



Words mean things - but most often, the culture we live in dictates how we interpret the meaning of words. To properly understand the text of scripture, we need to know what the words would have meant to the people who first heard them. To understand what these Hebrew authors were actually trying to convey requires us to first understand the context they were speaking from. We must always consider the context the words are presented in, the context of the Hebrew perspective they are presented from and, most importantly, the audience they are presented to.

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## Who Is Israel? the Gentile

by haRold Smith  
a citizen of the Commonwealth  
(Ephesians 2:19)



*"Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called 'the uncircumcision' by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands - remember that you were at that time separated from haMashiach (the Messiah), alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise,*

*having no hope and without YHVH in the world. But now in Yeshua haMashiach you who once were far off **have been brought near by the blood** of Yeshua haMashiach."* Ephesians 2:11-14

**"...not by observation - the Kingdom is within." Luke 17:20-21**

*"Truly YHVH is good to Israel, to those who are of a **pure heart**."* Psalm 73:1

After the article [the Blood](#) ([click on highlighted words to view content](#)), several have written asking the same question - "Who is Israel today?" As that article stated and the passage from Ephesians above confirms, the purpose of the shedding of the pure blood of Yeshua was for the restoration of [echad](#) (Hebrew for "one") to [the Kingdom of YHVH](#) as it was in the beginning with the [first Hebrew](#) Adam. Before answering that question specifically, however, we need to be sure our terminology is in alignment with the words and life of Yeshua Who is the benchmark by which everything is measured - including other scripture ([Revelation 19:10b](#)). In the article, [the Beatitudes](#), we found that the words Yeshua spoke were not something "new", that is, unique just to His message; but, rather, all of His Words can be referenced back to the Words of YHVH in the *Tanakh* (the OT, [John 14:24](#)). Since words mean things, if we simply look to what the words of scripture say and mean without overlaying any preconceived traditional theology upon them, those words make clear the question of who comprises the family of YHVH, the Kingdom of Israel. As we see from Psalm 73:1 above, YHVH considers Israel to be those who maintain a pure or cleansed heart before Him. [1Peter 1:22](#) tells us HOW our lives are cleansed and made pure - by obedience to the Truth. That Truth is found in the standard set by the Words of the Father of the family of the Kingdom Who IS Spirit ([John 4:24](#), see [Who's Word Is It?](#)). When we remember that all of the books of the Book were written by Hebrews and were primarily addressing Hebrews; from a strictly Hebraic perspective, we find there are only two categories of people contained in scripture - Hebrews and others. These others are called Gentiles - those who worship gods other than the Holy One of Israel. The term "Gentile believer" is **oxymoronic** and does not exist in a Hebraic world view. When a Gentile or foreigner (someone from outside the family, from another nation) becomes adopted into YHVH's Hebrew family of Israel by observance of [the standards](#) set by the Father, it has always been the case that he is to be treated no differently from those naturally born into the family ([Leviticus 19:34](#)). So, when a Gentile abandons the multiple gods of any society and "comes to faith" in YHVH, the One True God of Israel, he is considered a Hebrew convert. This was the same Father the Hebrew Yeshua addressed in His Words and Life. This is the same Name that appears over 6500 times in the Hebrew scriptures but not once has the Name of YHVH found its way into our modern English translations. Why is that? - because it has been replaced by the words "God" or "Lord". So, everytime these words appear in scripture, our mind should be seeing His Name - **YaHoVeH**, or the shortened version, YHVH (see [One Name](#) for more evidence). Just as we have previously seen [heaven](#) to be - the Israel spoken of in scripture is not a place on a map but a state of being of those within YHVH's Kingdom who manifest His Nature.

In the light of exploring who Israel is, it is just as important to come to an understanding of who Israel is not. Most of the misunderstanding concerning YHVH's family has come from the false teaching of Christian [replacement theology](#) concerning who constitutes "the church". This theology runs much deeper than a simple declaration of being for or against the physical nation of Israel but, in fact, permeates through most of Christian theological thought as the Hebrew Israel abandoned by YHVH and handed to Gentiles - now as something "spiritual" not requiring obedience to YHVH's Words. This theology was originally designed as a deliberate act of creating a division between "ethnic" Hebrew and "non-ethnic" monotheistic (one God) believers in YHVH in order to escape the horrific persecution heaped upon Hebrews and all who stood with them in the worship of the Holy One of Israel from the Roman Empire - who worshipped polytheism (meaning several gods). This persecution of Hebrews by Rome began in earnest with the destruction of the second temple in 70 CE and throughout the reign of the Roman Empire. Looking for a single religion that would coalesce the disparate factions within Rome,



the Roman Emperor, Constantine, subsequently convened the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE to set forth the edicts of this "new" religion (the declaration of those disturbing edicts can be found in [Who Is The Word?](#)). A brief involvement with history will confirm that the theological aspects of this new religion were non-existent for well into the third century - 150 to 200 years after the Resurrection. Scripture confirms that at the time of the apostles and the writing of the epistles, those faithful to conform themselves to the Life exemplified by Yeshua as the promised Messiah of scripture were considered a heretical sect of Judaism - believers in YHVH, the Holy One of Israel ([Acts 24:5](#), [Acts 24:14](#)). In order to justify the existence of Christianity as something apart from the Hebrew faith and as a condition of appeasement to the power of Rome, existing scripture had to undergo a fundamental re-interpretation to establish a separation from the Holy One of Israel and His Hebrew Family, conflicting with what had been in existence for thousands of years. The edicts of the Nicaean Council comprised the underpinnings of what became known as the Roman Catholic Church - the root from which all subsequent Christian sects and denominations can be traced. While adoption is not a new phenomenon among YHVH's family - supplanting the family is. When a branch is grafted into a tree, it draws its sustenance from the life flowing out of the root of that tree - not the other way around. The branch does not bring life to the root ([Romans 11:16-18](#), [John 4:22](#)). To cut away the root from the rest of the branches condemns that tree to death. Yeshua said those who try to enter the Father's Kingdom by any other means are considered thieves and robbers.



*the beauty of YHVH*

Those who propose the "one new man" of [Ephesians 2:11-14](#) to be a new species or an amalgam of the Gentile and Hebrews neglect the admonition of the verses preceding that statement. These verses call for a remembrance that those "*who were once Gentiles ... were without Messiah, aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without YHVH in the world.*" Someone who is a Gentile is one without the *Elohiem* (Hebrew for "God") of Israel. Now, however, because of the resurrection of Messiah, the opportunity is now open for those having been once separated from the Present Presence to be brought into the Commonwealth of Israel - not into something else newly created just for them. Gentiles are those turning away from beliefs regarding something other than belief in the Holy One of Israel to join themselves as a "new man" into YHVH's family. The name of this one new man is Israel - all those who purify their hearts by adhering to the standards set within the family of YHVH by the Father of that family.

*"For through Yeshua we **BOTH** have access by one Spirit to the Father of Israel. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the **HOUSEHOLD OF YHVH**." Ephesians 2:18-19*

Christians are taught that "the church" was first formed at Pentecost - contrary to what scripture tells us. The Greek word used for "church", *ekklesia*, means "*those called out...*" and most of Christianity stops right there with their definition - but that definition is not complete. The complete definition continues with "*those called out of their homes to an assembly, an assembly of Israelites*". The first time this Greek word is used in scripture is not in the book of Acts on Yom Shavu'ot (Day of Pentecost) as Christianity maintains, but appears first in the gospel of Matthew, specifically in the words of Yeshua in chapter [18:17](#). In this passage, Yeshua referred to those not hearing the *ekklesia* ("the church") are to be treated as a Gentile - someone other than a member of the Hebrew family of Israel. When Yeshua made this statement, there were no "Christians" around. He was speaking to Hebrews who understood the *ekklesia* to have existed long before Pentecost. In [Leviticus 8:4](#) when in the wilderness, whenever the Israelites gathered before the tabernacle, they were called the ha'edah (translated as the English "congregation") meaning "a stated assemblage (specifically, a concourse, or generally, a family or crowd)" - from which the Greek word *ekklesia* gleams its definition. In the text of [Hebrews 8:13](#), the Hebraic background of the word "new" (quoted directly from the passage in [Jeremiah 31:31](#)) cannot be taken in the sense of essentially new or completely new - as from scratch. To understand *kainos* (Greek for "new" meaning "fresh") in this verse is to understand that it is speaking of a new element that was previously out of sight is now coming into view - not something newly created. Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words denotes *kainos* as "*...of that which is unaccustomed or unused, not 'new' in time, recent, but 'new' as to form or quality, of different nature from what is contrasted as old.*" It is the revelation of

what was always present but unperceived. Only by divorcing *kainen* from its Hebraic influence of the word actually used in Jeremiah 31, **chadash** (whose root meaning is to *re-new*, or *re-pair*), can someone conclude that this represents an entirely unprecedented creative act. What is "new" about the covenant is the *manner of delivery* of YHVH's Words. They are now written and *renewed* on the hearts of men who will receive them, instead of on tablets of stone - **BUT THEY ARE STILL THE SAME WORDS** (John 1:12, Jeremiah 31:33). As seen in the article, **What's New About It?**, these Words are not altered or done away with as Yeshua reinforces in **Matthew 5:17-19**, just a *better* way of having them delivered - by or through Spirit. The Greek word **pleroo** translated as "fulfill" in this passage means "to cause to abound, to furnish or supply liberally, to fill to the brim" - there is nothing in that definition that even remotely lends itself to something "done away with". When a cup is "filled to the brim" it means it is whole or complete so that nothing else can be added - it does *not* mean to throw the cup away, for then there would be no way to partake of what refreshment the cup holds. In **Matthew 26:28** and **Mark 14:24**, the Greek word *kainos* in front of "testament" or "covenant" (depending on the translation) **is not found in the original manuscripts** - having been artificially inserted at a later date to reinforce a replacement theology embraced by the translators. The text should be read "this is My blood of the covenant which is poured out for the many..." - not a "new" covenant, but a promised restoration or fulfillment of **what came before**. In **Luke 22:20** where *kainos* is inserted, it is with the proper definition of "fresh" - not new from scratch. It is only with the understanding there is no "new" covenant (simply the same covenant that has been renewed or repaired - much in the same way a house or a car is given a restoration to make it *better*), can we see the consistency in the first usage of *ekklesia* by Yeshua in **Matthew 16:18** where Yeshua says He will *build* (Greek **oikodomeo**, meaning "to *restore* by building, to *re-build*, to *re-pair*") His church on the same rock of revelation by Spirit that *Keifer* (Peter) received in the prior verse. This is the gospel Yeshua spoke of in **Luke 4:43** as the purpose for His being sent (see what **the Gospel** is). He was sent as **the Kinsman Redeemer** to the house of Israel for the restoration of the Kingdom of YHVH. So, then, what is to be done with the Gentiles?



**full to the brim**

*"For although they **KNEW** YHVH, they did not honor him as YHVH or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened." Romans 1:21*

In Christianity, the Hebrew apostle *Shau'l* (Paul) is customarily acknowledged as "the missionary to the Gentiles" commissioned to take the "good news" to those outside the community of Israel - in spite of the scriptural record in the book of Acts telling us that everywhere he went he is first seen preaching *in synagogues* to other *Hebrews*. Nevertheless, his message was not exclusively for Hebrews - but for all those whom YHVH is calling into His Kingdom *regardless of their ethnic background*. This verse in Paul's letter to the Romans is crucial for our understanding of his message because this verse describes the spiritual condition of those whose hearts are not open to the good news. What Paul says about the population of the first century is just as true today. But we need to notice how these people knew God. In Romans 1:21, Paul uses the Greek verb **ginosko**, that describes knowledge as a result of factual investigation, intelligent comprehension, including understanding, recognition, perception and informed opinion. In other words, knowing God in this manner means knowing that there is a God, that I am not God and that He is responsible in some manner for what is. This is the same idea we find in **Psalms 19** where YHVH is revealed as the Designer and Creator. The mere fact that I did not bring about the world of my experience was enough in the first century to convince me that there must be a god or gods. That I have some obligation to the divine is taken for granted. In fact, even in the Roman Empire it was a capital offense to be an atheist. Paul's use of *ginosko* does not imply any sort of personal relationship with this God. It merely implies that I am aware of my own finitude and the power of the divine. Today this is the equivalent of what most people mean when they say, "I believe in God." They believe that there is a god but his or her involvement in the daily affairs of life is for all intents and purposes non-existent. These people are the exact opposite of the insight that unless God is of supreme importance He is of no importance. What we must notice is that Paul does not suggest, in fact he denies, that these people have any real concern for God. They merely conclude that there is a god from the evidence of their lives.

*"So the young men who were spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and her mother and her brothers and all she had; they also brought out all her relatives and placed them **OUTSIDE** the camp of Israel. Joshua 6:23*

The Hebrew word translated as the English "outside" in this verse is **chuwts**. That's what you do with Gentiles. You rescue them, but you keep them away, outside the camp. After all, Gentiles are not really like you. You are part of the household of Israel - they are not. You are a descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - they are not. You have Torah - they do not. So you can save them from extinction (and fulfill the obligation of **chesed**), but you don't dare let them in! *Chuwts* is the issue at the heart of the argument found in **Acts 15**. Rahab all over again. What do you do with the Gentiles? And Joshua provides the answer that *Sha'ul* (the Hebrew apostle Paul) repeats. Joshua brings Rahab into the midst. The verse (v. 25) says, "she has lived in

Israel to this day." But we need the Hebrew to see what is really happening - [vateshev bekerev Israel ad hayon](#). The key word here is [kerev](#), translated as the English "in" but really meaning "into the inner parts" or "in the midst," the internal social structure of the community. In other words, Joshua ensures that Rahab and all her family is fully incorporated into the fabric of the Hebrew community. She is not left as an outsider. Why is this important? Because Rahab is not a convert! She is a Gentile from a city that was to be completely destroyed because it was pagan. She is a prostitute, selling sexual favors. She lives in a place of pagan gods. She never confesses her allegiance to Torah. But God is doing something in Rahab's life, and Joshua has the spiritual awareness to see that. Rahab knows the name of YHVH. Rahab understands and employs [chesed](#). Rahab declares that YHVH has given the land to Israel. How Rahab knows all this is never mentioned but the fact that she does know is enough for us to realize that somehow, some way, Rahab has a relationship with YHVH. And that is enough. She is welcomed in. The central question of the apostolic letters is the question of Rahab. YHVH is doing something with Gentiles. Peter was forced to acknowledge this at the house of Cornelius. Paul saw it everywhere he went. But what do you do with Gentiles? Do you insist that they become Hebrews (through the steps of the proselyte) before you welcome them into full fellowship? **That's just what the Pharisees claimed**. "Yes, let them in, but only after they have converted" - meaning to **become circumcised**. Paul says "No! YHVH is calling them. Who are we to require more than that?" Rahab stands in the background. "If YHVH is bringing them in, we must open the doors and offer full fellowship. Yes, they can learn our way of life after that, but we cannot put requirements on them that YHVH does not." Rahab is watching. Paul's argument is Joshua's action - [bekerev](#) - into the midst. It doesn't matter if the person doesn't fit my expectations. It only matters that YHVH has issued an invitation. Rahab is the answer to the Gentile question. And, by the way, now it is even more significant that the verb used to describe Rahab "in the midst" is an imperfect, a continuing action. Rahab is still in the midst because YHVH is still sending out invitations. You and I are Rahab's children. So was the Messiah. The job of every community of the Way, is to develop the awareness of recognizing when YHVH is working in the life of someone outside - and bring them in!

In [Matthew 5:34](#) Yeshua reinforces that heaven is YHVH's throne, His residency, the place where Spirit dwells (quoting directly from [Isaiah 66:1](#)). The Kingdom of YHVH tells us whose it is and the Kingdom of heaven tells us where it is - but there is only one Kingdom referred to in scripture that belongs to Spirit ([Matthew 6:10](#)). There was an epochal event that occurred on *Yom Shav'uot* (Day of Pentecost) that had not happened since the separation took place in *gan edan* (the Eden garden). For it was on that day, as a result of the Resurrection of the Kinsman Redeemer that the promise of the restoration of the Kingdom was fulfilled. On that day, the Kingdom of YHVH's residency, His throne, moved from the "heavenlies" once again into the hearts of men who would receive His Words - and "heaven" moved with Him ([Jeremiah 31:33](#), [John 1:12](#)). Yeshua said in Luke



**not abandoned**

17:20-21 above that the Kingdom of YHVH is "within" - not "over yonder". The throne of YHVH today resides in a tabernacle not made of stone, but in the hearts of men who have allowed His Words to cleanse and **purify their hearts** - His Kingdom is within and among His saints ([Revelation 21:3](#), [Hebrews 9:11](#)). We began this discourse by asking "who is Israel?" This is a valid question since YHVH proclaims His Husbandry to the physical people of Israel in [Jeremiah 31:32](#) and that He will never abandon or cast them away in [31:35-37](#). Christianity, however, has proclaimed itself as the de-facto, "spiritual" Israel, replacing the Israel YHVH supposedly gave up on - which, as

we have seen, is not the position laid out in scripture. If He were able to dissolve His Promises to His Family of Israel, what does that say about where you and I stand with Him on His Promises today? There was a second epochal event that occurred in 1947 with the re-emergence of the physical nation of Israel - beginning the fulfilling of the covenant promise made to the Hebrew patriarch, Abraham, concerning His People and the Land - still in the process of being made complete.

**the Gentile - a discussion**

*"...all Israel will be saved... With respect to the Good News they have been separated for your sake. But with respect to being chosen they are loved for the Patriarchs' sake, **for YHVH's free gifts and His calling are irrevocable.**"*  
Romans 11:25-29





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## Who Is Israel? the Church

by haRold Smith  
a citizen of the Commonwealth  
(Ephesians 2:19)

*"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge I reject you from being a priest to Me. And since you have forgotten the law of YHVH, I also will forget your children." Hosea 4:6*

**"...not by observation - the Kingdom is within." Luke 17:20-21**

*"...remember all the commandments of YHVH, to do them, not to follow after*

*your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after. So you shall remember and do all my Words, and be holy to YHVH." Numbers 15:39-40*

The previous article of this series, [the Gentile](#) ([click on highlighted words to view content](#)), set forth the scriptural concept of what has come to be known as "the church" was actually to have been in existence long before [Yom Shav'out](#) (Day of Pentecost) that Christianity claims to be the inception of "the church". The Greek word used for "church", [ekklesia](#), means "*those called out...*" and most of Christianity stops right there with their definition - but that definition is not complete. The complete definition continues with "*those called out of their homes to an assembly, an assembly of Israelites.*" The Hebrew word [qahal](#), was what was used in the Original Writings as an "assembly" - but this was not a "gentile church", something that is completely contrary to [what scripture tells us](#). The first time the Greek word, [ekklesia](#), is used in scripture is not in the book of Acts on [Yom Shavu'ot](#) as Christianity maintains, but first appears in the gospel of Matthew, specifically in the words of Yeshua in chapter [18:17](#). In this passage, Yeshua referred to those not hearing the [ekklesia](#) ("the church") are to be treated as a [Gentile](#) - someone *other* than a member of the Hebrew family [of Israel](#). When Yeshua made this statement, there were no "Christians" around. He was speaking to Hebrews who understood the [qahal](#) to have existed long before Pentecost. Even [Sha'ul](#) (the Hebrew apostle Paul) said so:

*"This is the one (Moses) who was in the church (ekklesia) in the wilderness with the angel which spoke to him in the mount and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us." Acts 7:38*

*"Saying, I will declare your name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church (ekklesia) will I sing praise unto you." Hebrews 2:12*

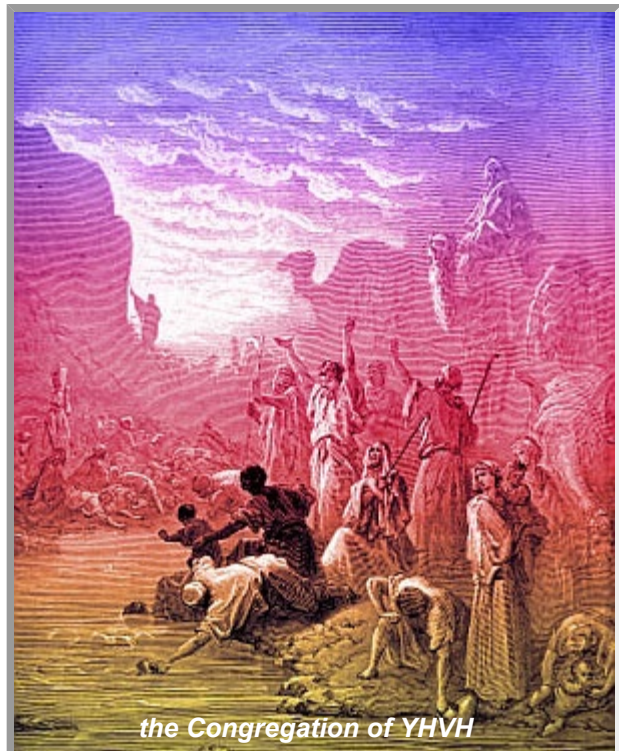
Interestingly most modern bibles don't translate [ekklesia](#) as "church" in this passage [from Acts 7:38](#) but, rather, as the English "congregation." When the entire chapter is read in context, it is clear that the [ekklesia](#) Paul is speaking of isn't a "gentile church" but [Israel](#)! What is being quoted in Hebrews 2:12 is taken directly from [Psalm 22:22](#) that reads: "*I will declare your name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise you.*" Clearly David is also speaking of Israel - and the author of the book of Hebrews is quoting him directly. The Hebrew word translated as the English "congregation" in Psalm 22:22 is [qahal](#) (*kaf-hey-lamed*), meaning "assembly." In the Original Writings, we find this word used well over 100 times and is always translated as "congregation" or "assembly." Perhaps the most interesting thing about this word, however, is that it is always in reference to Israel - but never to gentiles. Thus, since the authors of the Messianic Writings were Hebrew, writing from the Hebrew perspective they were raised in and primarily directing their words toward other Hebrews; then viewing the Greek word [ekklesia](#) from their vantage point means they were never conveying the idea of a "gentile church".

In the light of exploring who Israel is, it is just as important to come to an understanding of who Israel is not. Since words mean things, what terminology we use is indicative of what kind of understanding we have of what lies beneath the concepts presented to us in scripture. For instance, Christians have typically understood the Bible to be made up of two testaments - the Old and the New. This is an error in translation and in thinking. The word translated as the English testament is the Greek word, [diatheke](#), meaning "the last disposition which one makes of his earthly possessions after his death, a will" and is actually translated as "covenant" more times than it is "testament." Interestingly, there is no Hebrew word that corresponds to this English word "testament" in the Original Writings. The Hebrew word translated as the English "covenant" is [beriyth](#) which means "alliance or pledge" - nothing even remotely associated with a "will." There is also an inference between the words "old"

and "new" that what is newest supersedes what is "oldest". That concept is simply not seen when scripture is viewed from the Hebrew perspective it was written in (see [Who's Word Is It?](#) for more insight). The *Tanakh* or the Original Scriptures are not an "Old Testament." They make up the completeness of YHVH's everlasting covenant with Israel. What has come to be known as the "New Testament" is in reality a [fulfillment](#) of that everlasting covenant. They are not two testaments or even two covenants - they are one. If we are to remain faithful students of the Truth, it becomes imperative to rid ourselves of words that continue to promote inferences which are in opposition to the Truth contained in scriptural concepts ([2Corinthians 10:5](#)). Consequently, these articles use the terms "*Tanakh*" or "Original Writings" when referring to what has been classically called the "Old Testament" and "Messianic Writings" for what has come to be inappropriately called the "New Testament." Most Christians also see the term [replacement theology](#) primarily as a reference to "the church" being the anointed replacement for the Hebrews who forsook "God" - those who "had their shot and blew it" causing them to be cast off from His promises. But would these same Christians be so quick to embrace "replacement theology" if they were aware of the more insidious and underlying implication that theology carries - of actually meaning "*replacing the Only True Holy One of Israel*" with something else? That being a system of thought that divorces Christianity from the historical reality that spawned it. Yeshua said that what we give ourselves to is what we serve and who or what we serve is what we worship in [Matthew 4:10](#) (reinforcing [Deuteronomy 11:16](#)). To see replacement theology for the idolatry it really is requires revelation - a paradigm shift in approach to the words of scripture. Throughout scripture, YHVH tells His People to [remember](#) Who He is. *To believe in YHVH is to remember His Nature shown in and through His Deeds* - revelation is history, not theology. The knowledge spoken of in [Hosea 4:6](#) at the top of this article is the knowledge of YHVH's Nature expressed in His Words and Deeds. To be separate from that knowledge is to be destroyed ([John 17:3](#)).

So, seeing that Psalm 22:22 is quoted word for word in Hebrews 2:12 and if the Greek word *ekklesia* actually means "assembly" - then why would it ever be translated "church" any place else? If the term and concept of "the church" is not scriptural, then how did it wind up in our modern lexicon - where did it come from? 325 years AFTER THE RESURRECTION, "the Church" was created and placed under the control of the state of Rome by its emperor, Constantine (a pagan sun worshipper to the day he died), at the Council of Nicaea where it became known as the new "Roman" Catholic Church. The disturbing edicts of that council can be found in [the Word](#). Those edicts were carried through to the end of the Roman Empire and beyond. When the pope, as the head of the Roman Catholic Church, told King Henry VIII that divorcing his current wife to marry [Anne Bolyin](#) went against scripture, King Henry's response was to take jurisdiction over the Church with the Act of Supremacy passed by Parliament in 1534 which proclaimed the king as head of the now renamed "Church of England" (interestingly, it was the scripture of the Original Writings the pope was using as the basis for his accusation). Subsequently, when the original King James version of the Bible was completed in 1611, it had become very important to the crown to retain the word "church" in the text to support the state's authority over it. It was on this premise that [King James made fifteen specific edicts](#) (scroll down through the text to see them) that were forcibly applied to that translation. Edict number three stated that this bible was to retain the word "church" in the translation and it was not to be replaced with the word "congregation". He made this a specific edict because he had no authoritative jurisdiction over the congregation (assembly of people) - but he did have that authority over the church (physical buildings). He did not want the word "assembly" associated with the original meaning of the Original Writings which meant "congregation" to prevent an undermining of that authority. He obviously knew the correct translation, but he didn't want it in there in order to retain control over "the church."

The proof of this assertion is found in the first independent English Bible, the Tyndale Bible, translated sometime between 1524 and 1526. The Tyndale Bible never once used the word **church**. It used the word **assembly** or **congregation** (see [Acts 7:38](#) anew). The Tyndale Bible did use the word "churches" once in [Acts 19:37](#) to describe pagan temples. It is Strong's #2417 [hierosylos](#) and



*the Congregation of YHVH*



means "guilty of sacrilege". In other words, it means that the hierosulos (translated by Tyndale as **churches**) is spoiling YHVH's Temple. **It is a false temple!** Interestingly, this preference for the word "church" was what was passed on to the first printed KJV translation, even though the word used there in Acts 19:37 is NOT *ekklesia*. The Greek word *ekklesia* was falsely translated *church* in the King James Version from a word used to describe pagan temples! Since the earlier Tyndale version had correctly translated the Greek "*ekklesia*," as "congregation" rather than "church" it was asserted this translation choice, "...was a direct threat to the Roman Catholic Church's claim to be the body of Christ on earth (but as Tyndale made clear, a non-scriptural claim). To change these words was to strip the Church hierarchy of its pretensions to be Christ's terrestrial representative, and to award this honour to individual worshipers who made up each congregation." (ibid, Brian Moynahan, William Tyndale "If God Spare my Life" Abacus, London ISBN 034911532 p72). It is because of his refusal to repent over his translation of the bible and for making it accessible to the public that William Tyndale was burned at the stake by the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church.

The English word "congregation" is translated from the Greek word, "*ekklesia*" - but since King James forbade replacing this Greek word with "congregation" (the true interpretation), it was replaced with a word which has a totally different meaning. **THERE IS NO SUCH ENTITY IN THE SCRIPTURES AS "THE CHURCH"**. It is easy to see that what is going on is a perpetuation of Replacement Theology by the anti-Semitic gentile "Church" that was founded by Constantine and endorsed by the so called "REFORMERS" - who are nothing more than



Protestant Catholics (**Mark 7:9-13**). The poison of anti-Semitism and the push to remove the influence of anything Hebraic from what became known as Christianity under the heavy anti-Semitic influence of Constantine in the 4th century, continued with the "church" leaders that followed his destructive legacy. Martin Luther was an avowed anti-Semite. To worship the One True Holy One of Israel is to enter into a culture marked by a common history, a common storehouse of cultural memories that supply us with identity, meaning and practice of worship toward **YaHoVeH, the Present Presence**. Once we become divorced from the historical continuity of YHVH's plan and purpose, we are no longer in the stream of YHVH's actions - we are no longer biblical believers. We become theologians or philosophers, pursuing abstractions about some universal god - we no longer are adherents to the revelation of YHVH whom Yeshua extolled. Have you ever wondered where the phrase "*Christian apologist*" comes from? What are they apologizing for? When Christianity became a philosophy, a new religion - it no longer was part of the history of YHVH's people. That is a hard swallow for those who have invested the whole of their identity in Christian theology and why they still seek to see themselves as "God's people" to justify their stance. That they worship a "god" is certain - what god that is becomes suspect.

**...what do these words really mean?**

Idolatry is the correct word to describe Christianity's current state because they worship a man-made constructed "**Jesus**" - elevating him to the status of a deity.

YHVH has always had but one assembly and Her Name is Israel. The question of this series has been, "Who is Israel?" - but the more important question is, have you joined her? Or, now equipped with this knowledge - are you going to just keep "doing church"?

### **the Church - a discussion**

*"But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His Name, **He gave the right to become children of YHVH.**" John 1:12*





[DOWNLOAD "the Bride" MP3](#)

## Who Is Israel? the Bride

by haRold Smith

a citizen of the Commonwealth (Ephesians 2:19)

*"These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." **And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.**" Luke 24:44-45*

*"Now **YOU** are the Body of Messiah, and members in particular." 1Corinthians 12:27*

*"For the husband is head of the wife, as also Messiah is head of the assembly; and He is the Savior of the Body... **For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.** 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Messiah and His Body." Ephesians 5:23-32*

*"John answered and said, 'A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from the Father.' You yourselves bear me witness that I said,*

*'I am not the Messiah' but, 'I have been sent before Him. **He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.**' John 3:27-29*



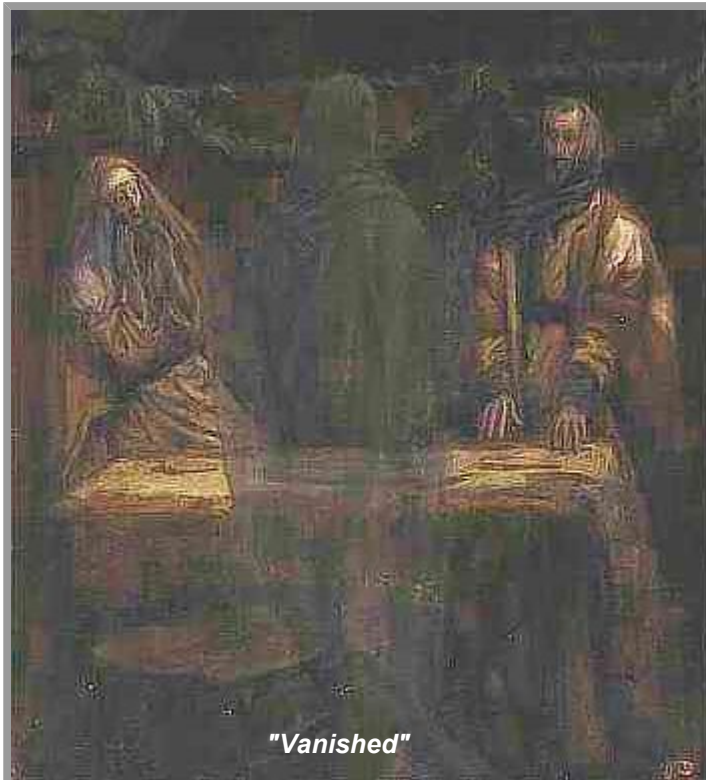
**the Wedding Supper of the Lamb**

Any body, your body, is a single entity. Your head is not detached from the rest of your body, floating around somewhere in space on its own - you are a single unit. In like manner, if we are to become "members of Yeshua's Body, flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone" with Him as the Head of that Body as it says in [Ephesians 5:30](#) ([click on highlighted words to view content](#)) then those who have embraced the example of His Life are also a single entity with the Head. If we comprise the members of His Body and if He is the BrideGroom as John the Immerser proclaimed in [John 3:29](#), it can be safely said that, as befits a single entity, *we are the bodily members of the BrideGroom* - already of His Flesh and of His Bone. The English word **communion** is translated from the Greek word **koinonia** and means **fellowship, association, community, joint participation**, and (the definition that is of particular interest) - **intercourse**. In fact, of the 20 times this word *koinonia* is used in scripture, it is translated more than half the time (12) as "fellowship" and is actually only translated 4 times as "communion". What scripture is speaking of was a Hebraic practice that each of the disciples were not only aware of, but had been raised in a culture where "table fellowship" meant something unique to the Hebraic way of life. So, if the BrideGroom leaves His mother and Father to BECOME one flesh with His Wife when they **are joined together** and, since nowhere in scripture is there any precedent set for a groom to have intercourse with himself and, thus, at a wedding one cannot be both the BrideGroom and the Bride at the same time; then, the question has to be asked - **who is the Bride?**

For many years, I have had a problem with which scriptures are to be taken literally and which scriptures are to be "spiritualized" as allegory or metaphor - and who decides which ones are handled in which manner? What I have come to observe is that those scriptures we think we understand we take literally - as in "do not murder". Those scriptures we can not or do not understand are "spiritualized" and placed in an allegorical "nether land." To those we point to as an answer but, in reality, are made up only of speculation, conjecture and opinion that after a period of time, assume validation simply by existing. Like most, I have believed what I have been taught - what has been handed down to me by those I respected as learned in the Way of Yeshua. Over the past few years, however and particularly since residing in Israel, I have come to question many of those beliefs - not out of disrespect for my mentors for they were only handing me what they, too, had been taught and had sincerely come to believe as being true. What I have uncovered in that questioning is the insidiousness by which perversity has infiltrated what we have come to embrace as Truth - perversity being defined as "a slight turning from Truth." Ever since **"resurfacing"** in YaHoVeH some time ago, I have seen that much of what we

have come to believe and hold as Truth in the religion of Christianity is nothing more than tradition handed down to us by other men. That is precisely the meaning of tradition as defined by Yeshua in [Mark 7:13](#) and the only thing He ever pointed to that would nullify [the Word of His Father](#).

As an example of just how much tradition has become intertwined into what we believe, many consider the Hebrew phrase [ruach ha kodesh](#) (reading right to left is Hebrew for "the holiness of spirit") to simply be a substitute for the English "Holy Spirit" appearing in their bibles. This is incorrect as there is no capitalization in Hebrew; thus, there is no personification, no third person "[Holy Spirit](#)" - that is nothing more than the tradition of men not found in the original words of scripture. What is the holiness of spirit? Holiness is the Nature abiding in Spirit, Who is YHVH - something that is [cultivated](#) within an individual by that individual. When Yeshua said to "[be perfect even as your Father is perfect](#)" in [Matthew 5:48](#), He was not giving us something to do that was beyond our reach - nor was He telling us anything new. He was not giving us a "new" command. He was actually quoting [Leviticus 19:2](#) (*the Torah*) which says, "[You shall become holy, as I, YHVH, your Elohim am holy](#)". The Way to become holy is to keep [YHVH's Words](#) - the only Words given by Spirit directly to men. There are many "saints" recorded in the *Tanakh* (OT). The Hebrew word [kadosh](#) translated "saints" in the *Tanakh* and a variation of *kodesh*, is describing those who comprise [the family of YHVH](#) - those who abide within [YHVH's Kingdom](#) by becoming "set apart" from the world. Becoming holy is very different from what happened on [Yom Shavu'ot](#) when those who were waiting received [the Breath of Life](#) from [YaHoVeH](#). Every jot and tittle of scripture is inspired by [Spirit](#) Who is YHVH and will all come to pass exactly as it is written. But, you know what? - when Yeshua appeared in the flesh, every jot and tittle of inspired scripture was fulfilled exactly as it was written and nobody understood it until after it had taken place. Not even the disciples knew - which is why their understanding was opened AFTER His Resurrection ([Luke 24:44-45](#), [John 20:6-9](#)). Since words mean things, it is only in receiving those words given to us in scripture for what they actually say and mean that we will begin to understand what they are trying to convey. While most Christians have just accepted the analogy of being both the Body and the Bride without much study on their own, the thought expressed in the opening paragraph of this article cuts across the grain of all that has been taught concerning the Christian "[church](#)" being both members of His Body and also being the Bride at the same time. But, again, words mean things and if we look at scripture simply for what the words say - it becomes apparent there is a distinction between the two. Before we answer the question of "Who is the Bride?" however (bear with me for a moment, if you will), let us see what it means to be a "[member of the Body of Messiah](#)" (not "the Christ" which is a [Greek alteration](#) of the Hebrew word "Messiah"), let us put aside all of our preconceptions and look at some scriptures which lay a foundation that, at the very least, I believe you will find compelling.



[Sha'ul](#) (the Hebrew apostle Paul) says in [Ephesians 5:23-32](#) that when he speaks of the marriage relationship, he is speaking a "[mystery](#)" because He is actually speaking of the relationship between Messiah and His Body. A mystery is not something that discounts what we see in reality but is something above what our human intellect comprehends about what we see. Often, we look at things as being either one way or another and have a tendency to try to conceptualize in finite, human terms something that is Spirit - infinite and unconceptual. This mystery the scripture refers to over and over is that we can have both at the same time - flesh and Spirit. When Yeshua "appeared" to the boys in [Luke 24:36-42](#), it does not say He walked through the walls as most of us have come to reason - He simply "[stood in their midst](#)". He appeared much in the same way He "[appeared](#)" before the two on the road to Emmaus in the verses preceding and, yet, He had a Body of flesh - He was both Spirit and flesh. This mystery continues in the description of the marriage relationship between a man

and a woman. The mystery is that even though you can clearly see two distinct individuals before your eyes, scripture says they are - not one spirit, but one flesh. Reach over and pinch yourself. This is the type of relationship [Sha'ul](#) says he is speaking of between Yeshua and His Body where, when two or three are gathered together in His Name, even though only two or three individuals can be "seen"; what is actually being



beheld is one entity, one Body with Yeshua as the Head of that Body - the Head is not floating around somewhere else gazing in on the picture ([Mark 10:8](#), [1Corinthians 6:16](#)). So, to comprehend this description properly, we need to elevate our level of understanding above that which we have come to define as a single entity. The two individuals are really one entity, one flesh and it is [this description](#) that constitutes the Body's relationship to the Messiah of Israel.

As seen in the previous article, the English word **"church"** comes from the Greek **ekklesia** which actually means *"a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly of Israelites."* The first time this word **ekklesia** is used in scripture is not in the Book of Acts, as most would presume, but in the Gospels - spoken of by Yeshua before what is now popularly considered conceptually to be the "Christian church" comprised of [Gentiles](#). In [Matthew 16:18](#) Yeshua replied to Peter that it would be on this same rock of revelation that had revealed Who He was to Peter that He would build His **ekklesia** - meaning [assembly of Israelites](#). The Greek word for **'build'** used here is **oikodomeo** and means *to build (up from the foundation), to restore by building, to rebuild, to repair*. As explored in the article [What's New About It?](#), we saw that the verses from Hebrews 8:6-13 are quoted directly from [Jeremiah 31:31-33](#) in the *Tanakh* (OT). The Hebrew word that is translated "new" in that passage comes from the root word **chadash** meaning *to make fresh, to re-new, to re-pair* - the very same usage found in the Greek definition of **oikodomeo**. Yeshua is not saying He has come to build something "new from scratch", but **to restore** what has fallen into disrepair. To underscore this usage of **ekklesia**, Yeshua uses it again in [Matthew 18:17](#), referring to [Israelites](#) because if the Hebrew brother did not hear the **ekklesia**, he is to be treated as a Gentile - someone other than an Israelite. So then, how is it that Gentiles can be part of the **"ekklesia"** if it is comprised only of Israelites? It is because those who have embraced the Life of Yeshua have been grafted into the Commonwealth of Israel and **made Hebrew** by virtue of His Hebrew Blood that literally **flows in their veins** because of that embrace. It is a mystery, but that mystery does not **exclude** the covenant the Father made with His People - it **includes** all who embrace the covenant by keeping the **Words of YHVH**. It is inclusive of every branch of the assembly who embrace the Hebrew Messiah of Israel as being Yeshua who have been **grafted INTO** the Hebrew root of the family of Israel - not the other way around. This is what Yeshua meant when He said, **"...salvation is of the Hebrews."** All of this brings us back to the initial question: if the BrideGroom are those who have embraced the example of Life embodied by Yeshua, the head of that Body - then Who is the Bride of Yeshua? Even though Christianity proclaims itself to be the bride, there is only one place in all of scripture that actually states, *"...here is the Bride of the Lamb"* describing the New Jerusalem descending from a higher place **"out of"** (not "down from") the heaven we have already established in a [previous article](#) as being within, **a state of being** ([Isaiah 57:15](#), [Luke 17:20-21](#)).

*"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, 'Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.' And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from YHVH, having the glory of YHVH. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal." Revelation 21:9-11*

First, we must notice that whatever kind of elements John was trying to describe - it's like nothing we have ever seen. I know of no pure gold that is transparent like glass ([Revelation 21:18](#)). What was shown to John was the Wife of Messiah - the Restored Kingdom of YHVH represented by Jerusalem. Although widely depicted in many artistic renderings as something similar to a brick and mortar structure, by just reading the words on the page we see that the



**the New Jerusalem = Restored Kingdom**

description of this city is made up of PEOPLE. Those people accepting a circumcision of heart are those who are the family of ISRAEL, as it always has been ([Deuteronomy 10:16](#), [Deuteronomy 30:6](#), [Jeremiah 4:4](#), [Romans 2:29](#), [Colossians 2:11](#)). It is upon each of the twelve gates made of pearl (described in [Matthew 13:45-46](#) as being of immense value) that is inscribed the names of one of the twelve Hebrew tribes of Israel - **through which is granted the only entry to the city** ([Revelation 22:14](#)). If you are not in some way attached to one of those Hebrew tribes, you don't get in - regardless of how "Christian" you may think you are. The walls, however, are made up of many different stones. It is each wall (not gate) that is built upon a foundation having the name of one of the twelve Hebrew apostles - thus facilitating the attachment to the gates ([Ephesians 2:19-21](#)). The stones of the walls represent the eclectic mix of humanity they comprise - but the walls connect to the single stone of the gates which represent the Hebrew tribes of Israel. It is from within this city OF PEOPLE that emanates the Light of Spirit ([Revelation 21:23](#), [1Kings 11:36](#), [Matthew 5:14](#)). It is in keeping with this illustration of the New Jerusalem that has become the **consummation** of the marriage. The co-mingling of what are now two entities into One to become a single entity is in complete compliance with the scriptural definition of marriage between two separate entities becoming "one flesh" - just as those believers in Yeshua as the Promised Messiah of Israel **have already** become One Flesh with the Bridegroom ([John 17:21](#), [Genesis 2:24](#), [Ephesians 5:31](#), and [Ephesians 2:15](#)). This marriage will not be some "spiritualized analogy" - it will be in a real marriage, a true **echad** (Hebrew for "one") between the Bridegroom and the remnant of the ethnic branch of Israel, the Bride - as it was in the beginning with **the first Hebrew**, Adam. While many believe it is the whole of the populace of that branch of Israel, scripture makes clear it is and always has been the remnant of Israel who have chosen to be set apart to Him ([Joel 2:32](#)). In all of scripture, YHWH has never concerned Himself with masses of numbers. As seen in [Romans 9:27](#) (quoting [Isaiah 10:22-23](#)), there has always been and He always keeps a remnant of those who are set aside and holy given to Him ([1Kings 19:14-18](#), [Revelation 7](#), [Luke 13:23-24](#)).

There are currently two parts to this union, the Groom which is comprised of the Head and His Body, and the Bride - ethnic Israel, that small portion who have been faithful to keep YHWH's Words. These are to whom the Groom is to be joined and from that union will come the "one new man" described of in [Ephesians 2:14-18](#). Though we who comprise the Body of Yeshua are **"betrothed"** to the Bride and, according to Hebrew custom, that betrothal is considered to be the marriage; at the moment, the consummation of that marriage has not yet arrived. That consummation will result in the intercourse, the communion of table fellowship spoken of earlier - the "marriage supper" of the Lamb to His Bride. **This is the mystery Paul spoke of concerning their disobedience** (read again [Romans 11:25-32](#)) **and it is the only place in scripture that speaks of the gifts and calling of YHWH are without repentance - referring to ethnic Hebrews, not "the church", not Gentiles**. Those who embrace the Life exemplified by Yeshua have been grafted into the Commonwealth of Israel. It is the sap of that root that flows through the veins of the members of the Body of Yeshua that sustains us that becomes our "salvation" spoken of in [Ephesians 5:23-32](#) at the start of this article - not the other way around. It is to our benefit to cover Israel right now for, as a wife to a husband, how she is affected, affects us all ([Isaiah 49:21-23](#)). The relevancy of ethnic Israel to Spirit is thoroughly examined further in the article [the Covering](#).

#### ***the Bride - a discussion***

*"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: **for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife has made herself ready.** And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: **for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.** And He said unto me, Write, 'Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb'." Revelation 19:7-9*





[DOWNLOAD "the Covering" MP3](#)



*...who is the Bride of the Lamb?*

## Who Is Israel?

### the Covering

by haRold Smith

a citizen of the Commonwealth (Ephesians 2:19)

*"For through Yeshua we **both** have access by one Spirit to the Father **of Israel**. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the **household of YHVH**."*  
Ephesians 2:18-19

*"Truly YHVH is good to Israel, to those who are of a **pure heart**."* Psalm 73:1

John the Immerser declares Yeshua to be the "Bridegroom" in [John 3:28-29](#) ([click on highlighted words to view content](#)). If those embracing the example of Life in Yeshua as the promised Messiah of Israel constitute the [Body of the Messiah](#) who is the "BrideGroom" and, considering there is no precedent set forth in scripture for anyone to marry themselves (you cannot be [both](#) the Bridegroom [and](#) the Bride at the same time) - then [who is the Bride?](#) This is not an analogy or symbolism, folks, and even though Christianity proclaims itself to be the bride; there is only [one](#) place in all of scripture that actually states, "...[here is the Bride of the Lamb](#)" found in [Revelation 21:9-14](#),

describing the New Jerusalem descending from a higher place ["out of"](#) (not "down from") the heaven we have already established in a [previous article](#) as being within ([Luke 17:20-21](#), [Isaiah 57:15](#)). and the scriptural depiction as being comprised of PEOPLE - not some brick and mortar structure.

A previous article, [the Gentile](#), revealed that the first time the Greek word, [ekklesia](#) (translated as the English "church"), appears in scripture is not in the book of Acts as Christianity teaches; but, rather, was used by Yeshua in the book of Matthew to define who is considered Israel. He uses this word to draw a distinction between a Gentile (someone who worships gods other than the Holy One [of Israel](#)) and members of the family of YHVH - [of Israel](#). The definition of [ekklesia](#) found in [Matthew 18:15-17](#) means *"those called out of their homes to an assembly, **an assembly of Israelites**"*. When Yeshua made this statement, there were no "Christians" around. He was speaking to [Hebrews](#) who understood ["the assembly"](#) to have existed long before Pentecost. In the wilderness, whenever the family of YHVH gathered before the tabernacle, they were called [qahal](#) translated as the English "assembly" from which the Greek word [ekklesia](#) gleans its definition ([Leviticus 8:3](#) - translated as the English "gather" in this verse). The reason this information is important is in realizing that in [Ephesians 5:29-32](#), where [Sha'ul](#) (the [Hebrew](#) apostle Paul) says that when he speaks of the marriage relationship, he is speaking of the mystery between Yeshua and [the Hebrew assembly](#) - not a [Gentile "church"](#). The mystery that occurs in a marriage between a man and a woman is where, even though we see two distinct individual entities - in the Father's Eyes, He sees them as one flesh. Yes, one spirit, but, more importantly, [ONE FLESH](#). Reach down and pinch yourself - this is the flesh he is speaking of. In verse 31, [Sha'ul](#) is quoting from [Genesis 2:24](#). The word translated as the English "cleave" in this verse comes from the Hebrew word [devaq](#) which, from the [Paleo-Hebrew pictograph](#) these letters represent, present a picture of two sticky mudballs smacked together so as to form one seamless mudball (Frank Seekins, [Hebrew Word Pictures](#) - Seekins is the acknowledged founder of the modern study of Hebrew word pictures). [Sha'ul](#) likens this relationship as the same type existing with the Body of Yeshua - with Yeshua as the Head and [those who embrace the Life of Yeshua as the Promised Messiah of Israel](#) (not the "savior of the world") constituting the members of His Body thus fulfilling His prayer of [John 17:20-23](#). It is a mystery but, just as your head does not float around apart from your body, so Yeshua's Head is not separate from the members of His Body, waiting somewhere in the sky to be reattached. Likewise, the members are not separate from either the Head or from each other - even though, looking through natural eyes, it may appear otherwise. This is why it only takes [two or more](#) for Yeshua, as the Head, to be present at any one time and for His Body to function as a whole. This is the mystery of [echad](#) (Hebrew for "one"), the two becoming one (see what it means to be in [Communion](#)).

In [Hosea 2:19-20](#) the English word [betroth](#) comes from the Hebrew ['aras](#) and means *to engage, to erect or to build*. Hence, to build a bed or couch with a canopy - from the idea of a bed-fellow, a husband or wife, one espoused. To be betrothed in Hebrew culture is not like it is in the West where engagement is treated as a time

to find out if the two individuals like one another or if they are "compatible." In Hebrew Culture, the vow is made by the woman at the time of acceptance of the offer to wed and can only be put aside by divorce. It is at the time of betrothal that the husband begins to build their house but not until after he comes for her as a "thief in the night" that the wedding feast begins (see [Hebraic Betrothal Customs](#)). It is important we not be confused as to who these People are. We are not speaking of a religion. Juda"ism" is just as much a collection of man's rituals as is Pentecostal "ism", Catholic"ism", Evangelical"ism" or any other "ism". While Yeshua was in the Temple daily ([Luke 19:47](#) and elsewhere), it is not recorded anywhere that He built, endorsed or lent himself to any religion, structure, organization or institution ([Philippians 2:7](#)). In fact, the harshest words He ever used were reserved for the structuralized religious leaders of His Day because, not only did they close up the Kingdom from themselves by their traditions, they prevented those who followed them from entering in as well - He called them "vipers" and "snakes" ([Matthew 12:34](#), [Matthew 23:13](#)). The same argument can be made of the religion "Christianity" today. The scriptures do not speak of a religion by which YHVH has covenanted a marriage; they speak of a [Land-People](#) - Israel, brought up out of bondage from Egypt who are of His [Blood](#).

A traditional Hebrew wedding ceremony takes place under a "[chuppah](#)," a canopy under which the newly consummated couple make public their vows to one another. *Chuppah* comes from the root word, [chaphah](#), which has as its definitions - "a covering: to cover; by implication, to veil, to encase, to protect." If we consider YHVH to be the *chuppah* over the house of, Israel, then it is under that covering which exist two separate entities, the Bridegroom and the Bride - the Body of Yeshua and the ethnic Hebrew remnant who keep His Words but do not yet recognize Yeshua as the Messiah. It is under this protective covering of Spirit that the family of YHVH will become one entity with the Father - the fulfillment of the Plan and Purpose of YHVH from the beginning to have a family, a nation of Priests holy set apart to Him, who would be a Light to the other nations of the world ([Isaiah 49:5-6](#), see [A Nation of Priests](#), and [the Inheritance](#)). Yeshua said it would be on this [rock of Revelation](#) about **Who He Is (the Groom, the Husband of Israel)** that He would re-build, re-store ([oikodomeo](#)) His Kingdom, the assembly of Israelites ([ekklesia](#)). However, we see where YHVH repeatedly describes Himself in scripture as "the husband" Who has been married only once - to Israel. He made a covenant vow with her at [Mount Sinai](#) which she accepted after she was brought up out of Egypt. Evidence of YHVH being the husband and Israel being His betrothed, His wife, is found in [Isaiah 54](#) v5 - "*For your Maker is your **Husband** and Redeemer.*" [Jeremiah 3](#) - "*Surely as a wife treacherously departs from her **Husband**, so have you dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel*"...v14 - "*Turn, O backsliding children, says YHVH; **for I am married unto you.***" [Jeremiah 31](#) v32 - "*although I was a **Husband** unto them, says YHVH.*" But surrounding each of these passages dealing with Israel forsaking her vows is YHVH's commitment to redeeming her and restoring her to her original place as His Wife. In [Jeremiah 31:35-37](#) YHVH declares His Husbandry to Israel and speaks clearly concerning when this marriage relationship will be at an end - never. [Romans 7:2](#) and [1Corinthians 7:39](#) both speak of the wife as being bound by law to her husband as long as the husband lives. But [Revelation 19:7-8](#) tells us that the consummation of the marriage of the Lamb will come when the Bride, Israel, has "made herself ready." If it is the Father Who has proclaimed His Husbandry to Israel - how is it the Son seemingly takes the place of the Husband? Unlike there being no precedent in scripture for someone to marry themselves, there is precedent for sons to marry their mother ([Isaiah 62:5](#), [Galatians 4:25-27](#)). If we consider the marriage relationship becoming echad (Hebrew for "one") as *Sha'ul* discusses in Ephesians 5, then it is from this Hebrew root manifested in Yeshua that all who embrace the Holy One of Israel have been birthed - thus, the 'mother of us all' and the legitimacy needed for her sons to marry her by becoming echad with the Father, the Husband - Just As Yeshua became echad with the Father.

However, even in the natural, no marriage can take place if either of the two parties do not recognize the validity of the other. Because Christianity has successfully divorced itself from the Hebrew root, it has no comprehension of the familial history accompanying that root. They forget that all these books contained in what is called the Bible were all written by Hebrews from a Hebrew perspective to explain this Hebrew phenomena of the reason for a Messiah (not a "Christ" which is a Greek alteration of the Hebrew "Messiah" (see [Who's Name Is It?](#)) for an appreciation of the effects of changing His Name). To Christianity the "begets" ([Genesis 5](#), [Luke 3](#)) are just boring passages to skip over in order to get to more exciting stuff without realizing that everything recorded in all of scripture comes back to



*the Covering of YHVH*



this reason for the tracking of their genealogy. **Romans 7:2-3** and **1Corinthians 7:39** tell us the only way for YHVH to bring the House of Israel back and re-marry her was to first die. But, if He is eternal, if there is no death with Him - how is He to die? Christianity solves this dilemma by saying that YHVH became Yeshua in order to accomplish this feat. However, the truth of scripture is revealed in the provision YHVH set up to address this situation legally without violating His Nature and without any mystical mumbo-jumbo. In a **previous article**, we explored the origin of the Hebrew word **segullah**, (translated as own possession in Exodus 19:5) to mean "*a valued property to which one has an exclusive right of possession*". The **Seal or Signet of Ownership** establishes an exclusive legal right of possession to an entity that has an enforceable claim or right to something - whether created or purchased. An **Inheritor** receives from an ancestor the right of ownership by legal succession through a will, by bequest or as a legacy. While that succession usually transpires upon the death of the principle owner, it is not a necessity. **Co-ownership** means that more than one person has a legal right in the same thing at the same time. Co-ownership is a legally binding status placed upon both parties who enter into an agreement (covenant) to honor the actions of the other. Thus, co-ownership can be the result of an act of bequeathment while the primary owner is still alive and the recipient agrees to his terms. In Hebrew culture, while becoming a member of the family qualifies each member to receive an inheritance, the firstborn son was usually chosen to be the **Kinsman Redeemer** - receiving a double portion, his father's seal (ring) and the right to be the head of the family (what is known as **Primogeniture**). The Father of the family pronounced which son was to become son-placed. Once this son was confirmed as the Kinsman Redeemer, he was trained and disciplined to take the responsibility accorded the head of the family.

*"For as the Father has Life in Himself, so He has granted the Son also to have Life in Himself. And He has given Him **authority** to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man...for on Him (Yeshua) the Father (YHVH) has **set His seal**." John 5:26-27, John 6:27*

The authority Yeshua carries is as the legal recipient of the **status of first-born**, to be able to act in His Father's stead - as His Father. Because of Yeshua's faithfulness to walk in His Father's stead, when Yeshua died, it was the same as His Father dying - thus opening the way for Spirit to remarry **His Bride**. He came and died for her, the House of Israel, who are called the Lost Sheep who went astray and were **"swallowed up in**



**YaHoVeH**

**among the Gentiles"**. The **blood sacrifice** of the first-born status of the Kinsman Redeemer, the Son (not the Father), facilitated the redemption of the family of YHVH whose blood had been compromised and corrupted by the disobedience of **the first son**, Adam - not for yours or my personal salvation. It is important to understand who the ethnic part of the family of YHVH (Israel) is comprised of. While many believe it is the whole of the populace, scripture makes clear it is and always has been the remnant of Israel who have chosen to be set apart to Him (**Joel 2:32**). For those who would become **Grafted In** to the Kingdom by the washing of the water of YHVH's Words and becoming one in the Nature of Spirit with YHVH (**John 3:5**, see what **To Be Born Again** scripturally means) just as Yeshua was one with the Father - they certainly benefit from His sacrifice; but by Yeshua's own confession, **His purpose** was for the restoration of the Kingdom to YHVH's family, Israel - thoroughly chronicled in **the Kinsman Redeemer Series**. Consequently, because Christians have

erroneously been taught there is no further need to keep Torah, the Words of YHVH; while, at the same time, elevating this person "Jesus" as a god who replaces YHVH thereby violating the first of those Words (what have come to be known as commandments found in **Exodus 20:1-17**, with emphasis on verse one) - ethnic Hebrews are unable to see Yeshua as the promised Hebrew Messiah spoken of in Hebrew scripture (see **In Addition** which explains the scriptural distinction of being divine apart from being a deity). Christianity has joined the world in shunning the *Yud* - but, the Father of Israel does not behold His Family with such a jaundiced eye (**Deuteronomy 32:7-10**, **Zechariah 2:8**). Therefore, it becomes imperative that those whose eyes have been opened to the importance of Israel to provide a covering of forgiveness toward our ethnic brothers because we do not as yet know just who are to be counted in that remnant.

*"And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, '**These are the true words of YHVH**.'" Revelation 19:9*



DOWNLOAD "Children of the Bridechamber" MP3

## Who Is Israel?

### Children of the Bridechamber

by haRold Smith

a citizen of the Commonwealth (Ephesians 2:19)

"Then came to Him the disciples of John, saying, 'Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but your disciples fast not?' And Yeshua said unto them, 'Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast'." Matthew 9:14-15



...friends of the Bridegroom

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us.' But He answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I DO NOT KNOW YOU.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." Matthew 25:1-13

"And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are the true words of YHVH'." Revelation 19:9

I don't have all the answers - just questions. The way my questions are answered is to ask **YaHoVeH** (**click on highlighted words to view content**) for His guidance into all Truth that He promises and then to read the Book just for what the words on the page say and mean - not what I or anyone else may "think" it says or what temptation there might be to "shoehorn" something in that isn't there. The purpose of these articles are to inspire you to ask questions of the Source of Life and to research the scriptures for yourself to see if the things advanced here are true. If there is something you find in these words that cause you to draw closer to the Father - then "*Baruch YaHoVeH*" (Hebrew, bless YHVH). If not, then, "*Yevarech Otka YaHoVeH*" (may YHVH bless you). So, a question I have had before the Father has been: if those who have embraced the example of Yeshua's Life constitute **His Body** and ethnic Israel is **the Bride** - then, who are the "children of the bridechamber" mentioned in Matthew 9:14-15 and the "ten virgins" of Matthew 25:1-13 at the start of this article? The passage in Matthew 9 plainly tells us that Yeshua was answering a question put forth about His disciples. He was, obviously, referring to Himself as the bridegroom that would soon be taken away from them, but He did not call His disciples, "the Bride." He called them "the children of the bridechamber" or the "friends of the bridegroom". Various versions translate this word "children" differently as guests, attendants, children, friends - but, they all come from the same Greek word **huios** which is more appropriately translated "**sons**" of a family (i.e., ones born of the same father). **Hebrew Betrothal Customs** tells us that, once the betrothal with the bride has been made, the groom goes to prepare a habitation, a "bridechamber", for them to reside in. Traditionally, the friends of the bridegroom assist in that preparation until "like a thief in the night" the groom comes for his bride to take her away to the place prepared for them. Standing outside the door, when the friends of the bridegroom hear the voice of the bridegroom coming from the bridechamber, they know the marriage has been consummated and the wedding feast begins. So, when John the Immerser says in John 3:

"He that has the bride is the bridegroom: but the **friend of the bridegroom**, which stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: In this my joy therefore is fulfilled." John 3:29

he is describing himself as a friend of the Bridegroom, Yeshua. This word "friend", from the Greek word **philos**, would be more appropriately defined as *he who associates familiarly, peculiarly favored with his intimacy*. This is the same word used in **John 15:14-16** where Yeshua says He no longer calls His disciples servants, but "friends." John the Immerser's joy is fulfilled because, upon hearing the Voice of the Groom, he knows he has become a participant in the consummation of this marriage. The Hebrew word for "one" is **echad** and is associated with "**fulfillment of joy**". This is the same word Yeshua used when He prayed to



the Father that all those who believe in Him to be (or may become) one in the Father as He is one with the Father - that His joy might be fulfilled in them (**John 17:13-21**). It is this oneness, in an intimacy with the Father, that our relationship with Him is fulfilled, the same as Yeshua's. But that oneness, or intimacy, is not given to us simply because we have been given descendency or mouth acquiescence (see what it means **To Believe**). To enter into that intimacy with Yeshua, we must choose to become One with Him, to become as He Is (**1John 4:17**, see **Flesh and Blood**). But it is a choice we make to enter into that intimacy with Who He Is - not Who we think Him to be. This is why Yeshua said there will be many who will say to Him, "Lord, Lord" to whom He will say, **"I never knew you"** because, even though they had access to His Power they never made the choice to know Him in the Truth of Who He is. They were wanting to fashion Him after their own image instead of being fashioned by Him. **They settled for less than His Excellence.**



**A Wedding Celebration**

**Matthew 7:21-27** is the culmination of a dissertation Yeshua began speaking to His disciples beginning in **Matthew 5:1**. There are many called to come to the wedding feast, but only those who are clothed in the proper garment of righteousness will be allowed to attend (**Matthew 22:1-14**, **Isaiah 61:9-11**. Garments are something **scripture tells us** we "put on" and "take off" by the choices we are empowered to make through **ruach ha kodesh** (reading right to left is Hebrew for "the holiness of spirit") which many have come to believe is simply a substitute for the English "Holy Spirit" appearing in their bibles. This is incorrect as there is no capitalization in Hebrew; thus, there is no personification, no third person **"Holy Spirit"** - that is nothing more than **the tradition of men** not found in the original words of scripture. What is the holiness of spirit? Holiness is the Nature abiding in Spirit, Who is YHVH - something that is **cultivated** within an individual by that individual and these are choices we make - individually. He is not going to make them for us. **Genesis 15:6** tells us that Abraham simply believed the Father for Who He said He Was and it was accounted to him as **righteousness**. This English word *believed* is translated from

the Hebrew word **aman** and means *to support, confirm, to be faithful, to establish by standing firm*. In the parable of **the ten virgins** the English word **virgins** comes from the Greek word **parthenos** and means *someone who has abstained from all uncleanness and whoredom attendant on idolatry, one remaining chaste*. **These virgins are not gender specific**. We commonly think of virgins as being female, but **Revelation 14:4-5** and **1Corinthians 7:37** clearly show us that they can be male as well. In this parable, **the Bride is never mentioned**. These people are not the bride - as has been commonly perceived. **Nor or they labeled as "bridesmaids"**. In fact, the word "bridesmaid" does not appear in scripture - this is a Western concept. That modern Hebrew wedding ceremonies have embraced this western concept does not mean that it was a part of the culture in the day of Yeshua. These people in the parable of the ten virgins are "friends of the Bridegroom", whose function it is to prepare the **bridechamber** for the Bride. They are waiting for the Groom's appearance for His Bride. In this parable, this perception of choice continues. All ten of these individuals are virgins. All ten have each kept themselves chaste and they are all waiting for the appearance of the Bridegroom.

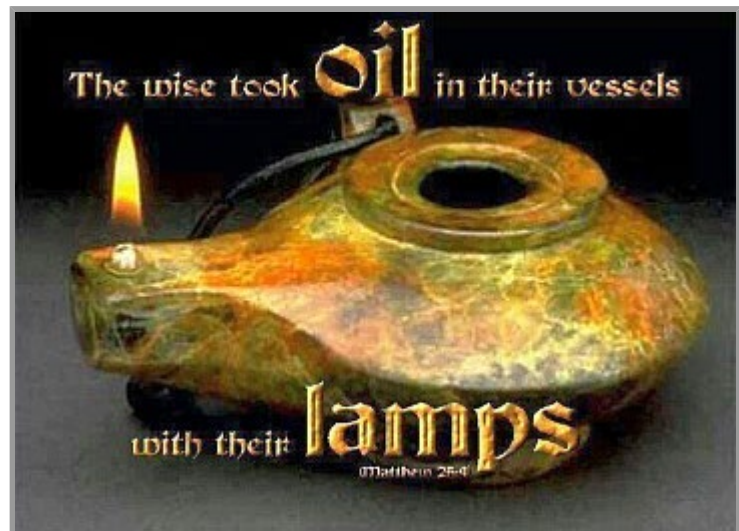
**"While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept." Matthew 25:5**

The Greek word translated as the English **slumber** in this verse is **nustazo** and means *to nod in sleep, to be negligent, careless* - but it has its origin in the root Greek word **neuo** which expands that definition to mean *to give a nod, to signify by a nod, to beckon*. Notice that both the wise and the foolish virgins are pictured as having fallen asleep as they waited for the long overdue bridegroom - but there is a critical difference between the two. This verse has been grossly mistranslated, and the translation is misleading. This parable thus far has provided two antithetical groups of people (i.e., wise and foolish virgins). There is a difference in the reactions between these two, but the translators failed to see this. A correct paraphrase of this verse would be: **While the Bridegroom tarried in His coming, all of the ten virgins either beckoned (translated slumbered) for him to return or they fell asleep**. An accurate, literal word-for-word translation of this verse is as follows: **While the bridegroom tarried, they all beckoned or slept**. The Greek word that has been translated "slumbered" literally means *to nod in signaling or beckoning for what one desires to be done*. This Greek word **neuo** is translated correctly as the English **beckoned** in **John 13:24** and **Acts 24:10** meaning *to signal or summon, as by nodding or waving*. The five wise virgins are beckoning for Yeshua to return to redeem His Bride and, in her redemption, to complete **the restoration of His Kingdom** but the five foolish virgins have fallen asleep. They have become negligent and careless in their knowledge and understanding of the vital role of the Hebrew Bride due to the delay of the return of the Bridegroom. He does not

not know them because they do not know Him as Hebrew. To "wake up" to the knowledge that He is in Love with Israel and is coming to redeem her to a rightful place at His side only when it becomes apparent, simply acknowledges their treatment of the "least of these", His brethren the Hebrews, in the following parable of the sheep and the goats - thereby placing themselves in the category of those who will not make it into His Kingdom (**Matthew 25:32-45**). In the world of everyday wedding feasts, not being ready when the bridegroom comes, though socially awkward, does not automatically exclude someone from the joy of the celebration. Usually, they would graciously be allowed to enter after a humble apology. But this parable is not speaking of a simple tardiness, it is in **the manner in which they are waiting that marks the difference between them**. When the Bridegroom finally comes, which will be the occasion of the fullness of His Joy, those having not demonstrated a readiness to follow His embrace of the Hebrew Bride (Israel), will never be allowed into that feast at all. If believers constitute the Body of the Groom, how can they be expected to marry someone they don't care for, have not attended to or do not even acknowledge the presence of? Remember that **all ten of those waiting were virgins**. Those not willing to embrace the Hebrew Bride, Israel, will lose out completely **even after remaining pure** because they have not become intimate, become One with Him, to know and understand His Love and Compassion for His Hebrew Family of Israel.

My friend, Robert, asked me, "What was the oil the foolish virgins did not possess, had to go purchase to obtain, and who are they that had oil to sell?" (**Matthew 25:1-13**). He went on to explain that scripture tells us the oil that keeps our lamp burning is the law of righteousness contained in Torah (**Psalms 119:105-106**). **Psalms 141:5** tells us the way we obtain that oil is from a "smiting" or a reproof from the righteous. **Hebrews 1:8** tells us a "scepter of righteousness" is the scepter of His Kingdom. The English word translated "scepter" comes from the Greek word ***rhabdos*** and means a "rod of the most rigorous rule". His rule out of His righteousness, contained in **Torah**, is what "smites" our heart and causes us to be reproofed. The Hebrew word for *smite* is ***halam*** (meaning *a breaking*) and is the same Hebrew word used in **Judges 5:22** for the English translated word "broken" in describing the effects of the hoof of a horse striking the ground. This is the same word picture painted in **Revelation 19:11** to describe the "white horse" (the righteousness of YHVH) that YHVH will ride in upon to judge all of mankind, "...and His Name is called, ***the Word of God***" (v13). Although the virgins had enough oil to make it to the Bridechamber - they did not have the "extra" supply of Righteousness required to be invited into the wedding because they did not recognize Torah as being legitimate for them.

Torah is where we learn of His Righteousness, **the Life of Yeshua** teaches us how to apply that Righteousness in our lives. To whom, then, did the five foolish virgins go to purchase more oil? To begin with, we must remember that these are virgins - believers waiting for the return of the Bridegroom. But, who are these merchants that sell? **2Peter 2:1-3** tells us to beware of false prophets, false teachers among us who, "...through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you." How many are there today holding conventions that charge admission to come hear them speak? And how many are there in those venues advertising the sale of their books, tapes, and videos purporting to teach some aspect of their "righteousness"? Where does it say in scripture Yeshua ever charged admission to hear Him speak? And who was it that He became so infuriated with that **He chased them from the Temple**? There are many masks these merchants wear to sell you a diluted lamp of oil whose flame it feeds quickly blows out with the first gust of wind (**Ephesians 4:14**).



There are many who, at the last moment will realize they have not been prepared in His Righteousness - not understanding that to do so necessitates time in His Presence. This impartation of His Life into ours is not something that comes through verbalization. It is not something that once confession is made we are then granted a seal of immunity allowing us to participate in avarice and greed with disdain for the results of those actions upon the brethren. The Words of YHVH are truly a **born again** way of living that is pleasing to YHVH. That Life is not acquired overnight or in a day. The ones that have it will come to realize they have not the time to help lay a foundation to build a home for the foolish when no oil is found in their lamps in the last of the day. For, even though they involve themselves in "good", they refused to go on unto perfection (**Hebrews 6:1-3**, **Luke 13:22-28**, see **Perfection & Presumption**). While the foolish virgins slept, their readiness to follow the bridegroom was depleted, consumed by time and the accompanying fire. The wise virgins' lamps burned, too, but

their readiness to follow was not depleted, for they had a whole other flask of oil, **the Torah**, that had not been consumed. Thus, they were able to refill the vessel that had been depleted by the same time and fire as had affected the other five. Why does Yeshua issue such a warning? Because He knows that His coming will be delayed. It is easy to be ready if the bridegroom comes quickly. It is so much harder to be ready if he is delayed. And he will be delayed for before He can come, all the nations of the earth will have to be arrayed against His Hebrew Bride - Israel (**Zechariah 14:2**). Those who have their "extra oil" will be those who are willing to stand alongside Hebrew Israel, Yeshua's Bride, embracing her in her time of trial with the same intimacy with which He has embraced her and, while waiting, clothing her, adorning her, **covering her** with their righteousness - even as they have been adorned and clothed by Him. (**Revelation 19:8, 1Peter 4:8**).

Presently, many are able to say, *"Sure, we will stand with Israel"* because the usual price for that statement today doesn't cost much - just sending a check off into the ether. But, how committed will we be when the price becomes higher - your property? How long will we stand when the stakes are moved closer - your life and the lives of your family? How much extra resolve will we have prepared for our lamps when the Bridegroom tarries and the world outrage toward Hebrews in every corner becomes intolerable - as it now rages in Europe with an intensity not seen since the beginning of World War II and, most recently, in Charlottesville, Virginia right here in the good 'ole USA? If we are wise, we will know and understand the nature of YHWH's promise. YHWH will inevitably keep His promise to both sides of His Family (the Body and the Bride) - but He will not keep it quickly. The Kingdom of YHWH will come in all of its Glory as He said it would, but it probably will not be soon - remember, all the authors of the Messianic Writings were expecting it in their day. Can it happen overnight? Surely - but exactly when He will come **no one knows** - not even the Son. Knowing that uncertainty, we who are wise will do what we must do to be and to remain ready to follow the Bridegroom to the feast when finally He does come and, in the meantime - attend to His Bride. But, if we are not aware of who the Bride is, we will find ourselves unprepared for the onslaught that is to come until it is too late. What does it mean, then, for us to have oil in reserve, for us to be ready to follow the bridegroom? YHWH requires one and only one thing of us: He wants us to want the coming of His Kingdom more than we want anything else in this life - more than life itself. It's little to ask, and it's a lot to ask because it will cost us every thing we have and everything we desire of this world. But it's the only thing He asks. At the end of this age, if He finds that we want from the core of our



**...words of righteousness**

suffer the wrath of the world due to an open affiliation with our brethren, Israel - then we become **unworthy** of His Kingdom, and His words to us will be, "I do not know you."

being to be His Kingdom He intends to establish here on this earth through the one new man born of the consummation of the marriage of the Body and the Bride - then citizenship in that Kingdom is ours. But if He finds our eyes, our desires, and our affections fixed on the stuff that is passing away, our own desire to not

### **the Bridechamber - a discussion**

*"For as a young man marries a young woman, **so shall your sons marry you (Israel)**, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you." Isaiah 62:1-5*





[DOWNLOAD "the People of the Land" MP3](#)



## Who Is Israel? the People of the Land

by haRold Smith

a citizen of the Commonwealth (Ephesians 2:19)

*"...I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God." Genesis 17:7-8*

*"...and I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations that they had not known. Thus the land they left was desolate, so that no one went to and fro, and the pleasant land was made desolate." Zechariah 7:14*

*"If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there YHVH will gather you, and from there He will take you." Deuteronomy 30:4*

Many are aware of the covenant YHVH made with Himself before Abraham to "Look toward heaven, and number the stars... So shall your offspring be" in [Genesis 15:5](#) ([click on highlighted words to view content](#)). However, most of those are not aware that the covenant YHVH made with Himself that day was two-fold in its promise and as equally inclusive: "To your offspring I give this land..." which then continues on to describe the boundaries of the land of Caanan in verse 18. This parcel of land is given to Abraham's offspring as an "everlasting possession" we are told in [Genesis 17:8](#). The English word translated "possession" in this verse comes from the Hebrew word '[achuzzah](#) meaning "possession by inheritance of property or land." We saw from an [earlier article](#) that inheritance to be a restoration of [echad](#) (Hebrew for one) with the Father of the family of Israel, YaHoVeH. Not mentioned specifically in that article but as equally included in that inheritance is a restoration of the possession of the land given to Abraham. We are now living in the time spoken of in the scriptures above that we are seeing unfold before our very eyes in which everything is being shaken to its foundational core. This is the time that all the ancient patriarchs and prophets of the ages have looked for and longed to see. This epochal era began with the emergence, the rebirth, of the Nation of Israel on [November 29, 1947](#) with the Partition Plan in which Israel was conceived and in the recognition of her statehood by the rest of the world (the newly formed United Nations) [six months later](#). We have since been standing as witnesses to the fulfillment of scripture presaging the coming of the great and terrible Day of YHVH. The nation-state of Israel has become the barometer by which we can gauge the imminent times we are in. Unfortunately, most of the world (even those professing belief) are not aware of what is happening - of the significance of the culmination of the promises made by YHVH to His People.

In the previous article of this series, we saw what has come to be known as [the Church](#) was exposed as not being a scriptural entity but, rather, an artificial construct of human design to exercise control over masses of people. The establishment of the papacy (specially anointed "leaders"), the concept of "the Church" as a hierarchical organization, the issues of power and the abdication of a Hebraic heritage (all embraced in some form by every branch of the tree of Christianity) are implements Yeshua never advocated and, in spite of His Words of [Matthew 5:17-19](#), people have still used the phrase "the church" to justify their injection into the promises made by YHVH to the [Hebrew](#) Abraham and all of his [Hebrew descendants](#). "The Church" has become the source of segregation from anything Hebrew and the foundation of a "new" [covenant](#) that [replaced](#) the Holy One of Israel along with His promise to Israel. However, once the term is translated back to its original Hebrew, the word in Greek (translated as "the church"), becomes *qehelah* (from the Hebrew root [qahal](#), meaning "to assemble") used in the *Tanakh* (OT) to describe the gathering or assembly of Israelites ([Numbers 8:9](#)). In classical Greek, however, *ekklesia* is never used to describe a religious assembly. It is certainly never used to describe a building, an organization with property ownership or a hierarchy of offices/positions. In classical Greek, *ekklesia* simply means a political or social gathering of people. The translators could have used [synagoge](#), the correct Greek word for a [religious](#) assembly. But they did not. So, then, why did the translators choose *ekklesia* to stand for "the church"? Could it possibly be that those controlling the translations were following another agenda - one of their own making? An assembly of followers of YHVH is correctly called a *qehelah*.

A common response when reading this information is to ask, "...OK, then where is there a congregation (assembly) that meets in my area?" This question, however, is posed through a filter of conventional culture by simply replacing terminology to describe the same thing when a paradigm shift in approach to scripture is required. The gathering of YHVH's people described in the Messianic Writings is no different from what is portrayed in the *Tanakh*. YHVH's "*qehelah*" began among individual tents of families at the base of Mount Sinai and continues that way today. **Acts 2:46-47** says that after the Resurrection, believers in YHVH who embraced Yeshua as Messiah met "*from house to house and daily in the temple*". Believers in YHVH who embrace the Life exemplified by Yeshua in keeping the words of YHVH now are the temple (**1Corinthians 3:16**) and Yeshua says wherever "*two or three are gathered (assembled) in My Name, there am I in the midst of you*" (**Matthew 18:20**, see **What's In A Name?**). Our thinking needs a change from terms which invoke images of brick and mortar structures where masses of people converge "to be taught" to, instead, engage ourselves in relationships with those the Father has placed before us - in the **same Way** Yeshua gave Himself to the twelve. **The qehelah is not a place to go to - it is who you are.** Yeshua's words in **Matthew 11:28** are: "*Come to Me...*" - not "*Go to church*". The purpose for being a member of the Body of Messiah is to work in tandem with the Head of the Body in the restoration of the Kingdom of YHVH here on earth (**Luke 4:43**, **Matthew 6:10**). The Kingdom of YHVH is founded in individual relationships reflecting the image of YHVH (**2Corinthians 6:16**, **Ephesians 2:22**). The first of those relationships is with the Father - you can not give what you do not live. He will teach you all you need to know about His Truth *IF* (big little word) you diligently seek after Him and obey His Voice - which has been His message from the beginning (**1John 2:27**, **Jeremiah 29:13**, **John 14:17**, **Jeremiah 7:22-23**).

*"Then YHVH formed man of dust **from the ground** and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (Hebrew **nephesh**)" Genesis 2:7*

It is interesting to note the first usage of **ha-'adamah** (the ground) occurs in this passage of the formation of Adam - not the first of mankind to be created but the **first Hebrew**. Since the Hebrew word **'erets** (earth) has been used since the opening verse of the book of Genesis - why would the focus now shift to **'adamah**? The obvious answer is *Adam* coming from the **'adamah** of the Eden garden causes him to be someone intimately connected to the dirt of that garden - which is "the Land" that became Caanan. But, the meaning of **'adamah** is also embeded in productivity as seen in **Genesis 2:5**. The meaning of the word translated as "till" in that verse comes from the Hebrew word **'avad** which is translated 227 times more often as "serve" than "till" (9 times) or "work" (5 times). Since the Torah establishes that what we serve is what we worship (**Matthew 4:10**, **Deuteronomy 11:16**, see what it means to be **In Agreement**), the productivity meant by **'adamah** is the worship given to the Creator, YHVH, by our deeds, our doing of His Righteousness in the keeping of His Words of **Exodus 20:1-17** - and the worship of YHVH is



*...from the dust of the ground*

also found in the service to the brethren of YHVH's Kingdom as exemplified by His Son, Yeshua (**1John 3:16**). The *Tanakh*, as a chronicle of the passage of the **status of the firstborn** from Adam to Yeshua through the lineage of the Hebrew people, shows that the **Yud** (Hebrews) are all connected to the Land of the Eden Garden and the Land is connected to the productivity shown in the righteousness of the people who occupy it. This is **the fulfillment**, the fullness of the restoration of the Kingdom of YHVH here on earth.

All Yuds believe in YHVH, even if they deny it. Why is that? Because it is in **their blood** - they can not help it. They can corrupt that blood and forfeit their birthright in serving other gods as did Esau, but like the prodigal son of **Luke 15:11-32** - they all know their way home when circumstance compels them. There is a clear distinction made in scripture between believing in the Only True Holy One of Isreal and believing Yeshua to be the promised Messiah of the Holy One. However, it should be noted that those Yuds who believe in YHVH are also looking for YHVH's Messiah - they just do not know His Name as yet. Those Yuds who believe in YHVH and have purified their heart according to YHVH's words are under His **Canopy** - they are still His Family. However, that does not negate personal responsibility for believing in the Name of Yeshua as the promised Messiah to Israel when they are eventually confronted with that revelation - and **revelation** can not be forced upon anyone. Presently though, as *Sha'ul*, (the Hebrew apostle

Paul) says in [Romans 11](#), the Yuds have all been blinded by the Father for purpose; but, that all Israel WILL be saved when those blinders are removed. As noted in [the previous article](#), most interpret those words to mean every single Yud on the planet who ever lived will be saved. However, in all of scripture, YHVH has never concerned Himself with masses of numbers. As seen in Mark 13:27 at the start of this article, there has always been and He always keeps a remnant of those who are set aside and holy given to Him ([1Kings 19:14-18](#), [Revelation 7](#), [Luke 13:23-24](#)). In the article [the Bride](#), special attention is drawn to the responsibilities given to a husband found in [Numbers 30:6-12](#). One of those responsibilities says that if the wife shall make a vow that is detrimental to her soul, the husband has the authority to nullify that vow. As the Body of the Groom, in participation with the Head, we have been granted the authority to nullify sin ([Matthew 18:18-19](#)). How is sin nullified? - the same way darkness is nullified by light. It is absorbed in love. The scriptural definition of love is found in [1John 3:16](#) - a voluntary obligation to another at cost to myself. This is the same way Yeshua forgave sin, by absorbing sin as though it were not there - never to be remembered anymore. The same way darkness is absorbed in Light ([Micah 7:19](#), [Psalm 103:11-12](#)). As mentioned earlier, however, this forgiveness does not preclude personal responsibility nor is it indiscriminately applied - which is why *Sha'ul* says there are Hebrews by birth who are not Hebrew because they have given themselves to the gods of this world. They are not pure in heart. Those of the Bridegroom are responsible today for our brethren who are pure in heart but remain in darkness resulting from their vow of ignorance concerning Who Yeshua Is - because they are still part of YHVH's family.

The "end of the world" is often associated with the coming appearance of the Messiah, the King of Israel. However, just as Yeshua showed us the fulfillment of Torah (not the destruction of it by abolishment), so YHVH's purpose is not the destruction of His Creation but the restoration of His Kingdom here on earth and that restoration is an ongoing process that will be completely fulfilled with the gathering of His Remnant at the marriage supper of the Lamb (see why [the Atonement](#) was necessary). The restoration of the Kingdom of YHVH will be made complete when the Land promised to Abraham is fulfilled - that is, made complete. The fullness of that mass of Land is pictured on the back of the smallest piece of Israeli currency, an agarot, and it is huge - from the Nile River in Egypt through a huge portion of Saudi Arabia, taking in Jordan, a huge swath of Iraq plus all of Lebanon and Syria. That the Yud look upon the appearance of the Messiah for different reasons (primarily prideful self-assertion) is irrelevant to the actual [Purpose of YHVH](#) fulfilling His Promise to them.



*the Land as depicted on Israeli currency*

This is what makes the rebirth of the nation of Israel among us today such an epochal event among the annals of mankind - fulfilling the prophecy of [Isaiah 66:7-8](#) that this nation would be brought back to life in a single day. On May 14, 1948, a United Nations mandate expired which ended British control of the Land and Israel was declared a united and sovereign nation acknowledged by other nations all within a single day. There is another prophecy being fulfilled before our eyes today - that spoken of in the verses opening this article - [Deuteronomy 30:4](#), [Jeremiah 49:36](#), and by Yeshua in [Mark 13:27](#).

The return of the Yud to the Land from the four corners of the earth will increase as pressure is intensified upon the Yud by people of other nations.

Ever since the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom of Israel were taken to Assyria in captivity, there has been much speculation concerning their disposition. However, scripture clearly speaks of the coming together of all Twelve Israelite Tribes forming one Hebrew Nation after that captivity. The other two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, were later taken captive to Babylon, but eventually they returned to rebuild Jerusalem and re-establish their nation in the Land of Promise - along with their brethren from the other tribes ([2Chronicles 15:9-12](#)). Even before the Assyrians, after Jeroboam led the ten tribes away from Rehoboam to establish his Northern Kingdom there were many YHVH fearing Israelites within those ten tribes who decidedly chose to stay with Jerusalem ([2Chronicles 11:13-16](#)). Scripture records numerous accounts that most of the deported ten tribes, or their descendants, eventually came back to the Land of Promise and were all called Jews (taken from the name Judah) in the time of Yeshua *haMaschiach*. Such as the prophetess Anna (*Hannah*), *Phanuel's* daughter, of the tribe of Asher ([Luke 2:36](#)). Though most Hebrews cannot trace their lineage since the time the Temple was destroyed and all records burned, the Father still has a people who are called according to HIS purpose. HE knows those who are His and of what tribe they are from as recorded in the last book of scripture ([Revelation 7:4](#)). Although Dan and Ephraim are not shown in this numbering (deliberately for a specific reason), all the tribes are accounted for - the ten tribes were never "lost" at all. There will never



be a complete recovering of every individual of every tribe - that is man's accounting. The Father has always kept a remnant set aside for Him containing representatives of each of the twelve tribes. Yeshua's reference to the **lost sheep of Israel** was not addressing any "lost tribes" but the separation of YHWH's People from **the Kingdom of Echad** lost by the first Hebrew, Adam, in the Garden and is a direct quote from **Jeremiah 50:6**. The research for this statement is found in the article **Without to Within**. The Yud will see Yeshua as their legitimate Messiah when events force the Yud back to the Land of Israel promised to Abraham and the House of Israel to the marriage supper of the Lamb. As they see the Body of Yeshua standing alongside them, taking the same punishment voluntarily with them, if necessary to the death, and they see these people as those who keep the Words of YHWH (**Exodus 20:1-17**) - then they will see Yeshua as Messiah in those believers and, individually, acknowledge His Validity through the Spirit of Revelation that Yeshua said upon which He will **rebuild** the assembly of Israel. The consummation of the marriage depicted in the description of the New Jerusalem of **Revelation 21:9-14** is in the union of the Bridegroom and the Bride **of Israel** - no one else. Similarly, the only place scripture speaks of a massive outpouring of Spirit upon a people is in **Ezekiel 37** - on the people **of Israel**, not the world. (and scripture does not support **Christianity's view** of the marriage). This is the marriage that all of a pure heart are invited to - either as the Bridegroom or as **the Bride** (**Psalms 73:1**).



*...not abandoned*

*"If his children forsake My law and do not walk according to My rules, if they violate My statutes and do not keep My commandments, then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes, but I will not remove from him my steadfast love or be false to My faithfulness. **I will not violate My covenant or alter the word that went forth from My lips.** Once for all I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me. Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies." Psalm 89:30-37*

#### ***the People of the Land - a discussion***



**???Questions???**

Please feel free to email me at [harold@hethathasaneer.com](mailto:harold@hethathasaneer.com). While not claiming to have all the answers, it would be an honor to partake with you of what Spirit is uncovering.

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