

Salvation – Am I Really Saved?

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By James Relf January 3, 19 9 Comments

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The 2nd Year of the 4th Sabbatical Cycle

The 23rd year of the 120th Jubilee Cycle

The 28th day of the 10th month 5854 years after the creation of Adam

The 10th Month in the Second year of the Fourth Sabbatical Cycle

The 4th Sabbatical Cycle after the 119th Jubilee Cycle

The Sabbatical Cycle of Sword, Famines, and Pestilence

January 5, 2019

Shabbat Shalom to the Royal Family of Yehovah,

Salvation-Am I Saved?

Definitions:

Salvation: The preservation from and deliverance from harm, ruin or loss as a consequence of sin that was made available to ALL through the death burial and resurrection of Messiah Yashua.

Torah: The Hebrew word is derived from a root word that was used in the realm of archery, meaning to “shoot an arrow” or “hit the mark”. In a broader sense its purpose and function is much the same as the word “Salvation” in that it can instruct and protect us if followed until the return of our Messiah.

Faith: Our acceptance of this Truth and our complete trust, reliance and confidence in the “salvation” provided through the actions and example of Yashua the Messiah. It is our faith that determines what we DO in response to the “salvation” that is provided to us.

Works: The things that we do, the actions that we take that demonstrate our “Faith” or lack of faith in the salvation provided by the Messiah. It is our “works” that demonstrate our faith and what we will, in the end, be judged on when standing before YHVH, our King.

YHWH: The name of “Yehovah” has been replaced more than 7000 times in scripture and has been replaced with “Lord” or “God”, both of which are neither names but titles. I merely wish to keep that which was in the scripture and speaks of His name.

INTRO

Years past when I would spend countless hours sitting in church and listening to one sermon after another, some good some not-so-good, I never understood what they actually did or for that matter what it was that the Messiah actually did. I mean, I knew Yashua died on the cross (tree) for my sins, or that was the story. In reality, they all seem just like those stories one might hear if we could remember going back to Sunday school, like Noah’s Ark, or the flood,... just stories. Thus, the reason that I decided through the prompting of my wife to return to the basics or foundational teachings to see what our faith is actually built upon. Although there are many subjects that I find and will be writing about to expound them more, one that was never very clear in my mind has always been about, “salvation.”

Am I saved and based on what? Are you saved? How can we know for sure that we are doing everything that is possible to ensure our salvation? What is the process? Is there even a process? But mostly what is it we did that we need to be saved from?

We live in a world that is full of deception, where wide is the road that leads to destruction. During those countless hours spent in church, I heard over and over that one simple confession of *belief* in “Jesus Christ” would “save” us. This did not sit well with me. I believe that concept is leaving millions of people vulnerable and lost, both spiritually and physically. I don’t want this for them. I don’t want

this for myself. And, I don't want this for you! Didn't this "Jesus" also say that even the demons *believe*? There must be more!

Let me give you an example.... our Messiah told a story of a lost son who left his father's house to follow his own lusts and passions. This parable can be found in *Luke 14:11-32*. Over time, this prodigal son's sinful nature left him sitting in a pigpen. In that pigpen, he made a confession that he would return to his father's house. Did the story end there? Certainly not – frolicking about in a pigpen and confessing a belief in something does not get one out of the pigpen! Proper action must be taken.

As you follow along with me in this teaching, I am going to take you on a journey to discover not just what that proper action to be taken is, but why we need to be saved and what we are saved from – all while attempting to outline the divine plan that our Heavenly Father has laid out before us. We'll look at details such as what sin and temptation really are, and the steps we take in the process of *being* saved. Along the way I'll break in with a few personal words that take you around the world with me to introduce you to a Jewish friend and mentor of mine living in Israel, Avi Ben Mordechai, and also share a few of my experiences and insights gained from the many people that I met while traveling and teaching in Africa.

So, come along with me as we study together the most important topic we each personally must seek: Salvation.

WHY WE NEED TO BE SAVED

In scripture, our sins (plural, not singular) are referred to as *ahvon* ??? (twisted, an entanglement to the Serpent) and *pesha* ??? (infidelity and broken trust, baked into our DNA). When Adam and Havan chose to walk away from the Tree of Life and choose the Tree of Good & Evil they adopted to partner with the serpent. Because of this, we have all inherited the DNA of the serpent and in order to remove it from us, we have to die twice as stated below.

Genesis 2:17. "Of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of him, in dying, you will die."

Although this is not the way it is written in our English translations, it is a more accurate translation of the Hebrew text. In doing this we see not one but two deaths. I will later show you more evidence to the fact that there is two deaths and not one as many of us have, well maybe some have thought all along. This concept if considered is not so hard to fathom, since it is appointed to all men to die once, (death of the flesh) and second, if we are not walking according to His Word, die a second time eternally when we shall be erased from the book of life and it will be like we never were. That death is what happens when we are dropped into the lake of fire on judgment for failing to measure up.

What this means is we went against YHVH's Word, or not accept the gift of His son's sacrifice, and because He is the Elohim of Mercy, He is also the Elohim of judgment and demands payment for our crimes

Deuteronomy 19:21: Your eye shall not pity: life for life (nephesh b' nephesh)....

David is describing where he was made. Notice the last sentence.

Psalms 139:14 "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. 15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth."

He knows that his flesh while not made below ground physically, but spiritually it is tied with that of the serpent.

There is nothing in any redemption narratives either teaching or suggesting that a coming redeemer (Yashua) will reverse the curse of man's natural death with the redeemer dying a natural death and then, three days later, waking up to a resurrection of life. If this were the case, then natural death would simply cease the moment we believe in Yashua.

The death that Yashua experienced came to him in a two-part decree written about in Genesis 2:17. The first is a deep sleep death.

Rev. 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

As I have repeatedly mentioned, there is a coming second death and it is connected to a judgment of the Last Day:

Revelation 20:14-15. "Then Death and Hades (She'ol) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

Repeating the principle about death in the Brit haChadasha (New Testament), the message that Yashua died for our sins is quite specific. His death was not only dying from crucifixion; his death was to Death.

John 5:28-29 "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

In their graves, "sleeping" until they are called by the Messiah when He returns, which means that they are not dead, just the first death but not the second death.

Daniel 12:1 "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

Psalms 16:10 "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

Messiah died and descended into corruption and on the third day, he was raised to life from that corruption. Whatever happened after crossing the gulf between life and death, his experience was a full-on Death reality. Because of this, many New Testament death references are about the second death and not about natural death. In Yashua, salvation is about an escape from the second death:

1 Thess. 5:9 “For YHVH hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Master Y’shua Messiah, 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.”

Ezekiel 18:4 “Behold, all souls — are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son — is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”

Psalms 23:4 “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

Let’s examine this more in detail before we get into the salvation process revealed in scripture in the book of Exodus and what it shows us regarding our part of this arrangement. While this process is not written like a covenant where both parties have responsibilities, in order to obtain the final goal, I see no other way that we can successfully obtain the final destination, Kingdom of Heaven, without doing more than just saying a prayer.

MAN-KIND’S FIRST DEATH

As mentioned earlier, there is nothing in any redemption narratives either teaching or suggesting that a coming redeemer will reverse the curse of man’s natural death with the redeemer dying a natural death and then, three days later, waking up to a resurrection of life. If this were the case, then natural death would simply cease the moment we believe in Y’shua. As I understand the biblical teachings, natural death is basically just a stage of sleep until the Last Day resurrection when all will hear the Voice of the Word calling us to rise. Then, all will wake up, some to a resurrection of death and some to a resurrection of life (see Revelation 20:12). Yashua said to Marta (Martha):

John 11:23-25. “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Y’shua said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live.

John 5:28-29. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear his Voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

The death that Y’shua experienced came to him in a two-part decree written about in Genesis 2:17. The first is a deep sleep death. We know the model or metaphor based on our regular cycles of sleep – laying down and some hours later, rising up. The metaphor mimics a kind of death and resurrection for all man in the downline progeny of Adam and “Eve.”

MAN-KIND'S SECOND DEATH

As I have repeatedly mentioned, there is a coming second death and it is connected to a judgment of the Last Day:

*Revelation 20:11-15. "Then I saw a great white throne and him who sat on it, from whose face the Earth and Heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before Elohim, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades (Hebrew: She'ol) delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades (She'ol) were cast into the lake of fire. This is **the second death**. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."*

As a reference for other passages that refer to the second death, I have placed several more below for you to read as evidence to this revelation.

Revelations 2:11 ¹¹ *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*”

John 5:28-29 ²⁸ *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹ And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*”

(Resurrection to Judgement)

Daniel 12:1-2 ¹ *And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. ² And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*” (Speaks of both first and second deaths but the choice is ours)

Thessalonians. 5:9-10 . ⁹ *For YHVH hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by Yashua HaMashiach, ¹⁰ Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.*” (tells us that the Messiah is the door/gate through which we must enter the first death)

Ezekiel 18:4, *Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.*

18:28, *Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.*

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

(if we look at these three passages, it is the 2nd permanent death that is spoken about, where we are completely destroyed, not left in a lake of fire forever.)

Isaiah 53:10 ¹⁰ *Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.*” (First death is about death of the flesh, while the second death is all about death of our soul!)

Exodus 12:10 . ¹⁰ *And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.*” (While is speaking of the Passover lamb, it is showing us a spiritual picture of the 2nd death in which Yashua suffered so that after His flesh died on the cross, He descended further into the lake of fire so that His flesh would be consumed and the curse of Adam and Havah be lifted from us, for all those who believe.)

While we now understand that in siding or falling for the lies spoken by Satan, in the garden, Adam and Havah cursed all of mankind, but I wanted to dig even deeper to reveal a bit more of what was it exactly brought upon this curse. Surely since our Father in Heaven has given us free will to choose and in doing so they chose not to follow the Tree of life. Was this so bad?

While many people may not think what I am about to reveal is relevant to them, I believe that it not only explains what happened but also why the world is in such a state that is leading to its own downfall thousands of years later.

THE FIRST TEMPTATIONS

The story in the garden reveals to us several temptations to sin that become the root of all sins that man will be tempted by in our lifetimes and that which we must overcome. Let's look at this further in detail.

*"¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of YHVH abideth forever." (1 John 2: 15-17)*

If we look at this passage we will see three temptations that are part of this world. Every human since the fall of Adam and Havah will and has been tempted by the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life. Every sin we commit will be preceded by at least one of these temptations.

What is the Lust of the Flesh?

The lust of the flesh is the temptation to seek after some physical pleasure by doing things that are sinful according to scripture in order to satisfy some physical urges. Examples of the "**lust of the flesh**" include the following:

Sexual sins, Gossip, Physical violence, Drug and Alcohol abuse

The Apostle Paul gives us a nice example of the "works of the flesh," many of which are works we do when we succumb to the lust of the flesh:

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying's, murders, drunkenness, revelling's, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of YHVH" (Galatians 5:19-21).

What is the Lust of the Eyes?

Lust of the eyes is the temptation to look upon things we shouldn't look upon, or to have things that we shouldn't have. In other words, envy or coveting. When we look upon something with desire or pleasure, even though YHVH has told us not to look upon those things. The sin of coveting is the result of succumbing to the lust of the eyes. Today we rarely hear of this mostly due to media that convinces

people that we deserve everything and should not be denied anything in life, but “thou shalt not covet” was the 10th commandment that YHVH gave to the Israelites.

To covet means to have a yearning or a strong desire to have something that rightfully belongs to someone else. “That’s not fair that he has such a beautiful wife. I want her as my wife,” is a prime example. Other examples of the lust of the eyes include looking at pornography, desiring others’ material possessions, status, appearance, etc. It’s the recognition that something sinful has visual appeal, and then wanting it for the sake of its visual appeal.

Consider this passage in Second Samuel with regards to King David and Bathsheba, the woman with whom David would soon commit adultery:

“And it came to pass in an evening tide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king’s house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon” (2 Samuel 11:2; emphasis mine).

What is the Pride of Life?

The pride of life is that sinful temptation for excess, greatness or power that we all feel the temptation to attain. Pride itself is one of the sins that YHVH hates most. It is the sin that made Lucifer (the beautiful angel) turn into Satan (the adversary). Examples of this include:

- Desiring to get credit or glory for things that others (or YHVH) did
- Desiring for others to worship us or hold us in excess esteem, “to make a name for ourselves”
Desiring to feel valued or more important than others around us
- Desiring to have positions of power over others in a way that puffs up our own ego for the sake
- of bragging rights (Y’shua said that those who desire to be great should be the greatest servant)

Consider the words of Satan himself, who was so filled with pride that he wanted to be YHVH:

“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14:14).

Looking at These Three Temptations in Action

Every sin we commit will involve at least one of these three temptations, but it may include all three. Notice how Satan used all three temptations with Eve in the Garden of Eden, and with Y’shua in the New Testament. Eve succumbed to the temptations, yet Y’shua resisted them:

Eve’s Temptation by Satan

*And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food [**lust of the flesh**], and that it was pleasant to the eyes [**lust of the eyes**], and a tree to be desired to make one wise [**the pride of life**], she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat” (Genesis 3:6).*

Y'shua's Temptation by Satan

*And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of YHVH, command that these stones be made bread [**lust of the flesh**]. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of YHVH.*

*Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto him, If thou be the Son of YHVH, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone [**the pride of life**]. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy YHVH.*

*Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them [**the lust of the eyes**]; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy YHVH, and him only shalt thou serve" (Matthew 4:3-10).*

It should be noted before we continue to look into Salvation a bit further, that although these can be sins, there is nothing wrong with enjoying physical things but it is when we go to excess and it becomes harmful to us that it becomes a sin. This also goes for looking at beautiful things or even being dedicated to your work, but when it is taken to excess or we start believing that we are solely responsible for our success, that we fall and become entangled in these sins.

THE PLAN, THE PROCESS AND THE COVENANT

So, moving on, I would like to look at what has become a tradition during the Feast of Passover, and that where YHVH uses four expressions of redemption in describing our Exodus from Egypt and our birth as a nation:

1. Exodus 6:6 "I will take you out..." – *Sanctification*
2. Exodus 6:6 "I will save you..." – *Deliverance*
3. Exodus 6:6 "I will redeem you..." – *Redemption*
4. Exodus 6:7 "I will take you as a nation..." – *Acceptance*

SANCTIFICATION – The process of sanctification happens in the beginning of our relationship when YHVH places a spark of His divine spirit within us and we realize something is missing. I believe that everyone experiences this in our lives but some mistake it and head in different directions in life leading them to put this fire out leaving them feeling completely lost or empty.

I was once taught that this meant that once YHVH does this He is basically taking each one of His chosen children and setting them aside, to be within His protection until our teacher the Messiah can return and teach us the truth of His Word and reveal all the mysteries within.

This process from everything I can see throughout scripture has been planned from the beginning in order that we not only choose to follow and serve Him as our King but also so that we may rid ourselves of the old man of sin, so often spoken of by Paul the Apostle.

The plan basically goes like this:

- YHVH lays out this plan to introduce Himself back to His people which in turn leads to making a Covenant with Him. The Covenants will be covered at a later time, but for now, the two main ones that I am going to focus on here are:
 1. Abrahamic Covenant (Covenant of Promise Genesis 12)
 2. Mosaic Covenant (Covenant of Obedience Exodus 20:1 – Deut. 29)
- YHVH used the experience of the Exodus from Egypt to express this process to the children of Israel. During this time the children would undergo tremendous testing and trials of faith to see where their hearts were focused after serving false gods under the leadership of Egypt.
- The children also came to be introduced to YHVH and that His Word is always true. This also meant not just for the good but also for the negative as well, if they disobeyed. We can see this in the understanding of what a covenant is:

A covenant was instituted by the two parties of the covenant who would take a fattened animal, the best of the flock or herd, and “cut” it into two pieces. Then the two parties of the covenant would pass through the pieces symbolizing their dedication to the covenant and by this action are saying, “If I do not hold to the agreements of this covenant, you can do to me what we did to this animal.” This methodology of “making” a covenant is clearly recorded in Jeremiah 34:18-20.

So how is fattened choice meat related to the word for “covenant?” The phrase “make a covenant,” such as we saw in the verse that began this study, appears eighty times in the Hebrew Bible and in every instance, it is the Hebrew phrase קָרַט בְּרִית (karat b’riyt), which literally means “cut a covenant.”

While this trip out of slavery was arduous in the least and there was great moaning’s from the people, they had made the choice to follow YHVH freely, which is the same options that we do and continue to do even to this day.

“16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Romans 6:16)

- Because of the covenant, YHVH had made with Abraham in Genesis 12, and because YHVH knew what it was going to take in order to break His children to allow them time to come back to him with a humble and contrite heart, so He allowed them to become burdened and enslaved. It is not until we realize that we are trapped and enslaved in our sin that we come to cry out to the Father for help in need of deliverance.
- Once our eyes have been opened we begin to learn that the cause of our suffering is SIN. What we do not yet understand at this point is that once we start to study His Word that we are also the cause of our sin against Him. This comes later.

THE CUP OF DELIVERANCE

Our journey continues into the wilderness as we also continue to be tested but along the way what we do not realize also is that because we are now under YHVH as our King and Savior from bondage, He is also protecting us from the enemies of the world.

Along the way, we see that aside from being delivered from our burdens, we still need to be delivered from the enslaving of the world's ways which are SIN, to the freedom in walking according to YHVH's ways, the path of Torah.

James 1:22-25 “²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

Ephesians 2:1-5 “¹ And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),”

Through this journey, we get to experience His love, compassion, mercy and provision and protection. His plan is meant to teach us the meaning of what Truth is and where to find it.

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. *32* And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (**John 8:31-36**)

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (**John 14:6**)

142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth. (**Psalms 119:142**)

160 The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever. (**Psalms 119:160**)

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (**John 1:14**)

There are 2 aspects of deliverance that many people do not realize:

- Deliverance from the spiritual bondage of paganism Deliverance
- from the physical bondage of slavery

The Exodus account shows that we are delivered from spiritual bondage first, then from the physical bondage.

THE CUP OF REDEMPTION

(Redemption) Coming Home by Avi Ben Mordechai 2019 – Pg. 188

Yashua Died for Our Sins?

In the New Testament, the message that Yashua died for our sins is quite specific. His death was not only dying from the crucifixion; His death was to Death. (Genesis 2:17). What we presently know as death is merely the shadow of death (see Psalm 23:4), but when the New Testament speaks about Yeshua's death, it was no shadow that he experienced; it was the second death, referring to his descent into "corruption" (see Psalm 16:10). "Corruption" is mashchit ????? (see 2 Kings 23:13) from Mem Sheen Chet, a play on mashach ???, the root that gives us the word ??? Mashiach or Messiah.

To escape the coming Last Day judgment leading to the second death and to appreciate what Yashua did for us, we need to have a brief look into the rituals of Yom Kippur's Messianic Cover. Based on a Hebraic understanding of Leviticus 17:11, there is the portrait of a redeemer who comes to regenerate all of man, beginning first with Adam and concluding with all his progeny.

To explain this all-important redemption, YHVH Elohim provided all the necessary images and metaphors so that we could know how to activate his gift. Therefore, I want to have a look into YHVH's Messianic Activation Plan – his MAP. Essentially, it is the picture of a divine payment plan (not our own) to gain a righteous standing in the eyes of YHVH, which always begins with believing on his name YHVH This righteousness leads to justice, which leads to forgiveness. First, it is activated through confession. Here is the principle of the matter:

1 John 1:9. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

The Hebrew of Leviticus 17:11 shows us why righteousness and blood go together. English translators have tried to convey an understanding of the matter to all non-Hebrew readers:

Leviticus 17:11(English): "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul."

Clearly, the message of this one verse, at the core of Yom Kippur (according to the local context), is a short prophetic glance at YHVH's coming one – the Son of Heaven – the Word and Redeemer for all mankind.

Substitutionary Redemption

A reconciler performs the act of (Kaf – Pey – Resh), a cover or covering, between two parties and in so doing, pays obligations of indebtedness on behalf of another (see *Psalm 49:6-15*). The lesson is in what Moses tried to offer YHVH, when he made the request to give up his life for the Hebrew nation, considering that their relationship was broken with YHVH because of their “golden calf” idolatry (see *Exodus 32:30*).

But, YHVH turned away this request from Moses. So, we learn that a redeemer is one that initiates a payment scheme on the behalf of a beneficiary, as in the case *Leviticus 25:47-48*, a brother.

If someone were to pay damages (tort) on behalf of another, it could be said that he is covering an obligation that is owed by another. This is the basis for the Hebrew term tzedeq, which means justice, but is often translated as righteousness. On earth, giving up one’s life by dying could satisfy a criminal debt of justice, but spiritually, it does nothing to settle any debt for justice in Heaven, owing to the fact that YHVH’s Law demands spiritual justice in all matters of life:

*Deuteronomy 16:18-20. “You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which YHVH your Elohim gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous (just) judgment. You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. **Justice you shall pursue that you may live and inherit the land which YHVH your Elohim is giving you.**”*

Restitution / Indebtedness Payment for a Trespass

The word “guilt” or “trespass” is understood from (asham), which means an indebtedness for restitution. To clear one’s guilt, one needs restitution to declare justice satisfied. Without the discharge of indebtedness or guilt (asham), there can be no reconciliation and no true forgiveness, because love and justice go together. In other words, where there is no restitution, there is no justice, and where there is no justice, there is no love. With a trespass against YHVH in Heaven (even a trespass inherited), his demand for the covering of justice is still the same as it would be on Earth.

One guilty in a Christian trespass often walks away from wrongdoing without any obligation for restitution; that which clears guilt resulting in true justice for the wrongdoer and true reconciliation to the damaged party. Thus, from the halls of Church theology, the common teaching is to forgive with nothing else required. But, this was never a teaching of Moses, the Prophets, or Y’shua.

In written scripture, there are five clearly defined stages that should be taken seriously if our spiritual goal is that of restoring justice using the Kingdom’s rules and definitions.

Step One: CONFESSION

1 John 1:9. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

2 Chronicles 7:13-14. “When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face...”

Stage Two: REPENTANCE

2 Chronicles 7:14. “...if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face **and turn from their wicked ways**, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Luke 17:3-4. “Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and **if he repents, forgive him**. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘**I repent**,’ you shall forgive him.”

Stage Three: PAYMENT

Exodus 32:32. (Regarding substitutionary restitution). “Then Moses returned to YHVH and said, “Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, **if you will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of your book** which you have written.” And YHVH said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot him out of my book.”

Ephesians 1:7. (Regarding Messiah’s payment in blood). In him we have **redemption** (payment) **through his blood, the forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of his grace.

Genesis 32:20 (Regarding Jacob who seeks reconciliation with Esau). For he said, “**I will pay** (Hebrew: *achapar*, from *kippur*) **to him with a gift** that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me.”

Matthew 5:23-26 (Regarding broken relationships). **First** (Greek: in a sequence of steps) **be reconciled** to your brother (Greek: “**and at that time**”) come (Greek: “**bring your gift**”) ... Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there **till you have paid** the last cent (penny).

Leviticus 6:7. (Regarding payments and forgiveness). So, the priest (on Earth) shall **make atonement** (offer a substitutionary payment) for him before YHVH, and **he shall be forgiven** for any one of these things that he may have done in which he is guilty (breaking of trust).

Stage Four: FORGIVENESS

2 Corinthians 5:18-19. “Now all things are of Elohim, who has reconciled us to himself through Y’shua haMashiach, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that Elohim was in Messiah reconciling the world to himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the Word of reconciliation.”

STEP FIVE: RECONCILIATION

*2 Corinthians 5:18-19. "Now all things are of Elohim, who has reconciled us to himself through Y'shua haMashiach, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that Elohim was in Messiah reconciling the world to himself, **not imputing their trespasses (indebtedness) to them,** and has committed to us **the Word of reconciliation.**" (The reconciliation is through grace, a payment for our indebtedness covered by a wealthy benefactor.)*

MESSIANIC COVER

Borne out of a great love difficult to fully appreciate in this life, Heaven's Son – the Word – cleared man-kind's guilt in Heaven through Y'shua, YHVH's reconciler. Through the merit of Y'shua, an asham (restitution cover) for man's inherited Adamic guilt was offered to satisfy the Torah's legal requirement for justice. According to Torah, there is only one recognized "legal tender" cover to satisfy the demand for justice in Heaven; it is the ransom of a man's nephesh as a life for a life (Hebrew: nephesh b' nephesh), the breath of life that flows in man's blood. Scripture speaks of it in Leviticus 17:

Leviticus 17:11. The spirit (nephesh) or breath-life (of man) is in the blood.

Yeshua declared to his Father the Word, "your will be done," who provided justice for all mankind (see John 3:16), saving him from the second death. Yeshua paid for it with the nephesh (spirit of breath-life) in his blood:

Matthew 20:28. Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom – kfar, (reconciliatory cover) for many.

In this, Yeshua fulfilled the Torah's rule of law that governs divine justice:

Deuteronomy 19:21: Your eye shall not pity: life for life (nephesh b' nephesh)...

Yeshua's death on a Roman cross (gruesome as it was) and the blood that he spilled (his own) was not the end goal to satisfy YHVH's requirement for the rule of justice in kingdom law. Rather, his execution was the means to an end, a gateway to turn the sinner into a just man and free him from YHVH's second death decree, as it is written in the Hebrew of Genesis 2:17. The coming horrifying dread of this second death is why Y'shua was agonizing and sweating drops of blood before being turned over to his accusers on that fateful night leading into the Passover story.

The Word in Y'shua was man-kind's great benefactor, an asham, a cover for our inherited indebtedness to the Law of Sin and Death passed down to each of us from Adam; a criminal trespass in that he sold all of us to the law of Sin and Death, whether we believe it or not. Through Y'shua, there was a great love of grace poured out (see Isaiah 42:1), saving us from the wrath of this second death (see 1 Thessalonians 5:9), establishing shalom, healing, and wholeness. Nonetheless, the second death could not contain the Word of life in Y'shua. Thus, through his resurrection, a new bond of ownership was made, sealed, and hand-delivered to YHVH. Through his resurrection, divine grace was poured out and given to us through the Word. This was man's redemption.

Paul expressed it – an aroma of death to death. Y’shua’s natural death lead him into the clutches of something that should have belonged to me, significantly adding meaning to Yeshua’s last breath declaration:

Matthew 27:46. And about the ninth hour Y’shua cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” (He gave himself up to the second death for us.)

This is an amazing love! Y’shua was our ga’al (Gimmel Alef Lamed) – a blood redeemer, covering us with his own life to buy our freedom with his nephesh or breath of life; that which was flowing in his blood. Consider that this was recognized in the Second Temple period of Judaism:

1 Peter 1:18-19. ...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Messiah, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

This is why Kingdom Law forbids us to consume blood, (Leviticus 17:10-14) because YHVH does not want us eating food connected to the currency of Sin and Death. If an animal on YHVH’s approval list is going to be food for us, it’s blood must be poured out and hidden (covered) in the dust of the ground. Certainly, Paul understood the metaphor when he wrote so boldly:

2 Corinthians 2:15-16. For we are to Elohim the fragrance of Messiah among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death to death, and to the other the aroma of life to life.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19. Therefore, if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of Elohim, who has reconciled us to himself through Y’shua haMashiach, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that Elohim was in Messiah reconciling the world to himself, not imputing their guilt (trespasses) to them, and has committed to us the Word of reconciliation.

For each of us who will receive YHVH’s gift of redemption and activate his cover of justice satisfied, we become beneficiaries to a great redemption. We have an asham offering from YHVH, covering our indebtedness to the Law of Sin and Death:

Isaiah 53:10 (my understanding from Hebrew). Yet it pleased YHVH to crush him (the benefactor); he caused him sickness (the “Son of Man”), when making his nephesh (soul) an asham (indebtedness) offering.

As one can see from this level of detail that there is much that we have not considered nor understood as to the process or requirements to cover our sin. I wanted to make sure that those who take the time to read through this lengthy but brief process, understand what it was that Yashua endured for us, so that we could avoid, if we choose, the second death. Let’s continue:

THE CUP OF ACCEPTANCE

We have been on quite a journey so far in our quest to find Salvation. The final stage is the one of Acceptance which is what we are all working towards. We all as children of Elohim, we yearn to end the wilderness trip and finally enter into our rest alongside the Messiah.

YHVH takes us as His children through the same process as that of ancient Israel and the rules or commandments that were given at Sinai still apply. The covenant that was made through Moses was one of “Obedience” in which we agreed to obey what was given to Moses from YHVH and passed down through the Torah.

“5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.” 7 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people and laid before them all these words which YHVH commanded him. 8 Then all the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.” So, Moses brought back the words of the people to YHVH.”
(Exodus 19:5-8)

“16 This day YHVH hath commanded thee to do — these statutes and — judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do — them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. 17 Thou hast avouched — the Lord this day to be thy Elohim, and to walk in his ways, and to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and to hearken unto his voice: 18 And YHVH hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people, as He hath promised thee, and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments; 19 And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honor; and that thou mayest be a holy people unto the Lord thy God, as he hath spoken. (Deut 26:16-19)

Without YHVH’s intervention in our lives, we would never make it into the Kingdom or even be able to find it. Though there are many people out there who have been serving “god” for decades, yet they still do not have a personal relationship with our Creator the way this journey was meant to develop and show us who He really is. Of course, none of this is possible if one ignores the instructions given in the Torah and accepts that they have been done away with or nailed to the cross.

With the understanding of what Yashua went through in order to cover the price and penalty of man’s failings in the garden of Eden. Now knowing the price was not just what He suffered in his final days preceding up to the cross, but in now knowing that there was even more, after His apparent death unto Death, is it ever a wonder that people do not appreciate the sacrifice that was truly given to us as a gift, to those who will recognize Him and YHVH so that we do not have to suffer what He went through. I hope that with this and of course my friend Avi Ben Mordechai’s new book “Coming Home”, will open the eyes even wider and allow the light of YHVH to shine so bright that people start to notice the spark within each one of us.

As the next portion of this teaching, I wanted to cover a few more topics that are related to this subject of Salvation. Much like when I travel to Africa I have learned that many people who are learning, do not learn at the same pace and so after each teaching, I always open the floor to

questions. What follows are comments and types of questions that are related to this topic. I have added scripture to prove and not my own opinion to prove each comment. Enjoy.

Once saved always saved...Really?

I have heard it said by many Christian believers that once they say the sinner's prayer that they are assured a place in heaven. The problem is scripture does not support this position. On top of that, it leads one to a position that all they have to do is wait it out until the Messiah returns and then they will be raptured off this earth and into a paradise where everything is perfect and they will get everything they never had on earth. There are so many things wrong with this perspective that if we are not careful, can lead one astray enough so that they can lose their salvation without them even knowing. Let's look at a few scriptures to see what the Word has to say;

John 15:1-6 – *“...Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away...”*

Matt 5:21-23 – *“...But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment... But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire...”*

Matt 12:33-37 – *“...But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”*

Phi 2:12 – *“...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...”* (Quote Only)

Deut 8:2-3 – *...Yahweh your Elohim led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.*

Some “Believers” Are Not as Saved as They Think...

Again, we see not only that unless we are diligent in the pursuit of our salvation on a daily basis there is a good chance that we may not be as saved as we might think. Many who have become “stale” or “stagnant”, for whatever reason, church, people, sins, the reasons vary depending on who you are and what your personal situation is. The end result is the same, no salvation.

It is critical that as believers we must never stop in our desire to seek out the truth. That may mean for many, ok pretty much everyone, that we are willing to change our perspective and allow YHVH to open our eyes more to allow sins to be exposed and also more truths to be revealed in His Word. This, in my opinion, applies more to those in ministry and those who consider themselves teachers of the Word. While this calling has much appeal, do not be fooled into thinking that just because you teach, that you get a pass into the Kingdom, but truth reveals a higher price must be paid by those who lead others through teaching.

Jude 1:5 “*But I intend to remind you...that Yahweh having saved a people out of the land of Mitsrayim, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.*”

Matt 13:36-43 “...lawless “believers,” out of His reign, will be thrown in the fire...”

James 3:1. “*My brethren, be not many teachers, knowing that we shall receive the greater judgement.*”

Luke 13:22-27 “...depart from Me all you workers of unrighteousness...”

Yahweh Saved Yisrael Over, and Over, and Over Again

It is very important to understand that during the time in the wilderness, which I see as our situation metaphorically speaking, that YHVH continues to save us regardless of our failures to walk in obedience, but once again this is no guarantee. Despite the love of YHVH and His promises, all one has to do is read the Word to know that not everyone will make it and I am pretty sure that many of those who have died because of their ignorance and pride, they thought that they were going to make it into the Kingdom. It is also relevant to point out at this point that many also died during the 40 years while in the wilderness for a multitude of reasons that were not directly related to the generation that did not have enough faith to take the land.

Exo 14:29-30 “*Yahweh saved Yisrael that day out of the hand of the Mitsrites...*”

Deut 20:1-4. “*For Yahweh your Elohim is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.*”

Deut 33:29 “*Blessed are you O Yisrael! Who is like you, a people saved by Yahweh ...*”

Isa 41:14 Yahweh our Redeemer

Isa 43:11 “*I am Yahweh, and besides Me there is no Savior.*”

Yahweh Gave Yisrael Judges to Save Them

Throughout history, those that claim to serve YHVH have repeatedly walked away then see that their path was wrong and when under persecution, return to YHVH and walk in obedience. This has not changed over time despite the number of times that YHVH has sent people to assist those who claim to be believers.

When we read about this through scripture the overall fault is that of walking away from the covenants, i.e.; the covenant of Moses the one that focuses on being OBEDIENT to His commandments. Again, if we have not been taught to be keeping the Torah, which provides protection when kept properly, then we will not be walking according to the rulings set down by YHVH. Read through these few passages that show this in detail.

Judges 2:16-23

- **Verse 16** “*Then Yahweh raised up rulers who saved them...*”
- **Verse 18** “*Yahweh was with the ruler and saved them...*”

Judges 10:6-16 Yahweh tells the idolatrous Yisraelites he will not save them this time

The “not saving” was for that time not for all Yahweh had previously promised in many places that Yisrael would ultimately be saved in the future

Hos 1:6-11 Lo-Ruhamah (uncompassionated), Lo-Ammi (not my people)

Yahweh Has Promised to Save Yisrael in the “End”

It has always staggered me to know the compassion and love beyond anything we see these days represented in the Bible, of our Elohim’s love towards His children. While it is true that YHVH is not above disciplining, enslaving, ignoring, or punishing His children, much like that of a parent and their children, in the end He still is willing to reach out and bring them back under His protection if we are willing to return to Him and obey Him once more..

Eze 37:1-14 The “valley of dry bones” – (*Speaks of those who are spiritually dead waiting for the Messiah’s return.*)

Eze 37:15-28 The “2 sticks” – (returning and joining of the lost tribes of Israel)

Deut 30:1-20 When we turn back to Him, He shall turn back and gather us

“16 In that I command thee this day to love — YHVH, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments...”

“20 That thou mayest love — YHVH, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Who Shall Be Saved?

I think there is a huge misconception about who and what it means to be saved. This is why I wrote this article about salvation to define what it means and what is involved. Though many may think once again that they are saved by just saying some words. I am here to clarify that this is not according to scripture. Those who are not keeping His Torah and all it means, will not be making it into the Kingdom. Read through the following passages to see for yourself.

Mat 13:24-30 – The parable of the wheat and darnel

Mat 13:36-43 – The Parable explained

Romans 1:1, 7 – The context for the Letter to the Romans

Romans 11:16-27 “*And so all Yisrael shall be saved...*”

- Verse 26 quotes from **Isaiah 59:20-21**
- Context – **Romans 9:27** “*...the remnant shall be saved*”

1 Timothy 2:3-6 “*Elohim desires all men to be saved and to come to the **knowledge of Truth***”

John 14:1-6 – “***I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.***”

Psalms 119:142 – “¹⁴² *Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and **thy torah is the truth.***”

Psalms 119:160 – “¹⁶⁰ *Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.*”

John 1:14 – “¹⁴ *And the **Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.***”

Y’shua “The Savior” – The One Who Saves

I wanted to add this as well to clarify once again, why it is that we do not use “Jesus Christ” when referring to the Messiah. All one has to do is really do a study regarding the meaning of names in the scriptures and they will find that there is not one name that does not imply something else or tells a story when it comes to lineage or families, throughout the Bible.

Matthew 1:18-23 – Yashua’s name literally means Yah will save / deliver

Luke 9:51-62 “The Son of Adam did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.”

Verses 57-62 describe some of what it will take to be saved

John 3:16-21 “...For Elohim did not send His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Verse 16 mentions the idea of “possessing”

The same word is used in **Luke 8:18** – **Read John 10:1-21** “Whoever enters through Me, he shall be saved...”

What does it mean to “enter through Yashua?”

Luke 13:22-30 – “strive to enter through the narrow gate”

How Are We Saved? Guard the Torah – Possess the Witness

The final piece to the puzzle about Salvation really comes into play is how we live our lives through other people's eyes, as they are the witness to our walk. Since we are supposed to be a witness for others, then our actions should reflect that of the Messiah's and if that is the case then keeping the commandments of Torah should be part of that walk.

Acts 16:30-32 – “...*what do I have to do to be saved?*”

“they spoke the Word of Yahweh to him and all in his house”

Revelation 12:17 “...*those guarding the commands and possessing the witness...*”

Revelation 14:12-13 “...*those guarding the commands and the belief of Yashua...*”

Matthew 19:16-29 – “*Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”*”

Conclusion:

While this study took a better part of 4 months, in doing so I have continued to learn and grow not only in my understanding of the Word but also my relationship with my Father in Heaven.

I believe that this wilderness journey is about growth, learning about those things that bring death and letting them go and moving towards life. Our lives are short enough while here and our true purpose is in the proving that we are worthy of the gift and act of our Messiah and the true sacrifice that He endured so that we do not have to not only go through but also be erased for all time the efforts of our lives.

Let us continue walking according to what is given to us, the Torah and letting our light shine for others to see it and spread the Word of YHVH.