; 6:14–23), the peace offering (Leviticus 3; 7:11–34), the sin offering (Leviticus 4; 5:1–13; 6:24–30; 8:14–17; 16:3–22), and the trespass offering (Leviticus 5:14–19; 6:1–7; 7:1–6). Each of these sacrifices involved certain elements, either animal or fruit of the field, and had a specific purpose.

Most were split into two or three portions—God's portion, the portion for the Levites or priests, and, if there was a third, a portion kept by the person offering the sacrifice. The sacrifices can be broadly categorized as either voluntary or mandatory offerings.

The order in which the core sacrificial prescriptions appear in Leviticus 1–16 is logical and begins with previously known categories of sacrifices that individual Israelites could voluntarily offer.

Leviticus 4–5 introduce two new kinds of mandatory expiatory sacrifices that were instituted with the establishment of the sanctuary: sin offering and trespass offering. It makes sense in terms of didactic effectiveness that Leviticus 1–5 introduce the **five basic categories of sacrifices – burnt offering, grain offering, peace offering, sin offering and trespass offering – one at a time**, before supplementary instructions in Leviticus 6–7 that are primarily for the priests.

2.1.1 Burnt offering

The importance of the burnt offering is shown by its position as the first sacrifice in Leviticus, the designation of the outer altar as 'the altar of burnt offering' (e.g. Exodus 30:28; 40:7), and the role of the burnt offering as the regular morning and evening sacrifice (Exodus 29:38–42; Number 28:1–7) that was to be continually burning on the altar.

The burnt offering was a voluntary act to express thanks, worship, devotion and commitment to God. It was also used as an atonement for unintentional sin. The elements of the burnt offering were from the herd (oxen) or flock (sheep or goats), or they could be turtledoves or young pigeons without blemish. Different procedures are listed for these animals in Leviticus 1, but in each case the meat and bones and organs of the animal were to be totally burnt, and this was God's portion. The animal's hide was given to the Levites, who could later sell it to earn money for themselves.

2.1.2 Grain [meat] offering

The second voluntary offering is the grain offering, in which the worshiper offers up the fruit of the field was offered in the form of a cake or baked bread made of grain, fine flour, oil, salt and frankincense. The grain offering is different from the other offerings because there is no blood involved. It was always offered along with burnt offerings (Numbers 29:6), thus complementing the burnt offering.

The grain offering was one of the sacrifices accompanied by a drink offering of one-quarter hin (about a quart) of wine, which was poured into the fire on the altar (Numbers 15:4-5).

The purpose of the grain offering was to express thanksgiving in recognition of God's provision and unmerited goodwill toward the person making the sacrifice. Unlike the burnt offering, only a portion of the grain offering was burned on the altar (Leviticus 2:2, 9, 16) with the rest consumed by the priests within the court of the tabernacle (Leviticus 2:3,10). The portion of grain that was offered on the altar was to have frankincense burned with it (Leviticus 2:15).

2.2.3 Peace offering

The third voluntary offering was the peace offering, consisted of best and unblemished animal from the worshiper's herd, and/or various grains or breads. This was a sacrifice of thanksgiving and fellowship followed by a shared meal. In Leviticus 3:14-16 we read, the fat, kidneys, and lobe [caul above the liver] of the liver were given to God (burnt), and the remainder of the animal was for the participants to eat, symbolizing God's provision.

The high priest was given the breast of the animal; the officiating priest was given the right foreleg. These pieces of the offering were called the "wave offering" and the "heave offering" because they were waved or lifted over the altar during the ceremony. The vow, thanksgiving, and freewill offerings mentioned in the Old Testament and Hebrew scriptures were all peace offerings.

2.2.4 Sin offering

The sin offering was mandatory, as it atoned for sins and cleansed from defilement. There were five possible elements of a sin sacrifice—a young bull, a male goat, a female goat, a dove/pigeon, or 1/10 ephah of fine flour. The type of animal depended on the identity and financial situation of the giver.

A female goat was the sin offering for the common person, fine flour was the sacrifice of the very poor, a young bull was offered for the high priest and the congregation as a whole, and so on. Portions of these offerings were offered outside the camp, and most aspects of these offerings aren't described as a "sweet aroma" to God. That's because sin and trespass offerings dealt with sin and trespasses—the breaking of God's law (1 John 3:4).

The sin offering dealt with the general sins of everyone—the priests, the leadership, the entire congregation and the individual. This represented the truth that all have sinned and have become sinners by nature (Romans 8:7).

Unlike the burnt offering, where the whole animal was offered on the altar, with the sin offering only the fat and blood were offered at the altar. When a bull was offered for the priest or for the whole congregation, the bulk of the animal's body was burned outside the camp.

This was because it represented sin, which is repugnant to God (Psalm 5:4; Ezekiel 18:23). He wants it removed far from His sight.

These sacrifices each had specific instructions for what to do with the blood of the animal during the ceremony. The fatty portions and lobe of the liver and kidneys were given to God (burnt); the rest of the animal was either totally burned on the altar and the ashes thrown outside the camp (in atoning for the high priest and congregation) or eaten within the tabernacle court.

2.2.5 Trespass offering

The trespass offering was the second mandatory and most holy offering (Leviticus 7:1), and this sacrifice was specifically a ram. The sacrifice is similar to the sin offering, but not exactly the same.

The sin offering in Leviticus 4 dealt with sin in general—among all classes of society. The trespass offering dealt with specific acts of transgressing God’s law, such as breaking one of God’s commandments (Leviticus 5:17) or doing something harmful to another person (Leviticus 6:2-3).

The purpose of trespass offering was given as atonement for unintentional sins that required reimbursement to an offended party, and also as a cleansing from defiling sins or physical illnesses and conditions.

Again, the fat portions, kidneys, and liver were offered to God, and the remainder of the ram had to be eaten by every male among the priests and shall be eaten in the holy place i.e. inside the court of the tabernacle because it is most holy.

Along with the trespass offering, the offender was required to compensate the victim of his or her sin and pay an additional amount (Leviticus 5:16; 6:5; Numbers 5:6-7). This showed that the offender still had a responsibility to *make things right* with the person he or she hurt.

As such, this offering had an estimated monetary value of a ram, and one who owed another on account of a debt due to a “sin” could repay it by shekels of silver (Leviticus 5:15). In addition, a 20% fee was assessed and given to the priest who mitigated the debt (Leviticus 5:16).

The trespass offering was to be performed like the sin offering for individuals other than the high priest, with the blood applied to the outer altar. Unlike the sin offering, the priest did not put the blood on the horns of the outer altar but rather tossed the blood around the sides of it, as in the burnt and peace offerings (Leviticus 7:1–7).

Through all of the above sacrifices, we see that sin, both unintentional and intentional, required an atonement. Praying and saying you’re sorry just wasn’t enough. Each kind of sacrifice had a unique procedural element that correlated with its distinctive significance.

Except for the trespass offering, the unique elements involved treatment of the flesh or blood. The flesh of the burnt offering was completely burned; the offerer (s) ate meat from the peace offering; the blood of a sin offering almost always went on the horns of an altar; the trespass offering required prior non-sacrificial reparation; and the non-animal grain, drink, and incense offerings had no blood or flesh at all.

During the High Holy days, from Rosh HaShanah (Yom Teruah – the Feast of Trumpets) to Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), the Jewish people in Israel and around the world prepare their hearts and come humbly before God. They present themselves in repentance and humility, with hope that the Lord would accept their offerings. In prayer and supplication, they ask to be inscribed in the Book of Life for another year to come.

The sacrificial system of the Old Testament was a means of grace by which the relationship between God and humanity begins to be restored. Ultimately, the sacrificial system was inadequate, which is why Yeshua the Messiah came to earth. None could repay the debt of life that was owed until Messiah defeated death once and for all (Hebrew 10:10).

In the age of the Church, we live in light of Messiah's meritorious sacrifice for us while also offering our own lives as a living and holy sacrifice (Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 2:5).

As believers in Yeshua the Messiah, we have the assurance of pardon, and that our names are inscribed in the Book of Life not by our works but through our faith. And we do not need to ask to be inscribed every year, as Messiah's work was and is final.

The sacrifices in the Old Testament pointed forward to the perfect and final sacrifice of Messiah. As with the rest of the Law, the sacrifices were "a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Messiah" (Colossians 2:17).

Believers today recognize Messiah's atoning death on the cross as the only needed sacrifice for sin, offered once for all (Hebrews 10:1–10). His death opened the "holy place" for us (Hebrews 10:19–22) so that we can freely enter God's presence and offer our "sacrifice of praise" (Hebrews 13:15; cf. 9:11–28; 4:14—5:10).

The Apostle Paul assures us that God, rich in mercy, loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, making us alive together with Messiah. (Ephesians 2:4–6). Further he says, Yeshua's sacrifice is in vain if we I depended for my salvation in old sacrifices and offerings.

It can be referred in Galatian 2:20-21, 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17, 54-55, 58; 2 Corinthians 5:21-; 6:1-13....] In Hebrews 10 also we read that these offerings and sacrifices were the shadow of Yeshua the Messiah.

2.2 THE LAW OF CIRCUMCISION

Circumcision was an integral part of the nation of Israel, starting with Abraham, the father of God's chosen people. In Genesis 17: 10-14 God had told Abraham, "This is my covenant,

which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.

He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.”

And Abraham was ninety years old and nine, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. In the self-same day was Abraham circumcised, and Ishmael his son. (Genesis 17:23-27) Moreover, Abraham also circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him. (Genesis 21:4)

Therefore, the physical descendants of Abraham and the strangers dwelling with him who were bought with money, had the obligation to be physically circumcised. God pronounced it as an everlasting covenant, also known as a sign of the Abrahamic covenant.

This was practiced by the descendants of Abraham, and we find some of the evidence in Exodus 4:24-26 and Exodus 12:43-48. Exodus 4:24-26 says, And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him. Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me.

In Exodus 12:43-48 we read, And the Lord said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the Passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof: But every man's servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof. A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof. In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.

All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.

This command was reinforced in the Mosaic Law, which declared, “On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised” (Leviticus 12:3).

In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses reissued the Law a second time to a new generation that was poised to enter into the Promised Land after forty years of wilderness wanderings. The generation in the wilderness with Moses had received physical circumcision, but their hearts had not been circumcised by the Holy Spirit with the word

of God. In Deuteronomy 10:16 Moses said, "So circumcise your heart and stiffen your neck no longer".

In this verse, an uncircumcised heart meant that one was stiff-necked. To be stiff-necked pictured a stubborn ox that will not submit to a master. When the master tried to place the yoke around its neck, the ox hunched up its shoulders, so that his neck refused to receive the yoke.

To be stiff-necked meant that the ox would not submit to the yoke of its master. The ox was resistant and refused to humble itself. Simply put, he would not submit to the authority of his master.

In this passage, Moses said this wilderness generation is stiff-necked. They would not submit to the lordship of God over their lives. They refused to surrender their life to God. Instead, God said that they must circumcise their heart. They needed to have their heart pierced, which involves the painful conviction of sin. This excruciating piercing must accompany their entrance into the kingdom of God.

The book of Deuteronomy is a series of sermons preached by Moses with multiple messages. In one of his later sermons, Moses expounded the sovereignty of God in this spiritual circumcision. This is something for which man is responsible, but only God can do. Moses said, "Moreover the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants to love the Lord your God with all your heart so that you may live." (Deuteronomy 30:6).

This latter aspect referred to their children as they would come under the influence of the truth of the gospel. Three times in this one verse, Moses stressed the heart. If their heart was not circumcised, they remained spiritually dead. An unconverted heart had no spiritual life.

This practice of physical circumcision was intended to be a picture of what must happen to the heart, just like baptism is a picture of the reality of salvation. The foreskin was cut with a sharp knife, signifying that this person is to be set apart to God.

This pictured the reality that one must have his heart pierced and cut to the core by the sharp two-edged sword of the word of God [Hebrews 4:12].

Heart must be set apart to God. It is a picture of the new birth, a picture of conversion. The physical circumcision is a picture of the spiritual circumcision that must take place in the life of every believer.

This was the necessity of heart circumcision. Without their heart being circumcised, they were separated from God and without spiritual life. This heart circumcision represented them being set apart to God, by the Holy Spirit, in the new birth.

The prophet Jeremiah said, "Circumcise yourselves to the Lord and remove the foreskins of your heart" (Jeremiah 4:4). The prophet emphasized that spiritual surgery will remove the foreskin of their heart. That is to say, this procedure will remove their sinful resistance to God and refusal to submit to His authority over their lives. Spiritual

circumcision will remove their unbelief and cause them to place their faith in God and His gospel. If a person does not have their heart circumcised, notice the second half of verse four. God says, "Or else My wrath will go forth like fire and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds" (Jeremiah 4:4).

The foreskin of one's heart is what caused one to live a sinful, rebellious life. The heart must be cut with deep conviction of sin. The only two-edged sword sharp enough to penetrate the thick foreskin of their rebellion against God is the word of God. This is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). When it comes with the power of the Holy Spirit, it is an invincible weapon in the hand of the one who wields it.

The prophet Jeremiah further says, "'Behold, the days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'that I will punish all who are circumcised and yet uncircumcised'" (Jeremiah 9:25). This refers to those who are physically circumcised, but who are not spiritually circumcised.

A Jew could have been physically circumcised, but it is counted for nothing if he was not spiritually circumcised. Days are coming when God will punish those who are circumcised, yet uncircumcised.

It is exactly the same today, with those who have been baptized, but who have not been spiritually baptized. You can be baptized in water, but not be a true believer. Having the physical ceremony brings no redemptive reality to a person's life. One must have the spiritual circumcision of the new birth.

In the end, this divine punishment will come, "for all the nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised of heart" (Jeremiah 9:26). All the Gentile nations are uncircumcised, both physically and spiritually. This is a double uncircumcision.

On the other hand, Israel is circumcised physically, but uncircumcised spiritually in the heart. That means, they are physically circumcised, but spiritually unregenerate. They are in the commonwealth of Israel, but not in the spiritual kingdom of God. They have participated in the ritual in their body but have never had the reality in their heart.

God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel, "When you brought in foreigners uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh" (Ezekiel 44:7). A distinction is made between the Gentiles, who were the foreigners, who had not been circumcised either physically or spiritually. The prophet recorded, "Thus says the Lord God, 'No foreigner uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh...shall enter My sanctuary'" (Ezekiel 44:9).

In order to come into the presence of God in the sanctuary, one must be a true worshiper of God. Such a person must have a heart that has been circumcised, meaning it must be cut, convicted, and converted. Every person who would worship God must have a heart that has been pierced by the word of God. This spiritual surgery would bring a person into submission to the Lord so that he will no longer be stiff-necked of heart.

In Acts 7, Stephen preached that incredible sermon before the Sanhedrin, comprised of the seventy Jewish leaders and the high priest of the nation Israel. Stephen gave an extraordinary walk through the spiritual history of Israel, where he came to the

summation of his sermon. In Acts 7:51, he addressed the unbelieving, unregenerate leaders of the nation of Israel, when they were in spiritual apostasy. In their recent past, they had crucified their Messiah in rank unbelief. Stephen said to them, "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did".

He pointed back to everything we previously examined in Deuteronomy, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel about being uncircumcised. Tragically, the nation Israel had a longstanding history of being circumcised, yet being uncircumcised. There had always been a believing remnant within the nation, but the rest of the nation remained uncircumcised of heart.

Galatians 6:15 is a key verse in which Paul said emphatically, "For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision." This means, there is no saving value whatsoever in physical circumcision. The apostle continued, "but a new creation" (Galatians 6:15). This is to say, the only thing that matters before God is that a person is born again and becomes a new creature in Yeshua the Messiah.

Paul talks in 2 Corinthians 5:17 about becoming this new creation. He writes, "If anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come". To become a "new creature" is a metaphorical expression for the new birth.

In the New Testament, we continue to see these terms of circumcision and uncircumcision that were introduced in the New Testament. False teachers known as Judaizers had come into the churches in Galatia after Paul left this region on his first missionary journey. These false workers of evil were trying to put unbelievers and believers back under the Mosaic Law.

They were telling people that in order to enter into the kingdom of God, they must be circumcised. Paul began his epistle to the Galatians saying that this teaching is another gospel. He said, let these false teachers be anathema, or perish eternally in hell. He concludes by telling the believers to forget circumcision and uncircumcision. All that matters is that they are a new creature in Yeshua the Messiah.

This subject of spiritual circumcision resurfaces again in Paul's letter to the Ephesians. The apostle said, "Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called 'Uncircumcision' by the so-called 'Circumcision,' which is performed in the flesh by human hand" (Ephesians 2:11).

The Jews looked down their long, self-righteous noses at the Gentiles. They called them uncircumcised, meaning unclean. There is a note of intentional sarcasm here. Paul called the circumcised Jews, "so-called 'Circumcision.'" They had been physically circumcised, but they had not had the *real* circumcision.

They only had the circumcision of their flesh, which did not count for anything in their eternal relationship with God. They must have the circumcision of their heart in order to enter in the kingdom of heaven. In other words, this surgical procedure is not the real circumcision.

Instead, the circumcision that put one in a position of acceptance with God is not performed in the flesh by human hands. Rather, it is performed in the heart by the Spirit of God.

In the book of Philippians, Paul again addressed the Judaizers who came into the church and tried to put those in the church already converted back under the Mosaic Law. They taught that they must work their way into the kingdom. He described these false teachers in a three-fold manner.

The apostle wrote, "Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision" (Philippians 3:2). Paul calls these false teachers "dogs" because they are unclean. Paul makes the clear distinction between these unbelievers and those who are true believers. "For we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Yeshua the Messiah and put no confidence in the flesh" (Philippians 3:3).

When Paul refers to them as being "in the flesh," he makes an intentional allusion to their practice of cutting the male organ. By stark contrast, Paul said that we put no confidence in the flesh.

There was a time in Paul's pre-conversion life when he did put confidence in the flesh. He confided, "I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more" (Philippians 3:4).

He expounded a litany of reasons why he once placed confidence in his flesh. The number one reason why he trusted in his own efforts to give him a right standing before God was that he was so properly brought up as an Israelite, even being circumcised on the eighth day.

Though he had been circumcised in the flesh, there came a time in his life in which he no longer trusted in such external symbols of religion. He realized that these physical rituals meant nothing in regard to finding acceptance with God.

He came to understand that what is most important was for God to perform spiritual surgery upon his heart. He must have his old heart cut to the core. His old flesh must be removed, and God must give him a new heart. God must put His Spirit within him and cause him to obey His word.

This golden thread of truth concerning the need for spiritual circumcision runs through the entire Bible. This would be so easy for us, who are non-Jews, to be reading our Bible and hydroplane over this teaching without realizing the full impact of what Paul was saying. In the book of Colossians, we see the apostle address a mixture of Old Testament and New Testament teachings that was trying to put the believers back under the Law.

False teachers had come into the church and were imposing a mixture of humanistic philosophy (Colossians 2:8), Jewish legalism (2:16), bodily asceticism (2:18,21), and subjective mysticism. Each aspect was a foul, polluted stream that flowed into one dirty river, known as the Colossian heresy.

Paul confronts this heresy head-on. He wrote, "And in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands" (Colossians 2:11). If you are a genuine believer in Yeshua the Messiah, He circumcised you with invisible hands.

Here, we see that the need for your heart to be circumcised is not merely an Old Testament teaching. This truth is still applicable to us in the New Testament. The invisible hand of God must bring the piercing to the heart. There must be "the removal of the body of the flesh" (Colossians 2:11).

Here, "flesh" refers not to physical flesh, but to a person's sinful flesh. The only way for this old man to be removed is by the spiritual circumcision that was performed by Christ in the new birth.

This open heart surgery occurred on the day of Pentecost, "When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart" (Acts 2:37). This word "pierced" (*katonusso*) means that one would take a butcher knife and thrust it into the heart of another.

Anyone who has ever been saved has had the sharp instrumentality of the word of God fillet them. They have been cut to the core of their being, bringing them under conviction of sin. They feel their desperate need for the grace of God in the salvation that is in Yeshua the Messiah. This is all a deep work of God in the unbelieving heart.

Admittedly, there are countless people who do not trust in circumcision for their salvation. But they trust in other religious rituals. They rely upon their water baptism to give them a right standing before God. They put confidence in their coming to the Lord's Table. They rely upon other religious activities that are a part of the New Testament church.

Let us be clear, there is no salvation in these physical acts. There is no baptismal regeneration. It is only a picture of what the Spirit must do. Even the Lord's Supper is but a picture of the reality of our drinking the blood and eating the flesh of the Lord Yeshua the Messiah in saving faith. All that matters is the heart.

The point we must take from this is that God is after your heart. If the heart is right, the life will be right with God. If the heart is wrong, the life will be wrong with Him. Solomon says, "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

Yeshua the Messiah commanded us, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and soul, and mind, and strength" (Mark 12:30). Throughout the day, as we are thinking about our walk with the Lord, we must remember that our spiritual life begins with our heart. Afterward, it proceeds to the exterior behavior of one's life. Certainly, the outward sanctions of our lives are important. But it is only genuine if there is the reality of a circumcised heart behind it.

Circumcision was intended to have two aspects, physical (outward) and spiritual (inward). In the Old Testament the physical aspect overshadowed the spiritual, because the rite of circumcision was a requirement for the people to enjoy certain political and religious favors (Ezekiel 12:48; 44:9).

However, Moses emphasized that the people should circumcise the foreskin of their heart and be no longer stubborn (Deuteronomy 10:16) and prayed for God to help them (Deuteronomy 30:6). The prophet Isaiah also harped on the spiritual aspect of circumcision (Isaiah 52:1).

Consequently, we read of uncircumcised lips (Exodus 6:12, 30), ears (Jeremiah 6:10), hearts (Leviticus 26:41; Jeremiah 6:10; Ezekiel 44:7) and God's stern warning in Jeremiah 9:25: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will punish all those who are circumcised merely in the flesh."

There is a corollary to the Old Covenant rite of circumcision in the New Covenant. And the New Testament (and the Old Testament) couldn't make this connection more explicit with a more obvious metaphor: circumcision of the heart (cf. Lev. 26:41; Deut 10:16; 30:6; Jer. 4:4; 31:33; 32:39-40; Ezek. 11:19; 36:26-27; Acts 7:51; Rom. 2:25-29; Col. 2:11).

Under the Old Covenant, those born into a covenant family received the sign of circumcision, which marked their entrance into the covenant. But under the New Covenant, those born *again* into the family of God receive a circumcised heart by the Holy Spirit, which marks their entrance into the covenant.

The Council of Jerusalem or Apostolic Council is a council described in chapter 15 of the Acts of the Apostles, allegedly held in Jerusalem around c. 48-50 AD. The Jerusalem consultation, recounted in Acts 15:1-31, describes a significant practical issue regarding the integration of Gentile believers into what had been a primarily Jewish body of believers. The council did not desire to burden Gentile converts to believers with the Jewish yoke (Acts 15:10, 20).

This depicts that the physical descendants of Abraham and those inhabit in the physical promised land where government and civil laws are governed as per the commandments of God, have the obligation to be circumcised both, physically (outward) and spiritually (inward).

2.3 THE CIVIL LAWS

After the giving of the Ten Commandments, we have the civil laws, seen in Leviticus chapters 21-23. This has to do with the new nation of Israel, and how it was to be administered, and how crimes were to be punished.

We call this the civil law, but the book of Exodus actually calls this and the section on the Ten Commandments the Book of the Covenant. These chapters then conclude with the confirmation of the covenant.

If we begin to think seriously about it, we have some difficult areas to address. Much of what we read has to do with the sacrifices. We really can't imagine ourselves offering sacrifices today. And much of it has to do with penalties for crimes, and we cannot imagine capital punishment for things like sorcery, blasphemy, and homosexuality.

But on the other hand, this is the law of God given on Sinai by God himself. Who are we to say, “Well, we’ll obey some of the laws and we’re just not going to obey other laws”?

As for the civil law was given to Israel, and Israel was a unique kind of state, which was a theocracy, meaning that it was ruled by God. There’s never been another theocracy like this one, which was directly ruled by God. Today, for nations to function, they need to establish their own laws.

These laws were specifically given for the culture and place of the Israelites. Moreover, this law dictated Israel's daily living (Deuteronomy 24:10-11). These are the legal structures and laws for Israel that dealt with the consequences of breaking the law, business practices, and the treatment of servants and slaves.

However, modern society and culture are so radically different today that it seems some of these guidelines cannot be followed specifically that are fulfilled.

The civil laws of nation Israel can be understood by the Abrahamic Covenant, Mosaic Covenant and Davidic Covenant.

2.3.1 The Abrahamic Covenant

There are three critical aspects of the Abrahamic covenant that must be recognized:

1. The Abrahamic covenant is a promise that was made specifically to the descendants of Abraham, through Isaac, and then Jacob (who was later renamed Israel). The ultimate heir of the promises was actually Yeshua the Messiah.
2. The primary emphasis of the promise concerned a very specific and literal piece of land on this earth.
3. The promise made through the Abrahamic covenant is ongoing, irrevocable, and everlasting.

As the covenant-making ceremony ended, the Lord defined the region that he was giving to Abraham and his descendants. The boundaries of the land that was promised were incredibly precise, and it encompassed an area far greater than the relatively small segment of land that is today called the State of Israel.

Here is the specific land that the Lord promised: “From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite” (Genesis 15:18–21).

Based on these descriptions, and other passages where the boundaries are reiterated, it is easy to define the “promised land” according to modern national and natural markers.

Abraham had eight sons altogether. But according to the Scriptures, the promises were only made to the descendants of his one son Isaac (Genesis 17:15–21; 21:9–13). The land promises of the Abrahamic covenant were made solely to the direct descendants of Jacob, the corporate family or nation of Israel.

After the sons of Israel had long been slaves in Egypt, it was out of faithfulness to His covenant that the Lord responded to their misery.

In the midst of their suffering, the Lord identified Himself to Moses as the one who had “appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” and established His “covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they sojourned” (Exodus 6:3–4).

And then, in very clear and direct fashion, the Lord promised to give that very land to “the sons of Israel” as “an everlasting possession.” (Exodus 6: 5–8).

2.3.2 Mosaic Covenant

Four hundred thirty years after the Abrahamic covenant was made, the Lord made another covenant with Israel, this time through Moses. The Mosaic covenant was profoundly different from the Abrahamic covenant.

While the Abrahamic covenant was an unconditional, one-sided promise made by God, the Mosaic covenant was very much a two-sided legal agreement between the Lord and all of Israel. While the Abrahamic covenant is defined by the Lord repeatedly declaring “I will,” the Mosaic covenant is repeatedly defined by, “If you . . . then I . . .”

Within the Mosaic covenant were the regulations and requirements to not only possess the land, but to remain in it: “Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, so that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you” (Deuteronomy 4:1–2).

If on the other hand, the Israelites violated the various laws detailed in the Mosaic covenant, then the Lord would temporarily remove them from the land. For example, in Deuteronomy 4, Moses warned the sons of Israel that if they acted corruptly in the land and fell into idolatry, then “you will surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed. The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord drives you” (Deuteronomy 4: 26–27).

But after such a season of exile, Moses declared, in time God would remember His promise made to them through the Abrahamic covenant and would bring them back to their land: “When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice. For the Lord your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them” (Deuteronomy 4:30–31; emphasis added).

This point is absolutely critical. While the Jews’ permanent residency in the land was contingent upon their obedience to the laws given in the Mosaic covenant, the Lord

never reneged on the initial gift of His land to His corporate people Israel as made through the Abrahamic covenant. But what if they were disobedient and the Lord expelled them from the land?

Did that mean that the land was no longer theirs? Not at all. Even if they became disobedient and the Lord expelled them from the land, “their unbelief [would] not nullify the faithfulness of God . . . May it never be!”

2.3.3 The Davidic Covenant

The Davidic covenant was delivered through Nathan the prophet to King David. Like the Mosaic covenant, the Davidic covenant also begins with a reiteration of the land promises made through the Abrahamic covenant: “I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies” (2 Samuel 7:10–11).

But how will the Lord give Israel rest from her enemies in the land that He has promised? This will only come through Yeshua the Messiah. For immediately following the words above, the Lord promised that a descendant of David would inherit the royal dynasty that would endure forever:

In summary, the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants are unconditional, unilateral promises made by God to man, while the Mosaic covenant is a conditional and bilateral agreement between God and man.

The initial land promise made through the Abrahamic covenant has become the foundational promise upon which every other covenant since that time has been built.

The Mosaic covenant provides Israel with the conditions and regulations necessary to maintain unbroken occupancy of the land. The Davidic covenant, built upon the Abrahamic covenant, promised a King who will rule over Israel at the time when she inherits the land.

The civil commands God gave to the nation of Israel. The believers living in the New Testament world were not in charge of a nation, and so they could not enforce many civil laws given to properly run the nation of Israel.

Messiah said His followers were not to be a part of this world and its governments. Just before His crucifixion, He prayed, “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world” (John 17:14).

Messiah’s Kingdom is of a time yet future, not of this present world. Yeshua told Pilate, “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36). The apostle Paul made that point clear when he wrote that Messiah came to “deliver us from this present evil age” (Galatians 1:4)—Satan’s age.

When tempting Messiah, the devil “took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me’” (Matthew 4:8-9).

Yeshua didn’t challenge Satan’s authority to have “all the kingdoms of the world” under his power. Instead, Messiah simply said, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve’” (Matthew 4:10).

Since this is Satan’s world, Messiah tells us that we should not be a part of it, although we still have to live in it. On the night He was taken to be crucified, Yeshua fervently prayed, “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one” (John 17:15).

2.3.4 Subject to the Governing Authorities

Since believers in Messiah are not of “this present evil age,” God has assigned the responsibility of enforcing civil regulations to worldly rulers, who are also responsible to Him: “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good” (Romans 13:1-4).

Paul himself was mistreated many times by the governments of his day, so he obviously was not implying that they always acted in a godly manner! This is Satan’s world, and many injustices are done that believers in Messiah must deal with.

Of course, when human laws are enacted that require a believer in Messiah to disobey God’s law, then “we ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

For example, as part of the civil law, God demanded that in certain circumstances the death penalty be executed. For example, “he who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death” (Exodus 21:12) and “he who kidnaps a man and sells him, or if he is found in his hand, shall surely be put to death” (Exodus 21:16).

But it is not up to believers in Messiah today to enforce these and other civil penalties; rather, the execution of these sentences is now in the hands of civil authorities.

Clearly, God has given worldly rulers the right to enforce civil law now. In that regard, they are His ministers, responsible for maintaining the civil rules formerly carried out by the government of God’s nation of Israel.

2.4 THE LAWS OF RITUALS AND UNCLEANLINESS

The ceremonial laws are called *hukkim* or *chuqqah* in Hebrew, which literally means “custom of the nation”; the words are often translated as “statutes.” These laws seem to focus the adherent’s attention on God. They include instructions on regaining right standing with God (e.g., sacrifices and other ceremonies regarding “uncleanness”), remembrances of God’s work in Israel, specific regulations meant to distinguish Israelites from their pagan neighbors, and signs that point to the coming Messiah.

Pentateuchal books before and after Leviticus also contribute to our knowledge of sacrifices. The narratives of Genesis and Exodus recount occasions of sacrificial worship by patriarchs from early times and continuing into the worship culture of the Israelite nation, to which additional sacrificial procedures were added (Exodus 12; Leviticus 4–9, 16).

This type of law related to Israel's worship and the things they needed to do to the God chosen people (Leviticus 1:1-13) The laws pointed forward to Yeshua the Messiah and were no longer necessary after Yeshua's death and resurrection. Though we are no longer bound to them, the principles behind the ceremonial laws, to worship and love God, still apply.

Leviticus 11–15 give instructions regarding physical ritual impurities. This section logically precedes Leviticus 16, regarding the Day of Atonement, when physical impurities are purged from the sanctuary along with moral faults (Leviticus 16, 19).

Following Leviticus 1–16, which lay out the core of the sacrificial system (see above and further below), Leviticus 17–26 provide what is commonly known as the ‘Holiness Code’ (with Leviticus 27 often viewed as an appendix).

Some of these chapters supply reminders and additional information regarding sacrifice. For example, Leviticus 17 reinforces the requirement to sacrifice only at the sanctuary (during Israel’s wilderness wanderings) and the prohibition of eating meat with its blood (Leviticus 3:17; 7:26).

Additionally, sacrificeable species of animals may be slaughtered for food only as well-being offerings. Leviticus 23 gives directions for the observance of festivals, and Leviticus 24:5–9 provides instructions for making the ‘bread of the Presence’ and placing it on the table in the sanctuary.

Several passages in the book of Numbers provide instructions regarding sacrifices. These include, for example, supplementary information concerning restitution preceding reparation offerings (Number 5:6–8); directions for sacrifices by Nazirites (Number 6:10–12, 14–21); specification of grain and drink offerings to accompany some kinds of sacrifices (Number 15:3–16); reiteration of the provision for purification offerings in cases of inadvertent sin, with revision of the sacrifice for the community (Number 15:22–29); the prescription for the red cow ritual to provide ashes for purification from corpse impurity (Number 19); and a liturgical calendar outlining corporate sacrifices (Number 28–29).

In Deuteronomy, when the Israelites are safely settled in the land of Canaan, they must offer sacrifices and celebrate their festivals only at the central place of worship that God will choose (Deuteronomy 12, 16).

However, if they live too far from there (unlike in Leviticus 17), they will be allowed to slaughter their sacrificeable domestic animals for meat where they dwell, provided that they drain out the blood (Deuteronomy 12:15-16, 20-25).

In Deuteronomy 21, an elimination ritual to free the community from responsibility for an unsolved murder involves breaking the neck of a heifer (Deuteronomy 21: 1-9), but this is not a sacrifice because nothing is offered to the deity and the mode of slaughter is non-sacrificial.

Some Jews believe that the ceremonial law is not fixed. They hold that, as societies evolve, so do God's expectations of how His followers should relate to Him. This view is not indicated in the Bible. The believers out of the nation Israel are not bound by ceremonial law.

Galatians 3:23-25 explains that since Yeshua the Messiah has come, believers are not required to sacrifice or circumcise. The Ceremonial Law helped the Israelites was introduced to be more disciplined than the surrounding nations.

CHAPTER 3

Conclusion



The *Torah*, also known as the Five Books of Moses, contains 613 Commandments, of which are 248 positive commands and 365 restrictions. Do we have to obey all of them i.e. 613 commandments? If we obey all of them, then we will not be the new covenant people, but remain the old covenant people of God. And if we don't obey any of those, then we are not God's people.

This depicts that some of those laws are still to be obeyed and followed by the new covenant people of God. Then, how to know which of those 613 laws are still binding on the new covenant people? The rule is simple, we don't pick and choose what we like and leave what we don't like.

We listen to what Yeshua the Messiah and first century's apostles taught through their words and actions in the New Testament about these various laws. If it is attested in the New Testament, then new covenant people have to follow it. And if it is clearly told that a particular law is fulfilled and no longer binding on us, then we don't need to follow it.

These 613 commandments can be further categorized into 8 categories, viz. (i) The Law of Love, (ii) The 10 Commandments Law, (iii) The Dietary Laws, (iv) The Tithing Laws, (v) The Laws of Sacrifices and Offerings, (vi) The Law of Circumcision, (vii) The Civil Laws and (viii) The Laws of Ritual Purity and Uncleanliness.

3.1 The Law of Love

Law and love may mean different things to different people. In fact, some people see law and love as opposed to each other. But they're not opposing ideas in the Bible. Yeshua and the apostles Paul and John, all say that love fulfils The Law of God. Love for God and loving our neighbour as we love ourselves is what obeying God's law is all about.

3.2 The 10 Commandments Law

The **Ten Commandments** of God that was given to the children of Israel by speaking to them from mount Sinai, and through Moses that was written in two tables with the finger of God. These commandments were existed from the creation itself, but for the first time it was given to children of Israel in the written form at mount Sinai.

Some believers say that 9 of the 10 commandments are binding upon us, but the 4th Commandment [i.e. Sabbath Commandment] is not clearly mentioned in the New Testament. In fact, more than the other 9, the Sabbath is mentioned the most number of times in the New Testament.

In more than 50 places in the New Testament the Sabbath is mentioned and not even once Yeshua or the apostles ever said that it will be changed or that it will end.

We have a very direct and positive command to keep the 10 commandments even in the New Testament. So, it is clear all the 10 commandments are still binding upon us as well.

3.3 The Dietary Laws

In the biblical account of the two trees (Genesis 2:8–9; 3:1–7), we saw that God did not force Adam and Eve to accept His divinely revealed instructions. They chose to use human reasoning, separate from God’s directions.

To win the age-old battle against disease, each of us must make our own choices today. Will we obey God, or do we think we have a better way (Deuteronomy 30:15–20; Matthew 7:14)? It is very clear that the dietary laws of the Old Testament continue in the New Testament.

3.4 The Tithing Laws

God says He will bless you if you begin tithing as He commands through faith in Him and in His word. Literally hundreds of case histories may be cited to show that God certainly does bless the tither in many ways.

He may not always do so immediately you may have to obey Him and exercise faith for a while. But as you serve Him, obey Him, and trust Him, God will keep His part of the bargain.

Tithing is a perfect system of God, even to be carried out in the New Testament Church.

3.5 The Laws of Sacrifices and Offerings

The order in which the core sacrificial prescriptions appear in Leviticus 1–16 is logical and begins with previously known categories of sacrifices that individual Israelites could voluntarily offer.

Leviticus 4–5 introduce two new kinds of mandatory expiatory sacrifices that were instituted with the establishment of the sanctuary: sin offering and trespass offering. It makes sense in terms of didactic effectiveness that Leviticus 1–5 introduce the **five basic categories of sacrifices – burnt offering, grain offering, peace offering, sin offering and trespass offering – one at a time**, before supplementary instructions in Leviticus 6–7 that are primarily for the priests.

As believers in Yeshua the Messiah, we have the assurance of pardon, and that our names are inscribed in the Book of Life not by our works but through our faith. And we do not need to ask to be inscribed every year, as Messiah’s work was and is final.

The sacrifices in the Old Testament pointed forward to the perfect and final sacrifice of Messiah. As with the rest of the Law, the sacrifices were “a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Messiah” (Colossians 2:17).

Believers today recognize Messiah’s atoning death on the cross as the only needed sacrifice for sin, offered once for all (Hebrews 10:1–10). His death opened

the “holy place” for us (Hebrews 10:19–22) so that we can freely enter God’s presence and offer our “sacrifice of praise” (Hebrews 13:15; cf. 9:11–28; 4:14—5:10).

The Apostle Paul assures us that God, rich in mercy, loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, making us alive together with Messiah. (Ephesians 2:4-6).

Further he says, Yeshua’s sacrifice is in vain if we I depended for my salvation in old sacrifices and offerings. It can be referred in Galatian 2:20-21, 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17, 54-55, 58; 2 Corinthians 5:21-; 6:1-13....] In Hebrews 10 also we read that these offerings and sacrifices were the shadow of Yeshua the Messiah.

3.6 The Law of Circumcision

The Council of Jerusalem or Apostolic Council is a council described in chapter 15 of the Acts of the Apostles, allegedly held in Jerusalem around c. 48–50 AD. The Jerusalem consultation, recounted in Acts 15:1-31, describes a significant practical issue regarding the integration of Gentile believers into what had been a primarily Jewish body of believers. The council did not desire to burden Gentile converts to believers with the Jewish yoke (Acts 15:10, 20).

This depicts that the physical descendants of Abraham and those inhabit in the physical promised land where government and civil laws are governed as per the commandments of God, have the obligation to be circumcised both, physically (outward) and spiritually (inward).

3.7 The Civil Laws

It is not up to believers in Messiah today to enforce these and other civil penalties; rather, the execution of these sentences is now in the hands of civil authorities.

Clearly, God has given worldly rulers the right to enforce civil law now. In that regard, they are His ministers, responsible for maintaining the civil rules formerly carried out by the government of God’s nation of Israel.

3.8 The Laws of Ritual Purity and Uncleanliness.

Some Jews believe that the ceremonial law is not fixed. They hold that, as societies evolve, so do God’s expectations of how His followers should relate to Him. This view is not indicated in the Bible. The believers out of the nation Israel are not bound by ceremonial law. Galatians 3:23-25 explains that since Yeshua the Messiah has come, believers are not required to sacrifice or circumcise. The Ceremonial Law helped the Israelites was introduced to be more disciplined than the surrounding nations.

However, until and unless you are born again, keeping these Commandments and Laws of God will be of burdensome. But after born again, people of God will love to keep them.



Samir Stephan Kujur

ABOUT THE WRITER

My name is Samir Stephan Kujur, and it's so nice to meet you! In mid 1970s, I was born and brought up in a Christian family. During foundation years of my life (up to 12th standard of my school years), I was in boarding schools and had the opportunity to be part of well architected and disciplined routine life. During these foundation years, moral and spiritual teachings were engrained in my life through regular practice of meditation, attending daily prayers and Holy Mass, etc. In real sense, I was living in His fellowship and enjoying the sweetness of life. However, from early 1990s to mid 2010s, I was drifted away from Him. I left meditation, stopped praying and attending Holy Mass. I felt like I was living in wilderness ... no peace, no success. It was a difficult period and my life literally became hell. I was in trap of devil and was involved in satanic activities. Although I was born and brought up in a Christian family, I never read the complete 66 Books of the Bible (from Genesis Chapter 1 to Revelation Chapter 22) till the age of my late 30s.

After mid 2010s, once again I started meditating but in different format. It was a combination of Raj Yoga, Reiki and Aura Cleansing and reading the Bible. However, this time I was having lots of questions in my mind. Who am I? What is Soul, Spirit, Holy Spirit and their relationship? Who is God? How could there be the Trinity God? What is the relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit? and so on ... Also found lots of differences between the words of God in the Bible and Churches' teachings and liturgical practices. I got confused, but never stopped praying and reading the New Testament, Old Testament (different versions- TEV, NIV, KJV, Urantia Book, etc.), Torah and Quran to some extent.

By the Grace of God, I got the answers of my above questions. My life has changed. I am having so many supernatural experiences in my daily life. Here I am sharing some of them as my testimony:

[1] The Vision of {The Divine Mercy}

After mid-2010, I got several messages in dreams through departed souls of my loved ones, especially from my grandmother, but I didn't believe them because I had no clarity on their messages. Then I prayed, Lord I need a clear message from you. Then on 20th December 2018 around 4:15am to 4:30am, I had the vision, like a short Dream of The Divine Mercy. It was just for a fraction of second. I asked him, Whether I should go to Church or not? He replied, You May Go, then left. No fear or excitement, only plain conversation. I got the confirmation from Him. Now I had no choice to ignore anymore.

[2] The Vision of {The Throne of the Almighty}

Although I got the confirmation from the vision of the Divine Mercy, but my little human brain was not satisfied, I said to myself, it was just for a fraction of second, I didn't see Him properly and He left. I thought, maybe it was my illusion. Now I had another doubt, Is Yeshua God or is just like one of the God's servants? However, I never stopped praying and reading the Bible.

After about 9 and half months of the vision of The Divine Mercy, I had another vision, which was a long Dream. This time it was The Throne of the Almighty. The date of this vision was on September 30, 2019 between 4:15 am and 5:45am and lasted for almost 90 min. Initially, appeared like a bright star at distant on sky. Then, it started coming closure to me, and I show The Throne of the Almighty. It looked like someone is sitting on the throne, but face was invisible. As it was approaching closer to me, The Throne of the Almighty was magnifying with increased brightness, and at one point it approached next to me with magnified multifold and brightness, which was impossible for me to see it from my opened eyes. However, this brightness had no heat or temperature, but had very pleasant or bliss feeling.

After this vision, the LORD revealed my future task that is His Will to be fulfilled through me on this earth. They are related to: spread the Good News across the globe, perform one of the similar type of roles of Prophet Elijah, praying for needy souls, especially who are in captivity of evil spirits, revealing the messages of salvation, always remain in his fellowship and walk with Him.

Establishing the blog sites, youtube channels, writing books and articles are some of the baby steps I have taken to fulfil God's Will.

[3] The Dream of The Rapture Event

After 9 months of the vision of The Throne of the Almighty, I had a dream, which was a short Dream. This time it was The Rapture Event. The date of this dream was on June 27, 2020 between 3:30 am and 4:00 am and lasted for about 10-15 minutes. I saw that some human beings went up in the clouds to meet Yeshua. In night, He appeared in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory, the scene was almost same as described by Apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. Yeshua descended from Heaven to receive His people with open hands. As the Scriptures state, there was no light of SUN, MOON or STARS, it was the brightness of His presence. It was a beautiful revelation to me and had bliss feelings. In the dream there were two groups of humankind. The people of one group, who went up in the clouds to meet Yeshua and their earthly

bodies were transformed in to glorified bodies, also known as celestial bodies that happened in fraction of a second as mentioned in First Corinthians 15:51-52, and were shining very bright in the presence of Yeshua, and the other group of people remained on the earth to face consequences of The Great Tribulation. Luckily by the GRACE of GOD, I saw myself being in the group of people who went up in clouds to meet Yeshua, but I do remember one of my relatives was among the people in the other group. Then the alarm clock rang at 4:00 am.

Initially I thought it was about the second coming of Yeshua and His 1000-years reign on Earth, but The Holy Spirit revealed me that it was about the Rapture Event that will take place in the pre- tribulation period.

[4] & [5] The Short Vision and The Gift of Tongues

After 5 and half months that is about 163 days of the short dream of The Rapture, I received The Gift of Tongues. This time it was The Gift of the Holy Spirit. The date of receiving the gift was on December 08, 2020, between 12:50 am and 1:20 am. On December 07, 2020, around 8:00pm, I was having an in-depth Bible study and reflecting on The Rapture events. In between I had a short vision. I was taken away about 15-20 minutes from my natural state, but I could not recall what had happened to me during this short period. I felt like I slept for a while. I do recall that immediate before this event neither I was feeling tired nor sleepy. It transpired all of a sudden and when my eyes opened, I was very much afresh; as nothing had happened to me. There was no sign of feeling a sleep at all. Immediately, I tried to recall what had happened to me but couldn't recall any supernatural sign. I can say that I was taken away for 15-20 minutes from my natural state. Then without wasting my time in thinking about this, I continued my study and reflections on the Rapture related events mentioned in the Bible. Once the study was over around 11:00pm to 11:15 pm, I started to watch an youtube video on "HOW CAN I BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT" which was made by Rev. Amit Christian, an Evangelical Bible preacher from India. At the end of the message, he said that those who want to receive "THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT", please stand up. He emphasised that it's not a compulsion, and requested only those who really want the gift voluntarily. I knelt down and started praying with the preacher, and all of a sudden, my tongue started praying in unknown heavenly language. My tongue was not in my control, and this was the very first prayer in my life, as I remember that I prayed in the spirit.

[6] Supernatural Experience and the Dream of Angels

After 4 months that is about 124 days of The Gift of Tongues, I had another supernatural experience in my life and had a dream of heavenly beings. This time it was The Angels. The date of this event was on April 12, 2021, between 7:25am and 8:00am and a dream around 11:00pm and 12:00pm on the same date. On April 11, 2021, my wife and I handed over our all household items to Packers & Movers team for its shifting from Delhi to Odisha, and on April 12, 2021, early morning we handed over the keys of rented house to the house owner, went on main road and started to wait auto taxi to drop us to the railway station. It took us about 30 minutes to get an auto taxi that is 3 wheeler and we had left only 35 minutes time to reach the railway station and board the train. We were also carrying about 6-7 heavy luggage with us, and within this 35 minutes we had to reach, go through the special checking

procedure at station. The special checking procedure was made compulsory due to COVID, and rush towards the platform number 5 and board the train.

Practically it was impossible in next 35 minutes, until and unless the train gets delayed, or some supernatural miracle happens. We started at 7:25am from Katwaria Sarai, which is Near IIT, Delhi and the train was scheduled to depart at 8:00am from Anand Vihar Railway station. The distance between Katwaria Sarai and Anand Vihar Railway station is about 24km, which takes around 45 -60min by auto taxi. In auto both of us, my wife and I kept mum for almost 30 minutes. We had no options left with us, except to remember and surrender everything to God. We prayed to God individually. I prayed Him, and said "Lord this is your plan that we should leave Delhi, and now we are in your hands...please take care of us", whereas my wife prayed, and said "Lord let us not miss the train". We don't know how it happened, but we reached station at 7:50am that is in 25 minutes. A coolie with luggage carrier cart was waiting to receive us at railway station. He asked the name of the train, kept our luggage in the cart and said us to follow him. We kept running after him, no one asked or stopped us to check the ticket or scan the luggage at entrance, and by 7:55am we were at platform number 5 next to the coach of our reserved berths. He also helped us to get in our luggage in the train. Then I thanked him and paid the agreed labor fee of Indian Rupee 400. He smiled and left. We kept the luggage and took our respective berths, and within 1 minute train left the station. The train was on time and left the platform exactly at 8:00am...Wow! what a miracle...We thanked God for the superb plan.

Around 9:00pm we had our dinner and went back to our respective berths. I took the upper berth. I read some chapters from the Bible, prayed in heavenly tongue and slept. Around 11:00pm to 12:00pm I had a dream. In the dream I was standing with a small group of people in an unknown place. All of a sudden something like a sea of glass as mentioned in the Revelation 4:6; 15:2 spread across the ground. It looked like a still calm sea water surface.

In my right side at the end of the sea I saw a marvelous City or may be a Great Throne. At once I stepped down on the sea and walked on the water like Peter did in Matthew 14:29. I do remember that I was not afraid of walking on the water surface, but after few steps I started sinking similar to Peter had in Matthew 14:30. I didn't cry as Peter did, and within no time water came upto the level of my waist. Then I saw three angels came on motor boat. Their garments were pure white, I can realise that they were not of this world because they were in their celestial bodies, and one of them stretched forth his hand and caught me as Yeshua did to Peter in Matthew 14:31, and took me with them into the boat.

[7] The Short Vision of Heaven

After 2 and half months that is about 76 days of Dream of Angles, I had another short vision. This time it was vision of Heaven. The date of this vision was on June 28, 2021, between 3:40am and 3:50am. It was just for a fraction of second. I saw on clouds opening of Heaven. It was not merely the clouds parting or appearing something on clouds, but opening of Heaven as mentioned in Ezekiel 1:1; Mark 1:10; Acts 7:56 and Revelation 4:1.

The vision was similar to Prophet Micaiah as recorded in 1 Kings 22:19, it says, I saw the LORD sitting on His Throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right hand and on His left. The vision was amazing and beyond the human imagination. There is nothing on this world that can be used to compare this. When I had this vision, at once my spirit started praising LORD in heavenly language and I got up.

[8] The Short Vision of Heaven and Fall of Satan

After 3 months that is about 84 days of The Short Vision of Heaven, I had another short vision. This time it was again the Vision of Heaven and Fall of Satan. The date of this vision was on September 20, 2021, between 1:10am and 1:15am and on September 21, 2021, around 12:10am. On September 20, 2021, I saw on clouds opening of Heaven. The opening of Heaven was similar to my earlier vision of June 28, 2021, and I saw the LORD sitting on His Throne, and all the host of Heaven standing by Him on His right hand and on His left. All the host of Heaven were praising the LORD in the same manner as mentioned in Revelation 12:10 which says, And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

I also saw the Satan and his angels falling down from heaven as mentioned in Revelation 12:8-9, it says, neither was their place found anymore in heaven. He was cast out unto the earth, and his angels were cast out with him; and said by Yeshua in Luke chapter 10 verse 18 which says, And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

And I saw the earth became dark as mentioned in Isaiah 13:10; Joel 2:10; Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:12 and Revelation 8:12 which say, the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and star shall withdraw their shining. Then my wife put on the fan, and my vision discontinued, and I came back to my natural realm. Once again, on September 21, 2021, I saw the LORD sitting on His Throne, and all the host of Heaven standing by Him on His right hand and on His left. All the host of Heaven were praising the LORD. However, this time the scene in Heaven as well as tone of praise was different from the vision of September 20, 2021. It was something similar to the Alleluia! as mentioned in Revelation 19:1-8, and Psalm 118:24 that says, This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

[9] The Short Vision of Heaven

After 2 months [61 days] of the Vision of Heaven and Fall of Satan, once again I had a similar short Vision of Heaven that I had on 28th June 2021. The date of this vision was on 22nd November 2021 between 3:20am – 3:21am. It was just for a fraction of second. I saw on clouds opening of Heaven. It was not merely the clouds parting or appearing something on clouds, but opening of Heaven as mentioned in Ezekiel 1:1; Mark 1:10; Acts 7:56 and Revelation 4:1.

On 21st November 2021, I was in a journey from Jharsuguda (Odisha) to Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh). This was also the first day, I started to read entire 150 Chapters of the Psalms on daily basis (divided in three sections – morning, afternoon and evening as our ancestors in faith did in the early days). Morning and afternoon readings I

completed on the way, but the last section I completed in the hotel before going to bed.

The vision was again similar to Prophet Micaiah as recorded in 1 Kings 22:19, "I saw the LORD sitting on His Throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right hand and on His left." The vision was amazing and beyond the human imagination. When I had this vision, at once my spirit started praising LORD in heavenly language and I got up.

[10] Confirmation Dream to Observe Sabbath

There are different opinions among the believer in Yeshua to observe Sabbath [some say yes, and others say no] and the day [some say on Saturday, and others say on Sunday] of its observance. In second half of the year 2019 i.e. in August- September, I started to observe Sabbath on seventh day of the week [i.e. Friday Evening to Saturday Evening as Jewish Community and some Christian denominations observe it]. I was convinced to observe it by referring the scriptures, right from the Genesis [Genesis 2:2-3] to the Book of Revelation [Revelation 22:14]. On 27th January 2022, Lord confirmed me in a dream to observe it. I had a dream of a long pending [it was of pre 1990s] under-construction Protestant Church in my village. Children were playing in the ground next to the church, and I saw a big cross at the top of the Church's main entrance gate. The cross was not fixed straight at the top as usual we see on church buildings but elevated at an angle of between 60-90 degree against the wall of the main building, and on the cross I saw the word written "SABBATH".

[11] The Next Level of Gift of Tongues – Singing in Tongues

After receiving the Gift of Tongues on 8th December 2020, I completely stopped using the traditional Catholic Prayers that I had learnt from my childhood. I also found the reference in Matthew 6:7 which emphasises to avoid using vain repetitions, Since then, at least 3 times in a day [Psalm 55:17; Daniel 6:10, 13; also Apostles & early church prayer timing were third hour (Acts 2:15), six hour (Acts 10:9), and ninth hour (Acts 3:1), however there are evidences in the Bible that Yeshua prayed more than 5 times in a day], I am praying in tongues and practicing my personal conversation with God [Ephesians 6:18-19]. Now it's almost 18 months, but hardly a day went by that I missed praying in tongues. At the conclusion of the last Sabbath [i.e. on Saturday, July 02, 2022], God blessed me with the next level of Gift of Tongues, i.e. Singing in Tongues [Romans 14:17; 15:13; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16; Jude 1:20]

As usual I was observing the 4th Commandment as spelt out in the Bible [Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; and several other places]. On Saturday, in the conclusion hours of the Sabbath (at around 5:30pm), I started watching an episode of Sid Roth's "Its Supernatural", where a Jewish lady, Ms. Janie DuVall was sharing her testimony about "the Gift of Tongues" and at around 6:10pm, she started singing in unknown languages. All of a sudden, my spirit also started singing in unknown tongues. It lasted for about 3-4 minutes. Then I concluded the Sabbath observance at around 7:00pm-7:15pm with prayer, singing and scripture reading. Praise the Lord!

[12] The Dream of Seven Angels

On Friday, June 16, 2023 evening we that is my wife and I welcomed the Sabbath and did attend the online vesper services. After dinner I went to bed. And around mid-

night I had a dream. In dream, I saw seven angels dressed in pure white clothing, but they didn't have wings. They were holding the trumpets as mentioned in the Book of Revelation 8:1-2-6. Their appearance was like human beings and were very attentive and ready to blow the trumpets anytime. In dream I also saw a narrow path ending with a gate that was about to shut down. I ran on the narrow path towards the gate. When I reached, I bent down and entered into the gate with a great difficulty. The gate was closing in the manner of a huge shutter, and the shutter was coming down from the top. I do remember that the opened area of the gate was remained less than about one to one and half feet from the ground and was expected to close down anytime.

[13] Vision of the God's Word

On September 24, 2023, around 5:15am I had the vision of a Bible verse. I was laying on bed and trying to recall my dream. My eyes were closed and all of a sudden, a Bible verse flashed out before my eyes and moved from left to right. The Bible verse was Revelation 6:2. I tried to recall the message of this verse, but I couldn't. Then I opened the scripture that is installed in my Mobile Phone Application and read it. When I looked at message of this verse, I was astonished. I respired and asked myself, how this can be possible? If this is the case, then church that is the Body of Christ would have been raptured or moved into Ark or Goshen by this time. I also cross checked the parallel scriptures of Revelation 6:1-8. Some of them I checked were Ezekiel 14:21; Daniel 12:4-13; Ezekiel 2:9-10; Zechariah 6:1-9, Zechariah 11:8, and entire chapters of Ezekiel 35 to 38.

According to the Lunisolar Calendar, also known as the Hebrew or the Jewish Calendar, the New Year is just started on September 15, 2023 that is 5784, and it's the season of Fall Feasts also known as the appointed times of God. The Fall Feasts are the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles, which are also the shadows of Messiah's Next Coming. The prophecy of Daniel and the Book of Revelation reveal that these appointed times will be fulfilled in the Seven Years span of time, especially the first two-, and 1000-year reign of Messiah will go on. I did dig deep into the scriptures and found that Revelation 6:2 talks about the coming of the false Messiah that is Antichrist an imitator of the true Messiah who is mentioned in Revelation 19:11-16.

The scriptures say, initially the False Messiah will imitate himself as a peace maker and will deceive the world for three and half years that is 42 months. It is also expected that peace treaties will be signed, and the Third Temple will be built in Jerusalem. It will be built on the same area, where the earlier two temples were located which houses the al-Aqsa compound and belonged to the international community under the administration of the United Nations through the Trusteeship Council. It was granted this special status for its importance to the three Abrahamic religions. The Third Temple will be built within three and half years that is within 42 months under the leadership of False Messiah, and Jewish community who are Non-believers in Yeshua will declare and accept him their long-awaited Messiah. However, on the day of the dedication of the temple, False Messiah will declare himself God, either by his physical presence or putting his image or statue in the temple for the worship.

According to my vision, if the Revelation 6:2 is activated in year 2023, then we can expect that the Third Temple will be built before year 2027. During this period, God's

judgement will be executed through the False Messiah; then in the remaining half of the seven years' period that is in the 42 months will be of God's wrath. The scripture says, especially in Luke 17:26-36; John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; Revelation 3:10; 7:9-17 that before the situation of this world gets worse, church will be raptured or put into the Ark or Goshen.

Therefore, I pray thee, don't wait for the Great Tribulation or the Second Coming of Yeshua the Messiah on earth. Rather, repent and get baptized that is Born Again and be part of the rapture event or be in the Ark / Goshen to avoid the Great Tribulation. Don't be deceived. The purpose of the second coming of Messiah on earth is to save Israel, judge Satan and Satan's followers, rule on earth for 1000 years and establish God's Kingdom forever.

[14] Dream of Scriptures related to Yeshua's Blood, Cross, Nails and Crown of Thorns

On October 06, 2023, around 3:30am and 4:30am, I had a dream of a huge book. The book was opened on the page where details of the cup of blood, cross, nails and crown of thorns were mentioned. I do recall, the appearance of book was not like the normal Bible that we see in our churches or homes. It was a huge book, and the opened page had the summary of Messiah's suffering as mentioned in the book of Isaiah, Psalms, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. In the opened page, the details were mentioned in both, written text on left side and pictorial form on the right side to the respective texts. They were explained in three sections: First section it was about the blood of Yeshua the Messiah with the symbol of a cup. Second section it was about the crown of thorns and nails. And the third section, it was about the cross. Moreover, I also saw the multi-paged documents prepared for persons living in India. The papers of the document were greenish in colour. It looked like a contract document or progress report, which was attested by the authorised signatory on every page of the document. It was interesting to see that in one of the pages, at the middle of the page a rectangular box was made for putting the mandatory signature of main authorised official of India that is the Prime Minister of India. And I saw the document was signed in full by the present Prime Minister of India that is Mr. Narendra Modi. The signature was in blue colour. In the dream, I also saw some of my relatives, especially priests and nuns, who have devoted their lives for the service of God and are associated with different congregations in the religious order of Roman Catholic.

[15] Lost and Found

On Friday, November 17, 2023, my wife and I went to purchase some grocery items to the nearby weekly market which is spread over more than 5 acres open field near bus stand and railway station in Purani Bast, Jharsuguda. The marketplace is about 2 kilometres away from my residence. It is a crowded market, where people come from different parts of the city and rural areas as well. I was carrying my personalised cardcase in my front pant pocket, having multiple cards in it, such as bank ATM, driving license, etc. Till Sunday morning I was not aware that I lost my cardcase. The main reason behind this was that on Friday and Saturday we were busy in preparing and keeping the Sabbath. This includes, preparing food, welcoming the Sabbath, attending Vesper and Sabbath services, reading bible, fasting and taking rest. On Sunday morning I needed my bank ATM card to do some financial transactions, but I didn't find my personalised cardcase. I searched in my pant pockets and other anticipated places in the house. My wife and I did the similar exercises of the woman who had lost one piece of silver that is mentioned in Luke 15:8. But we didn't find it in

house. I was least bothered about the bank ATM card, because in my bank account there was hardly few hundreds of rupees. Therefore, I didn't block the card and was planning to apply for the reissuance of the card. But I was sad for losing my Driving License. On Monday, that is November 20, 2023, at 7:00pm my wife offered a small prayer for the same in our evening family prayer meeting. Next morning, that is on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, around 10:32am she received an one liner SMS, the text message in her mobile stating that the ATM card is with him. We thanked God for the quick response. Immediately I made a call on the unknown number and confirmed his location, which was at Badmaal. The location was about 10 km away from our residence. He also told me that he found it in the Friday Weekly Market. My wife and I went and collected the cardcase from him around 1:30pm. I thanked and asked him, how did he get the number? I asked this because I hardly share the number which is used by my wife. Then he replied that the number is in the ID card. I was surprised to know that my ID card was also there in the cardcase. Then I checked the cardcase and found an expired old employment ID card, and the same number was mentioned in the Emergency Contact. Once again, we thanked him and journeyed back home. This incident helped me and my wife to strengthen our faith in God and take another baby step to come closure to Him.

Praise the Lord!

[16] In Dream Yeshua the Messiah Called Me by My First Name...

On Wednesday, 3rd January 2024, I had a dream where Yeshua the Messiah called me by pronouncing my First Name. That is "Samir". I had this dream between 12:30am and 1:55am.

The scene of the dream was similar to the Sermon on the Mount as described in Matthew chapters 5 6 &7. We, a group of 10-15 people along with Yeshua were walking in a small hillock, and Yeshua was telling us something amazing about the location and it's surroundings. Yeshua was explaining us in a similar way as a tourist guide does.

At some point I was left behind from the group, and Yeshua turned to me and lovingly called me by pronouncing my first name, that is "Samir". I was surprised to hear my first name. I thought that He would call me by my Christian name, that is "Stephan". His voice was tender and sweet.

Then He told me about my upcoming responsibilities during the reign of His Millenium Kingdom. I was amazed to hear my responsibilities, because my present skills related to financial management is very poor. But Yeshua was telling me to look after the treasury of one of the Churches during His Millenium Kingdom Reign. But I didn't hesitate to accept the entrusted responsibilities, because I remembered various examples in the Bible, also Yeshua says in Matthew chapter 19 verse 26 that with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

He also showed me a white building with marble bricks that will be the treasury house of the Church. Geographically, the territory of the Church will be from Jharkhand

(Khunti District where I completed my early schooling) to Chhattisgarh (Surguja District, my professional service area) in India.

During the conversation, I also asked the Messiah about the upcoming Great Tribulation and presence of the Holy Spirit on earth. Yeshua replied that the Holy Spirit is on earth to prepare the Church. And Church will be raptured before the Great Tribulation, and the Holy Spirit will be taken out of the earth as stated in Second Thessalonians 2:7.

Now the rapture event is revealed to me for the second time. The first revelation was done to me on June 27, 2020. This is the second confirmation that I will be raptured among the group of living people. God will not allow my physical death in this life. Interestingly, as per the devil, my death is planned 15 days after the rapture event. But God will not allow devil to do it, because except God, neither I nor devil knows the actual date and time of the rapture event.

It was also revealed to me that in coming days, God will perform a healing miracle through me. God will heal a blind woman, who's daughter cried when she came to know about the blindness of her mother. Moreover, it was also confirmed that I am assigned to do the God's ministry in country sites, that is in rural and jungle areas, where illiterate community or those have low literacy rate inhabit.

Praise the Lord!

[17] Dream of God's Words

On Friday, 2nd February 2024 evening, we attended the Sabbath welcome service. The core message of the vesper service was about Christian parenting. During the service God's servant revealed that now a days Christians are parenting their children to perform in churches or stages rather than doing true worshipping. Moreover, now a days, churches and worship places are becoming the place of entertainment.

After the prayer service, I had my dinner and I wanted to share my latest eBook, titled, An Amazing Revelation of Yeshua the Messiah - The Unseen Story to people of last few countries that were in my email list. But my email service provider didn't allow me and getting message on screen "you reached the day's limit of sending emails". When sharing of eBook by email didn't work, I started going through the scriptures, and asked God, what next? And God revealed me to work on two themes. First, related to the Laws of God and second related to the God's church.

Then I continued to search the related scriptures, and as usual my wife went to bed early. After some time, my flesh gave up as stated in Matthew 26:41. It says, the spirit is indeed willing but the flesh is weak. Around 1:30am my wife opened the washroom door, and I found myself sleeping. So I got up, shut down the laptop and went to bed. But I could not sleep for next 1-2 hours. My mind was wandering on my ongoing problems and took away my peace. I made efforts to control it by myself, and tried to sleep but I couldn't.

I cried to God, why these things are happening to me on the day of rest? It never happened earlier. Then I had a short prayer quoting some Bible verses what Yeshua

promised in Matthew 1:28. Yeshua says, come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. And scripture in Matthew 12:8, Mark 2:28, and Luke 6:5, where Yeshua says, the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath. I surrendered my body, soul and spirit in the control of the Lord, and asked, let Him use me the way He wants, and let me have the peace in my mind. In next 5 minutes I got into deep sleep, and around 4:30am and 6:30am I had a dream.

In the dream, my wife and I were with a group of believers in a country site. It was a pleasant moment, and all were enjoying the fellowship of each other. After some time, my wife asked me to open the Book of Hosea 23 that she can read during the fellowship. But that moment I didn't have physical Bible in my hand, and I didn't recall the said scripture. I handed over my mobile phone to her and asked to refer it from the digital Bible that is installed in my mobile phone. I also asked her to refer Psalm chapter 23. And at the same time believers began to sing Psalm 23.

When I got up, I opened the book of Hosea. I was surprised to know that the book has 14 chapters only. Now I was puzzled and thought let me go through the verse of 23 of each chapter and find one of the appropriate messages from them. I prayed to God to reveal me the appropriate message. And you know, God comforted me from my anxiety by going through the chapters. Out of 14 chapters, I found 13 chapters that contain less than 20 verses. And in chapter 2, I found the 23rd verse, that was the last verse of the chapter. It was a great relief, which didn't lead me to any confusion in finding the message. Then I recalled the scripture which says, our God is not the God of confusion, but of peace. This can be referred in 1 Corinthians 14:33, James 2:17, Philippians 4:7, 2 Thessalonians 3:16, Galatians 5:22, and Romans 15:33.

I reflected upon the message of Hosea 2:23. It says, And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.

Hosea was a prophet living in the northern kingdom of Israel during the mid-750s to early 720s BC. Prophet Hosea was gifted by God to perceive and discern the spiritual condition of kingdoms or nations; and be God's spokesperson of either blessing or judgement depending on that spiritual or moral state of being which was observed or discerned.

The book of Hosea is almost exclusively about the falling away of Ephraim, the northern tribe of Israel, and their redemption. It is beautifully played out to show Father's everlasting love of covenant people and verses from Hosea are reiterated many times in other books of the Bible.

The context for verse 23 of the second chapter of Hosea itself depicts that the eleven verses of making up the first chapter, and twenty-two verses of the second chapter, leading to starting climax of Hosea 2:23.

God is stating that He is taking a people that are not His, the gentile nation. God was showing Israel, the northern kingdom, that he had rejected them as His people of their idolatry and sin. But Hosea the prophet shows God's grace even in His judgement. The people called Not My People will be God's people in the same place, where His judgement rained down on them.

The name Hosea also means Salvation, showing God's purpose to someday calling Ephraim back to covenant relationship and the land of Israel. Father's Two Sticks later in Hosea should be carefully examined. It will take place during the Millennial Kingdom when Yeshua the Messiah returns.

[18] Experiences of the Spirit World

I am having many spiritual experiences throughout my life as I am always open to spirit interaction, seeing and feeling spirits. The spirit world, according to spiritualism, is the world or realm inhabited by spirits, both good or evil of various spiritual manifestations. This spirit world is regarded as an external environment for spirits. However, the greatest spiritual experiences I am having always been my experiences with God. They are the most beautiful, amazing, most intense and emotional experiences one can ever having.

After year 2018, these supernatural experiences to enter into the realm of the spirit world were intensified in my life. But after the baptism of the Holy Spirit that is Born Again in mid-October 2020, I could discern of being in the different types of states under spirit realm. Although, there is no way to describe it through natural realm where day-to-day life takes place, but these experiences can be divided into following four categories.

The first category is about the discernment of entering into the spiritual realm of God's presence. When the door of heavens open, and I enter into the God's presence, I am under the full control the Holy Spirit. I become very attentive and become God fearing, and my spirit starts praising to God. It is experienced that one cannot keep mum before the Almighty God. The spirit joins the choirs of heavenly beings and praises God in heavenly languages. It is also experienced that the terms used to praise to God, such as Alleluia which is mentioned in Revelation 19:1-6, and Holy, Holy, Holy that is mentioned in Revelation 4:8, are always on the lips of heavenly beings.

The second category is about the discernment of the spiritual realm during the strong presence of the Holy Spirit. When I pray in the spirit, a soft radiating energy began to permeate my body. I feel someone is embracing me and resulting the goose pimples on my whole body, an amazing, refreshing and bliss feeling. Sometimes I become weightless and feel that I am becoming transparent.

The third category is about the discernment of the spiritual realm during the presence of Angels from Heaven. When I pray in spirit, and we, my wife and I sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in our hearts to God as stated in Colossians 3:6, we smell a sweet floral aroma in the room. It indicates that Angles of God are also present in the room and praising to God with us. Every time, I smell the same floral fragrance but that cannot be duplicated from earthly perfumes.

The fourth category is about the discernment of the spiritual realm during the presence of demonic angels and evil spirits. When I stop praying, I am away from God's presence and demonic angels and spirts are experienced in my life. The most menacing ones, they smell like sulphur. The rest they stench of rotting flesh combined with sewage. Moreover, they are deformed and appear in dark and gloomy surroundings.

[19] Vision and Prayer for Deliverance from Evil Spirit

On Thursday, March 07, 2024, evening we had our family prayer. The reading of the scripture was taken from the Gospel of Mark chapter 5. The chapter records 3 major events: (I) the deliverance of devil possessed man, (II) healing of a woman which had an issue of blood for twelve years, and (III) the raising of a twelve-year-old dead daughter of Jairus, one of the rulers of the synagogue.

Then we offered prayers, especially for the persons who are possessed by the evil spirits, had hymns and ended the prayer. After dinner we went to bed, and on 8th March 2024 around 2:30 am my sleep went away, and I opened my eyes. Then I heard a voice, saying arise. It was a female voice. I was very sure that it was not the voice of my wife, but spiritual voice. I waited about 10 to 15 minutes for the confirmation of the call but didn't hear it again.

Then in Hypnagogic, that is in the transitional state of my consciousness between wakefulness and sleep, I had a vision of a young woman in white clothing, who was sitting near my praying place gazing at me, and called my name, Stephen, and all of a sudden, I started praying in heavenly languages, which did lead me to another vision related to casting out an evil spirit from a young woman who was about 21-25 years old.

Also in the vision, I was praying in unknown heavenly languages and casting out the evil spirit from her. She looked like one of my cousin sisters, who vomited and got healed. Then I came back into my physical realm and continued for next 60-90 minutes praying in heavenly languages, and rebuking the evil spirit to come out from someone for whom God wanted me to pray.

After born again, this was at least for the third time, God led me to perform healing prayers that was done by my inner man as per the will of God. First time God did lead me to pray for a corona virus infected person who was at death bed and got healed.

The second time, God did lead me to pray for a person who had an intra-abdominal abscess, and was under the control of the imposed evil spirits, also known as witchcraft or black magic that is specified in the Old Testament, and medical treatments as well as allopathic medicines were not working. The family was hopeless of his survival, and he was given the last rites, the seventh and final sacrament under catholic religious order, that is the anointing of the sick and penance. But after prayer of that night, the person got healed and the treatment was successful.

Now, this was the third time God did lead me to pray by my spirit, the inner man. It was for an evil spirit possessed unknown person, who got the deliverance on 8th March 2024, around 4:00am to 4:30am.

In none of these cases, I was physically present with them. But my spirit, the inner man as stated in first Corinthians chapter 2 verses 10 to 16, prayed for them under the guidance of the Holy Spirit as per the will of God. These were not the planned prayers, but most of the times, I was sleeping, and all of a sudden got up around 2:30am to 4:30am and started praying in unknown heavenly languages for the deliverances.

Praise the Lord!

[20] Dreams of Walking through Strait Gate and Rapture

On Friday, March 15, 2024, evening we had the Sabbath welcome service and prayers. After dinner we went to bed, and on 17th March 2024 around 1:30 am to 5 am I had multiple dreams: (i) about the Rapture, (ii) about the ministerial work to save souls, and (iii) about entering to the strait or narrow gate and walking through difficult path.

The portion of the rapture dream was very short. It was like mentioned in Matthew 24:40, and Luke 17:34-36. It says, I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

In the dream I saw two men in a house who were standing and praying. And in the twinkling of an eye, the body of the man who was standing on the right side became bright like the angelic beings and got raptured and disappeared.

In the second dream my wife and I were passing through the rural area, sharing the words of God and asking people to repent for their sins, and accept Yeshua the Messiah, as their Lord and Saviour. In fact, we were involved in winning lost people to Yeshua the Messiah that is commissioned by Him in Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-18.

On the way we interacted with some begging communities and supported them. In addition, we also asked some of our relatives to repent from their sins, accept and experience Yeshua the Messiah as their Lord and Saviour in their personal life. Although my relatives were born and brought up in Christian families, but they never experienced and accepted Yeshua the Messiah as their Lord and Saviour in their personal lives.

I do remember, out of three, two of my immediate family members and relatives didn't accept and turned their face, but one of them did repent and accept Him Lord and Saviour in her personal life. She hugged me, cried with joy and we praised the Lord.

In the continuation of this dream, we reached a certain place, where path was divided into two different directions to march forward. We perceived, the left path was easier to walk where majority of the people were going and the right path was empty, narrow and difficult which had no people.

We were puzzled, but my wife said, we must take the right path. We moved on the empty and difficult path, and reached the entrance of a cave which had an old narrow gate. It looked as, no one was there at the gate.

The gate was half opened and looked like no one had gone through this gate for years. The situation was more or less same as stated in Luke 13:24. It says, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many I say unto you will seek to enter in and shall not be able.

I was leading, and as soon as I stepped in inside the gate, invisible beings became active, and we heard their voices, and giving instructions to themselves.

They said themselves to put more coal and fire on the footstools through which we will be passing through. It was more or less similar situation that is stated in Daniel 3:19. It says, Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

I do remember that I was putting on the old sandals or shoes on my feet. We didn't fear and put forth our steps on burning fiery footstools and walked on them easily. I felt like I were walking on the flowers rather than the burning fiery footstools. Then I got up and praised Lord. I thanked Him to revealing this message.
Amen!

[21] Experience Like Anointing Leaving to Me and My Family

During 4th April to 10th April 2024, my wife and I had a terrible experience. This experience was something like leaving of the anointing or stopping the Holy Spirit working in our life. From 4th April to 9th April, we had several warnings from God, but we neglected them, did as per our will, and took God into granted in our every decision through our thoughts, words and actions.

On Monday, 8th April 2024 evening my wife and I visited to a family who was inviting us for last 1 to 2 months. We visited them around 6:00pm, had our introductory chat chats with them and meanwhile we also shared them about our spiritual journey. In the end around 8:15pm we had a small prayer, including healing prayer and returned home.

Then we had the evening prayer, followed by dinner and went to bed. This evening and night I struggled a lot while offering the healing prayer for a woman suffering for about 20 years' old physical problem. I also prayed to God to give me sign in vision or dream for the confirmation. But that night I didn't get any sign. Later I realised that this was my will to be get her healed rather than the will of God. I was imposing my will to God without having any revelation from Him to heal her.

On 9th April and 10th April 2024 by 2:00pm, my wife and I felt like the anointing had left us, and we experienced emptiness in our prayers and other activities. We felt like we lost everything, became powerless and our covering was removed.

Moreover, on 9th April around 11:15pm, I heard one time knock at the door. It was a single knock, so I didn't open the door. I thought, this should not be a good sign but may be the act of the adversary of the dark side of the spiritual world. Then I went to bed. Later I had worse experiences. The prayers I offered at night, around 2:30pm-3:30pm and in the morning were of without anointing. It was like First Corinthians 13:1, where apostle Paul says, though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels...I am become like as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

Then my wife and I sat down and reflected on our thoughts, words and actions of these 3-4 days, and tried to find out the possible reasons that hurt the Holy Spirit. And on 10th April 2024, after the lunch, around 2:15pm, both of us did fell on our knees and confessed our misdeeds and repented for our sins and trespasses. Then once again

we realised the presence of the Holy Spirit, sweet smell in the room and His cover and led us in prayer. We cried with joy, and thanked God for His Grace and Mercy.

After prayer, around 4:15pm I opened the outer door, and I saw at the door on floor someone had kept the handful petals of flowers, most probably of marigold after performing the rituals and devotional homage. It looked like someone had done it with the evil purpose, commonly known as the black magic. Then I recall the knock that I had heard around 11:15pm. I called my wife and showed her the same. She was not surprised at all. She had already such kind of feelings, heard sounds of chanting mantras and finding sesame seeds on stairs, and today we had the evidence. We thanked God and prayed for those persons to encounter with the true God in their lives. We remembered the scriptures that say, but all these things they will do to you for My Name's sake...If you were of this world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hated you. (John 15:18-21, Matthew 10:22, Luke 21:17)

This incident did strengthen our believe in the Almighty God and have faith in our Lord Yeshua the Messiah.

Praise the Lord!

[22] Dreams of Heaven Opened and messages from the Books of Luke and John

On April 16, 2024 mid-night around 12:30am, that is on the early hour of April 17, 2024 I had a short dream of heaven opened. And I saw Yeshua the Messiah surrounded by heavenly beings and ready to come down to the earth. The scene was more or less same as it is stated in the chapter 19 of the Book of Revelation. As soon as heaven opened, and I saw Yeshua the Messiah, I started praising Him in heavenly language, and got up at 12:45am. This message was to give me the confidence that the anointing has not been removed from me, but due to my disobedience the Holy Spirit had stopped accompanying me in prayers and other activities. This also revealed me that when we are born again, and the Holy Spirit is within us, the Holy Spirit will let us know the coming of Yeshua the Messiah, especially during the rapture event and will go to meet Him in air.

Then I had another dream about the messages from the Books of Luke and John. In the dream I was in an old house, and saw a register that was kept on the table. The register had a handwritten index page, indexing the books of the Bible. But I could see the pages about the Books of Luke and John. It was mentioned the pages of 34 and 44 respectively. When I got up at 2:30am, I referred the Bible to find this message. However, I didn't find any of these chapters because Luke has a maximum of 24 chapters and John has 21 chapters. Then I searched the chapters ending with 34 and 44 verses in both the books and found only one chapter that ends with the verse 44. This was Luke chapter 4. However, there was none of the chapters had ending with the verse number 34. The chapter 4 of Luke records about Yeshua's fasting and temptation in the wilderness and start of His ministry. Specifically, from verse 34 onward I found that Yeshua casting out devils, unclean spirits, healing of Simon's mother-in-law and others from illness and diseases and preaching the Kingdom of God.

The message was about our upcoming prayer and fasting plan during the feasts of Passover and the Unleavened Bread as per the Hebrew calendar. Also, I realised that God wants my family to get ready for His ministerial work because the time left at hand is very short.

On Sunday, April 21, 2024 during our evening prayer my physical weakness and lowered down voice was fully recovered that was impacted in last week's terrible incident.

[23] Vision of coming of the Son of Man and Fall of Satan

After having fast and prayer during recent God's appointed times, that is the feast of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, my family is having several revelations from the spiritual world. Almost every night God is discerning and using us to cast out unknown evil and unclean spirits. It is experienced that at a time multiple evil and unclean spirits are approaching us, and we are defending them, binding them and casting them for judgement at the feet of the cross of Yeshua the Messiah.

As usual on 1st May 2024 after our evening prayer and dinner, I went to bed. Around 1:15am in the early hour of 2nd May 2024, I had a vision of the next coming of the Son of Man as stated in Matthew 24:27. In the verse Yeshua says, For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

In the vision I saw an extremely bright light flashed instantaneously for a fraction of second as stated in the verse. I do remember, even in that fraction of second, the presence of Yeshua the Messiah was realised by me in the spirit, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I praised Him in heavenly languages. Then I had another vision, and I saw Satan and his followers coming down in the dark side of the earth.

In addition, I also saw a dream, where I was travelling through a mountainous road. I was travelling by a hired taxi. When we were riding down from one of the high points and reached the T junctions of the road, the driver lost the balance, and the taxi struck the side safety wall of the road and fell in the valley. The vehicle fell down more than 100 feet in the midst of the jungle and damaged from all sides. However, by the grace of God not a single scratch wound was found in my body. I was completely safe inside the vehicle.

A group of young people from the nearby village in the jungle came and opened the doors of the vehicle with great difficulty. I thought they had come to rescue me, but I was wrong. They searched out all my belongings such as laptop, mobiles, books, clothing, etc. from the vehicle and took them away whosoever found it in his hand and disappeared.

Meanwhile some elder people and women of the village also came and helped me out. They escorted me to their village, and I stayed there for a few days. During my stay in the village, God helped me to make good rapport with the community, also I preached the words of God to them.

When time came to leave the village, I told the villagers about my 1st day experience, when my all belongings were taken away by the youth of that village. The villagers helped me out to recover all my taken away belongings safe and sound. They also apologised for the same.

Then I departed from the village for my next destination and God revealed and confirmed me not to possess any personal or family insurance policies, neither life nor health policies. I must be fully dependent on Him for these things, and He will take care of me and my family. Then I got up. This experience was something like the apostle Paul and his companions had come across during their ministerial work.

The confirmation from God for not possessing any insurance policies by my family can be inferred from some of the following experiences and revelations:

(i) During the COVID pandemic, I was residing in Delhi, the capital city of India. All my colleagues and neighbours had taken the COVID vaccines and booster doses, because Government had made it compulsory. However, God didn't allow me and my family to take any kind of vaccines and booster doses. We diligently followed His instructions as stated in Psalms and other books in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Almost all my colleagues, including the top management who had taken vaccines and booster doses were infected by the COVID. Some of them infected multiple times and got hospitalised or quarantined, but during that pandemic period also God kept me and family safe without taking any vaccine or booster doses. Moreover, God also made a way out to leave Delhi and settle down in a smaller town.

(ii) During the COVID pandemic period, under the grace and mercy of God, I was Born Again as stated in John 3:3-11 and was sealed by God. Moreover, 1 John 4:4 says, Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

(iii) I had the multiple visions and dreams of Rapture Event. The crux of these visions and dreams is that I didn't raise from death but did rapture alive. This can be referred in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. This says, For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Messiah shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Moreover, God did lead me to have the out of body experience as stated in Acts 8:39-40. It says, And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

Praise the Lord!

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