

Lies my Church taught me...

Means of Explanation

The word Bible is substituted throughout with “Scripture” or “Word (of God)”, for no other reason as that every other subject also has a “bible”: cookery, motor car repairs, computer programmes and many more. The original document was done in Afrikaans and particular translations were used for that. It will be explained later. For this English version I will start with the KJV, being the most commonly used. All quotations will therefore, until further notice, be taken from the 1611 KJV, using theWord¹ software. Quotations from Scripture will be in *light blue italics* to indicate such. Some words may be in **bold** or underlined text, purely to emphasise them. Original quotations in bold will be indicated as such; similarly some translations have different chapter and verse divisions which will be indicated accordingly. All foreign words will also be in *italics*. Certain words may be in (parentheses) and will be my interpretation of trying to explain myself better. When encountering foreign words, my spelling may differ from that of a particular translation, for the simple reason that I transliterate by letter while some translators transliterate by sound. Throughout I will use the abbreviation aY to indicate the time of Jesus on earth and afterwards, whereas bY will indicate the time before the birth of Jesus.

Everything written here are my own thoughts and observations, but everything is evidenced by Scripture; I therefore do not apologise for anything written here. If any person or institution should consider this a personal attack or disparaging behaviour, please take it up with the Author of Scripture.

Many thanks to my wife, Gerda, Joyce Swart and Johan Kriel for their proof reading, feedback and invaluable input.

At times Hebrew text is used. Please note that Hebrew is read from right to left. The Hebrew *alephbet* [alphabet] doesn't contain any capitals or lower case letters. When quoted and Roman capitals are used, it is merely done to satisfy tradition and out of respect – it doesn't have any other meaning.

Introduction

I was raised in a world of lies, grew up with endless lies and was also taught to carry them forward. I actually believed many of them, for a long time! At the same time I also developed my own lies, even taught them to my children, friends and colleagues. Fortunately, at some time, the only Creator-God relieved me of all those lies, but the damage had already been done in the lives of others. For this I repent and plead forgiveness.

While arranging my thoughts to set them on paper, Father led me to another article which assured me that we can only live our lives in one style: in total synchronisation with our heavenly Father and in full obedience to His Word – the **entire** Word.

This article I came across is a confession of a man in his mid-fifties who believes he is gay, even

¹ theWord software is freely available from www.theword.net and is definitely the friendliest software to study Scripture.

though he is married and has children. He lives somewhere in America where he grew up, holds a good position and is highly esteemed by his fellow citizens. The night before his marriage he was intimate with a friend of many years. He also has regular relationships with other men in various towns – some he may see monthly, others annually. He is actually still married to his wife out of respect and because of his love for his children, but he keeps reminiscing over how matters could turn out should he come forward in truth.

This is one example of how people get involved in lies in their lives and never get rid of them. In spite of a good up-bringing, parents who love you and would do everything for you, the lies never seem to go away; they only become more and also more complicated. I am the oldest of three children, with my brother being six years younger and my sister eighteen years younger! She was born just after I finished matric.

One of the first lies I was taught, was of Father Christmas. I was taught that he is a good person who knows everything and that he gives gifts to obedient children. I even have a monochrome picture of myself as a very young lad, around three years old, sitting on the lap of “Father Christmas” in OK Bazaars and crying, in fact, screaming like a sucking pig! I was too young to remember receiving a gift that Christmas from the dear old Father Christmas. I probably got onto his “black list”, because I can’t remember ever receiving anything from him ever after that day, although I do remember getting gifts from my parents and grandparents at Christmas time. However, it must have left its mark on me somehow, to such an extent that I actually fulfilled that role of lying to many other children, my own included.

While articulating my thoughts, I also beg forgiveness of my heavenly Father for the many times I donned that warm, unbearable red suit and handed out gifts, bought with money which should have been used for more appropriate purposes. Our family couldn’t be considered inferior to others! After all, it was only once a year and for a good cause, or so we were taught – another lie.

As we grew older and could understand more, we were subjected to the actual physical Bible and one of its stories told of Jesus who would be born towards the end of the year. There wasn’t necessarily any explanation of who or what Jesus was and why he would be born, at least not that I can remember. In order to show our gratitude for the birth of Jesus, we would then chop down a tree from somewhere, carry it into the house and try to make it stand on its own, after which it would be decorated with various ornaments, so that we could celebrate the birth of Jesus. Many colourful lights were also draped all over the tree and some of these lights even flashed and flickered in various patterns. At this time of the year we would also dust off the books with Christmas carols and everyone joined in singing about the three kings who each brought a gift to the Jesus child. This was alleged to be the reason we should be giving and receiving gifts – because of our appreciation to the Jesus child having been born. This was enough information for the younger children, since the other lies associated with Jesus would follow later. I couldn’t find that link between Father Christmas and Jesus and it seems I am still waiting for it to this day.

Throughout the years we were a very close-knit extended family and my Dad’s siblings lived fairly close to each other. We saw and played with our cousins regularly. It was like an institution to gather at our grandparents’ place for many decent celebrations. On Christmas eve we would all, siblings, cousins, everyone including housemaids, gather on the carpet in front of this large decorated and brightly lit tree – the dead tree with many lights, coloured balls and a figurine of an angel filling the uppermost position. The tree was normally in a corner in the lounge and we literally sat in a ninety degree arc in front of it, from the one wall to the other. I can honestly not recall my grandfather ever doing it, but my Dad and his brother alternated each year in handing out gifts – presents, as some people may call them. Grandmother, my Mom and all the Aunts always contributed to tables that

would groan under the load of all the eats and drinks and it was indeed an occasion to remember. The following day everybody would be up early, dress up very neatly and go to their respective churches for the Christmas service. Then, around 12:00, the entire extended family would once again gather at grandparents' place: this time it would be for the Christmas lunch. Yet again the tables would indicate their disgust at the loads they were to carry with snacks, starters, mains, deserts, cold drinks and also everything that was left over from the previous evening – of everything there was always too much. The housemaid of every household was also present yet again and after helping to clean up, was always sent home with more than all of us could devour. After my grandfather's passing my grandmother sold the house and moved to a care centre. However, the same pattern was followed every year by new extended families, albeit on a smaller scale. At this stage both my brother and I had been married and we taught our children in the same way we had been taught.

Towards the middle of January the lights and decorations would be taken off the tree in my parental home and saved neatly in containers to be used again at the end of the year. This was the same time as my birthday and I always looked forward to help undo the tree, as this indicated that we could start preparing for the next faci-lie-ty or function – my birthday party. Just less than a month ago I received some gifts and the next event was around the corner!

In some ways my birthday was unique: mine was the first in our extended family of almost 20 people; I started my first school year on my birthday. All following years my birthday was either before or after school started, but in matric the school year started once again on my birthday! This was a sign that I would finish and could move on into the world of grown-ups.

Our family never had official invitations to attend birthday celebrations. It was an unwritten rule that everybody would attend these joyful events – almost like a little Christmas. The tables were still put under tremendous stress by the variety of stuff to eat and drink. Grown-ups obviously just had a plain birthday cake, but children were entertained with beautifully decorated cakes with our names and the correct amount of candles indicating our age which were lit and had to be extinguished in one puff. If you could achieve this, you were granted a wish which would transpire before the next birthday, provided you didn't divulge the wish to anyone! After more than six decades I'm still waiting...

Years followed years, we became older and as a teenager I started doubting certain issues:

1. Why do some churches sprinkle babies with water (and still call it "baptism") while other churches get close to drowning grown-ups in a mini pool; also, is there a difference between baptism and christening;
2. Scripture teaches us that Jesus would be in the grave for three days and three nights, yet "good Friday to Sunday morning gives two days and two nights at most;
3. How is God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit one but still three? Who is who and when and why does any one of them change into any of the other?
4. Some churches allow children to partake in communion, while our church (and some others) insist you are brought before the entire congregation around age 17 to answer questions regarding your "faith" before you may be accepted to participate in the sacraments.

At this stage of my life I was fairly familiar with most of the Bible stories: creation, Israel's oppression in Egypt, David and Goliath, Daniel and the lions, Jonah and the whale, Paul's missions and lastly the three wise men. Sunday school always had some type of mysticism to it, yet I wasn't really upset when we didn't have lessons. There were annual tests in which we were tested on our knowledge of the Bible and I brought home one diploma after the other.

When I was around the age of 15 my Dad's oldest sister, a spinster who lodged with my grandparents next door to us, bought an electronic organ. This was much better than a plain mechanical piano I've been trained to play the last few years and in a jiffy I mastered this instrument. For many moons the family would gather together on Friday evenings at my grandparents' place and I would entertain them on the organ. Shortly afterwards the church organ (actually a pipe organ in a church) started stirring certain emotions in me. Our church organist agreed to teach me the basics and soon after that I was playing solo for a wedding ceremony at a different church! This meant a lot for a school boy, because it also put extra cash in my pocket. On a more regular basis I would be acting as relief organist at various churches.

I was but 16 years old when an argument ensued between our own reverend and myself regarding the wedding march of Mendelssohn's, which was commonly used as the entrance piece for brides. Sometimes I would play other pieces, but this reverend insisted I stick to Mendelssohn – according to him the correct “music for the church”. I tried to show him that Mendelssohn was a playboy and even the music was composed for an event of debauchery, but he wouldn't hear of it and I was forbidden to ever play for any ceremony in “his church”. Fortunately this wasn't the only church on the planet and I even seriously contemplated leaving this (Protestant) church and moving over to the Roman Catholic Church. This same wedding march also caused problems while I was studying. The mom of a fellow student worked at a business selling musical instruments. One day, while passing there, I saw a new model organ that had arrived. While checking it out, the manager asked me to play something and after hitting a few notes I gave Mendelssohn a modern jazz lesson. This same manager then requested that I refrain from demeaning church music and leave the premises – never to return. To this day I wonder what would have happened if I had played a piece of my favourite uncle Johann Sebastian Bach...

Amazingly evenly the years went their way. I finished school, tried university life and after six months realised I wouldn't make it. Reacting to an advert by SABC, I started working as learner technician. The agreement was that they would pay for my studies and I would need to work back the same amount of years to pay back my debt. All went well and during this time I got involved in motor sport and various bands. Sometimes it needed some fine coordination to fit everything in – especially where the weaker sex was also to be considered.

At that stage it didn't really make sense, but as one reminisces through the years concerning certain events, you realise the many places the lies crept in, in all walks of life. Other people lied to me, I lied to them, many people lied to each other; the boss to the worker, the worker to the boss, the workers to each other. All these lies would include every possible subject and the liars included preachers, doctors, colleagues, fellow musicians, motor sport enthusiasts as well as military staff during my military training. The lies varied between a small white lie and a blatant “in-your-face” deception.

During my growing years various other lies showed up: the easter bunny, day of the covenant and then also the dear old tooth fairy! The Afrikaners talk about a “tooth mouse” which is almost easier to believe, as most people have seen mice, but nobody has ever seen a fairy. However, I must admit that I appreciated the halfpenny in my slipper after losing my first tooth. I waited for the next ones with abated breath! They came in a new currency: cents, as the pennies were phased out. After about the fourth or fifth tooth I awoke at the moment my Dad tried to place the money in my slipper. He apologised and pretended to check if I was sleeping well (a “white” lie?), but the next time I really caught him red-handed. Obviously I was disappointed, since the tooth mouse sounded so acceptable, especially for a youngster.

The easter rabbit disappeared quicker than it was introduced, but I still managed to meet him. My

Mom is of Irish descent and the legend of painting the eggs came across the sea with her ancestors. Once painted, the eggs are hidden and children are sent out to find them. We probably did it once or twice. However, the legacy of the easter bunny was in the chocolate “eggs” we used to be given during Easter. My own children were very young when my Mom would still bring them chocolate “eggs”. Is it possible for some grandmothers to resist giving their grandchildren hollow chocolate “eggs” or marshmallow chocolates?

The day of the covenant, which used to be celebrated on 16 December, never really made any sense to me. My ancestors came from Germany and Ireland in the nineteenth century, long after Piet Retief had made his promise, or covenant as some would refer to it. This stated, amongst other promises, that they and their descendants would honour the day as if a *Shabbat* [Sabbath]. With my ancestors not having been part of the country at that time, I consider myself not bound by it. However, in principle some of the aspects are acceptable and for many years we were members of a caravan association and would participate in the festivities of a weekend of camping at a particular caravan camping site. There would be the typical Afrikaner festivities, with “*volkspele*” (folk dancing), “*braai*” [barbeque] and then on the “*Shabbat*” a solemn service would be held by one of the local or invited preachers, after which everyone would pack up and return home. I mainly attended this event because of the festivities, even then. The other question that needs to be asked, is: Did these people really understand God’s *Shabbat*, or was the term freely used to impress God and soothe themselves?

The other national event (national disease?) was Republic Day. This obviously included, as with many other events, the national anthem, something we had been taught at school and would be imprinted for the rest of my life. Nothing was more important than to sing, standing, “*Die Stem*” [The Voice] – as we also did on the day of the covenant. The Afrikaans lyrics, set by CJ Langenhoven, still ring in my head: “we will live, we will die, we are yours, South Africa!” Will I also be prepared to die for the way I have decided to follow Jesus? Ironical that these anthems are sung at sporting events...

Background

For more than twenty years I was permanently employed as church organist at various churches. It seems that the incumbent this post could sometimes almost empower and inspire congregants even more than the actual sermon. This post also requires a very close relationship to and cooperation with the preacher so as to conduct an orderly service and even the members of the church board would not have the same relationship with the minister or preacher as has the church organist.

Being a church organist requires plenty of sacrifices, devotion, time and sometimes even money. The compensation paid by some institutions was occasionally not worth the effort – not even the extra compensation for funerals and weddings. It was also very difficult to find alternative organists when going on leave and sometimes I had to lie by saying I couldn’t find anybody, without actually having contacted anyone. The church office would then have to arrange it. While this may sound like a small lie, it was a lie, nevertheless.

At various occasions such as funerals, weddings and the likes I heard many a preacher lying about qualities of the departed, marriage couple or whoever else. Afterwards the preacher and I would just laugh away what he had said. However, one of the greatest lies from a preacher was still to come when I applied for a post as organist in the church in the area where I stayed.

Most of my previous posts were mainly outside our church, or the area in which we resided. At this stage I was the relief organist of the church in the area we resided in and applied for the permanent

position, because of pressure from preacher A. Without me knowing about it, preacher B approached another organist and asked him to apply for the same position. This person was permanently appointed at another church, but he was the music teacher at a local school and also a friend of preacher B. He was better qualified than I, having a university degree in music, whereas I had only finished Royal Schools of Music Classical Piano. Obviously I wasn't appointed. The stories and excuses, actually lies, I was put through, would fill a library. According to my friend, preacher A, he wasn't aware of the other application and the church board was under pressure to appoint the highest qualified person, and more excuses followed *ad nauseum*. The TV series "Big Little Lies" wouldn't be able to stand up to this!

After more than forty years my family and I shook the dust from our feet of the mainstream Afrikaans reformed church. We floated from one to none, from here to there and ended up at an Afrikaans Apostolic church of which the pastor and I had been good friends for some time. He would regularly minister to our motorcycle club when going on daytrips. At that stage I was against serving in the music ministry, but eventually yielded to his appeals. After only a few months of directing the music ministry, the pastor suddenly passed away. We stayed on for a while, but after the arrival of the new pastor we decided to move to a sister congregation, where I directed the music ministry once again. We met some amicable people and were also part of a home cell. After about a year our cell leader and I, separately, decided to learn the Hebrew language, without any influence from anywhere. It was quite strange, for us and others, that both of us had this urge at the same time. We followed it up and enrolled at the local *Ulpan* (school for Hebrew study). We were very excited and obviously didn't keep it a secret.

Once again, as with every other church, the pastor and I had a very close relationship. I always felt the need for suiting the music to the message as well as other events such as baptism and communion. I also started learning new lies and my vocabulary started including terms like rapture, sinner's prayer, "once-saved-always-saved" and "must-speak-in-tongues". Some interesting things happened and were said behind the scenes, while totally different matters happened in front of the congregation. Many a Sunday I was going to address certain issues with the pastor and the elders, but the opportunity never arose – probably the providence of God.

One Thursday evening, during March 2003, while we were setting up our instruments for rehearsal, I clearly heard somebody speak the word "Shabbat". At that stage I hadn't yet started my Hebrew studies and was therefore not really familiar with the word. I asked around but nobody admitted having said anything to me in particular. I shrugged it off as strange and carried on with my life. Many things started happening after that, however: total strangers were sent across my way via e-mail and telephone calls – everyone a follower of God's seventh day *Shabbat*. Things were becoming interesting.

Plenty of information started flowing in, some of which didn't really make sense at that stage. After starting the Hebrew training, I could understand more of the information sent to me. Many terms and texts were in Hebrew, for no other reason that the "old testament" was originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic. I was also introduced to a reading cycle, almost three thousand years old, during which the five books of Moses would be read and studied within one year. This was extremely interesting and more information arrived daily. One of the reasons why the first five books are so important, is that it contains all the instructions God wants mankind to know about. Even Jesus told the Pharisees that they wouldn't believe Him if they didn't believe Moses (John 5:46). These five books are known as the *Torah* in Hebrew or Pentateuch in Greek. *Torah* simply means "instructions", although it was incorrectly translated as "law", which is yet another lie brought in by the enemy to confuse people and to put God into disfavour. Another aspect of the reading cycle was to see how *Torah* compares to the Gospels and to show us how well Jesus knew

Torah, since He always quoted from it.

Over the next few years God really put plenty of effort into me. About a year after first hearing the word “*Shabbat*”, something else happened which would cause a radical change in my life.

One Sunday, after praise and worship, the pastor requested that I stay seated at the organ. My thoughts were that he had an unannounced baptism or child dedication. However, he immediately started a personal attack against me, accusing me of trying to become a Jew. All of this had to do with me learning Hebrew, my research on how the actual Scriptures were put together, trying to live a lifestyle similar to what Jesus and His disciples lived and giving plenty of attention to *Torah*. Without trying to defend myself I sat there, listening to his attack, got up from the organ stool after the service and went home – never to return. My telephone rang incessantly for the next two days, with people calling, asking me if I would just accept this attack or fight back. My reply to everybody was the same: God had a different route for me, something much better.

After many months of visiting various congregations, we found a precocious and genial group that didn't belong to any denomination, very much in support of Israel, taught like Jesus would have taught and, in some cases even used the original names of God and Jesus. While originally a bit peculiar, I could associate myself with these people. Before long I handled the music ministry, but somehow had the realisation that this would be a temporary habitat. God wanted me to break with Christianity and Sunday church. It wasn't easy, as, for the first time in many years, my wife was satisfied in the environment, with the preacher and the fellow congregants. God started increasing the pressure on me, however – until the beginning of 2011. I gradually handed over my leadership to another musician and by the end of June 2011 I was churchless and “faith”-less. The decision had been made in obedience and now I could leave myself in the hands of God to lead me whereto and how He desired. He had shown me the lies I had grown up with, which now had to be “unlearnt” – dishabituated, disremembered, forgotten. This created a large vacuum in me which only He could fill with the necessary information to show me the way of Jesus and His disciples.

First Lie

The very first lie I had to renounce, was that the way of God is not a religion that I practise – something we were all taught in the Christian church and then mainly applied only on Sundays (or a small portion thereof) – like an hour or so. Attending church should not be out of habit, tradition or ritual. Religion is about me and I, something that needs doing when necessary, almost like waving a magic wand. When completing forms, for instance, one of the fields to complete would ask for your religion. While it may be easy for most to write “Christian”, this only means filling pews on a Sunday where they may enjoy a short snooze, supporting the annual church fair (which is probably similar to a circus) and attending the Christmas oratorio. This makes it relatively easy to “switch off” my religion at times when I want to gossip or tell a crude joke, after which I can switch it back on again – nobody was hurt, nobody was wronged and everybody present enjoyed it! In fact, it may in reality be less cumbersome to only switch on my religion when necessary – at church services and prayer meetings, or the few times a pastor or elder actually visits me at home. The enemy already knew in the Garden of Eden what his plan was in steering people away from the truth. Jesus teaches us He is the Way (Road/Path), the Truth and the Life (John 14:6). He also said that we should follow Him (John 8:12; Luke 9:23 and others). Our entire being consists of paths, some short, some long: we start somewhere and move towards a destination – inside or to our dwellings, to or at our places of work, in or to our schools, towards entertainment or while there.

How does one follow someone else on a road? By literally walking (in the footsteps) behind that person and doing like he (He) does. This is what the word “disciple” means and is exactly what God taught me: to disregard any form of faith which is mostly very wavering, but follow in the footsteps of Jesus. It should therefore become a **way** of life and not a religion or a faith, but also a relationship. It should be something that is a daily part of you, second by second, and not only something when asked about it or putting up a pious face when the pastor is around. Jesus set the perfect example for us as John teaches us in 1 John 2:

*⁶He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to **walk**, even as he **walked**.*

Peter, one of Jesus’ inner circle, writes in 1 Peter 2:

*²¹For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his **steps**:*

Like my breathing and heartbeat, this should be the only other aspect in the world that is part of me 24/7/365 – my lifestyle according to God’s rules in the footsteps of Jesus. Without boasting about it wherever I go, it should always be visible to other people and this can only be done in obedience. We read in 1 Peter 1:

*¹⁴As **obedient** children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:*

If we trust that God has called us to a new lifestyle, the following words in 1 Peter 1 become applicable to us:

*¹⁵But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy **in all manner** of conversation;*

Leave the lie of religion and follow Jesus according to the rules set out by God – you will never regret it! Read on.

Second Lie

Up to now I yet have to hear a preacher put it differently; all the Protestant and Reformed preachers, whether Evangelical, Pentecostal or Orthodox are in alliance: when Jesus died on the cross the law was abolished and we now have nothing to do with it. We are saved by grace alone.

I would like to know this: when stopped by a traffic policeman because of a traffic violation and he only gives me a warning, did he also remove the traffic law or was his “grace” sufficient for me? As far as I know the law remains applicable, even after the warning, because if I commit another offence at a later stage the next traffic policeman might not be as lenient. While staying within the confines of the traffic **law** I am safe and will not be prosecuted.

The exact same is true of our spiritual lives.

God’s law, the *Torah*, God’s instructions, sets limits or boundaries within which I can freely move around. While moving within the law I am safe, since God is there to protect me. As soon as I move outside of God’s law I am on my own as the law can’t protect me there – there is no law there. However, because of God’s omnipotence, He can put me back within the constraints of His law, not under His law, where I can once again enjoy the protection provided by His law.

As a youngster we had a fish tank in the house with plenty of small, colourful fish. At the start my brother and I argued about who would be feeding the fish or cleaning the tank, but it became a burden to look after them. However, I learnt a valuable lesson from this episode of my life: those little fish are only safe within the confines of the fish tank and while it has water. Outside of the tank the little creatures flounce to stay alive, but inside the tank they are in their element. In a similar fashion we need constraints to protect ourselves – sometimes even from ourselves!

The enemy was very crafty by abusing translators to translate the word *Torah* as law. When breaking it down correctly we find it actually means “instructions” or “rules”. Every household has its own *Torah*, rules, by which parents and children live and work. Likewise employers will have a *Torah* for their employees. Where ever we find rules, we can consider it to be “*Torah*”. When we honestly admit it to ourselves, all basic rules are, ironically, based on *Torah*!

It is therefore an ignominious lie that God’s law would have fallen away, was nullified, is no longer applicable or whatever other foolish statement someone would wish to make. If this were to be true, no country, authority, school or household would have any form of rules! Looking around us, though, we can see the way the enemy is trying to establish anarchy.

Jesus told us Himself in Matthew 5:17 that He came to fulfil the law. Last time I opened dictionary it didn’t mean to take away or abolish – He came to elucidate it. When we continue reading in Matthew 5 we read in various verses (21, 27, 31, 33) that Jesus says: “Ye have heard...” after which He would mention a commandment. Then He says (in verses 22, 28, 32, 34): “But I say unto you...” and starts explicating the commandment for better understanding. Since when does “explicate” and “abolish” mean the same? Ludicrous!

While Jesus hung on the cross He called out: “It is finished!” He had thus completed the mission He had come to earth for. We read in Colossians 2:

*¹³And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; ¹⁴Blotting out the **handwriting of ordinances** that was against us, which was contrary to us, and **took it out of the way**, nailing it to his cross;*

At the same time as Jesus was on earth, it was customary to write the offences of prisoners on a letter before they were sentenced. This letter was sometimes also nailed to the door of the cell in which the prisoner would be confined in order for visitors and guards to know what the offence was. When released, after the sentence had been completed, this letter was to be returned to the offender after a Greek word *tetelestai* (Τετέλεσται – te-telestai) – paid in full, debt settled – had been stamped on it. It was to be carried by the person after being released in order to prove that his debt to society had been settled.

You and I and every other person on earth stands guilty before God, but Jesus, our Salvation, has taken that **charge**, that **letter of indictment**, away – not the law. His blood effected atonement for all of us who want to accept it. He couldn't have taken away the law, otherwise we wouldn't know what sin was. We read in Romans 8:

²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

We also see in 1 John 3:

⁴Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

This can't be made any more unambiguous. We are therefore not acquitted of the law of Moses/Jesus, but, through the **obedience** of Jesus, from the law of sin (its consequences) and everlasting death. Christianity has failed horrendously due to their not complying and abiding with the law of Moses; even Jesus did!

Third Lie

Having now unlearned the lie of switching religion on and off, and in obedience having started a new way or lifestyle, an intimate relationship with God, I have also realised that God's law should still be my only guideline, the rules according to which I should live to satisfy God. After all, everything is only about Him, not me!

There is a remote possibility that the church of which I am a member might allow me to pursue my new lifestyle, my new way of living, the way God expects of me, although it would not be very easy, because: the church, that is every average Christian church, teaches me the law of God was abolished when Jesus died on the cross. According to the church *Torah* (instructions) was only for the Jews and now only the rules of the church are relevant. The choice given me is therefore rather simple, and the final conclusion is to fully break with the Christian church and follow Scripture – from the beginning in Genesis through to the end in Revelation – everything.

Starting with the very first few pages of Scripture we already find a day of rest instituted by God, the Sabbath, or *Shabbat* in Hebrew. The problem is that my church, the one from which I have just severed myself, told (not taught) me that *Shabbat* is only for the Jews. Really? Let's investigate it ourselves...

We should now attentively, in obedience and with an anxious, avid and studios spirit listen to what God tells us. This could happen by means of other people, messages via cellular phone or e-mail, or even through God Himself, after we have quieted our spirit and come to realise that He can guide us – because He wants to guide us! We should ensure, however, that what we are taught is indeed Scripture and not the fertile imagination of someone else. Test therefore every teaching from Scripture, as we are taught in Acts 17:

¹¹These [Jews in Beréa] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

God created the earth with everything on it in six days, as well as the heavens above. We read in Genesis 2:

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

It doesn't stop here, though, because two verses down we see:

*³And God **blessed** the seventh day, and **sanctified** it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*

God did not rest because He was tired, as He can't become tired. Isaiah tells us in chapter 40:

²⁸Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

He rested to set an example for us, just like Jesus would set various examples many years later while on earth. God blessed the seventh day because the humans He had made would become tired after working for six days and would need rest. God made an appointment day with man, a day on which man could leave his normal work (not worry about income) and for a full 24 hours frolic in God's love and affection!

Your church service starts on Sunday at 09:00. You arrive at 15:00 but find nobody there. In fact, you go there any other day at 09:00 and still find nobody. Why? The simple answer is that a unanimous

decision had been made to start the service at 09:00 on a Sunday morning. This, however, is not God's appointment. His appointment is the seventh day, according to Scripture – the **entire** 24-hour day – from sunset the previous evening until Saturday sunset.

God made an appointment with man for the seventh day of the week. Many people believe it is only for the Jews, but there were no Jews in Genesis 2 – only Adam and Eve. The first Jew, actually Hebrew (which will be explained later), was Abram/Abraham, of whom we start reading towards the end of Genesis 11 and further. It was roughly 2 000 years after the creation of Adam that Abraham lived, therefore most of the people living at that time would have been aware of the seventh day *Shabbat*, through oral tradition, just like sacrifices, offerings and other traditions would have been conveyed from generation to generation. The word *Shabbat* means rest or ending. Jesus tells us in Matthew 11:

²⁸*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

He also told us in Mark 2:

²⁷*And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:*

We read in Exodus 31:

¹⁷*It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.*

The word “refreshed” literally means “breathing”, as in a breeze or stream of air; this refreshing of God was thus only a figure of speech. The last part of the verse can therefore be translated as: *“He stopped and breathed.”* If we were to look at Isaiah 40:28 again, we will clearly see that God wasn't refreshed to renew power or energy like a human being, since He is the Source of all power and energy! It was God's “stopping” and “breathing” that actually created *Shabbat*!

When we now tread in the footsteps of Jesus, Who better to give us the rest God knows we need! We now also move closer to how Jesus, the disciples and many other people during that time, lived: an unbreakable, everlasting relationship with God, during which time we also live according to His law (the *Torah*, instructions) and honour every seventh-day appointment God has made with us. Jesus says what He means and means what He says, also in Matthew 11:

²⁸*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* ²⁹*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.* ³⁰*For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

For eight years God worked at me concerning *Shabbat*, through His Word and various people, but when I eventually surrendered after realising that God is more clever than I, a tremendous burden suddenly fell off my shoulders. There were a few other things as well that I found difficult to cope with. For almost a year prior I was used to spending *Shabbat* on my own in my study, doing personal Bible study. The one problem was resisting the tradition of dressing up, then not going to church on Sunday morning anymore and having a guilty conscience about it! Eventually this passed as God convinced me that I was in His will and doing what He had called me for. Sunday, as most people called it, was a normal day of work. If you are still in doubt, even after reading this, please listen to a four-part series on keeping God's *Shabbat*.²

² <https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Audio.details/ID/520/Sabbathkeeping-Part-1.htm> The other parts will be found on the same page.

Fourth Lie

It is difficult to explain this lie unpretentiously, since there are many thoughts and aspects around this lie and it has been corrupted for many years.

Up to now we have taken all texts from the 1611 KJV translation of Scripture. As will be seen in many verses of this translation, God is sometimes referred to as “Lord” or “LORD”. Neither of these is a name, but simply a title, such as mister, doctor or professor. While God is almost like a generic term to refer to our Creator, many people are unaware that God actually has many proper names. The translators of many versions of Scripture have decided to withhold God’s name, which is all a devious way of the enemy to prevent true followers of the only Creator-God to use His real names during prayers and praise in order for Him not be worshipped in truth, but that He may be made inferior.

In Genesis 1:1 we read that God created the heavens and earth. From the original Hebrew we actually see the word *Elohim*, a plural form of *Eloha*, which means “strong one”. It surely makes sense that Someone strong would have handled something like the Creation.

The word *Elohim* can also be abbreviated to *El* and then some characteristics can be added, to mention a few:

- ☞ *El-Shaddai*: mighty God (of Jacob) (Genesis 49:24; Psalm 132:2, 5)
- ☞ *El-Elyon*: most high God (Genesis 14:18-20)
- ☞ *El-Roi*: God Who sees (Genesis 16:13)
- ☞ *El-Olam*: everlasting God (Genesis 21:33; Psalm 93:2; Isaiah 40:28-31)

These Names of God were in fact not transliterated, but translated into English and therefore we may read a Name and never know what it really means. We also do not know how to address God. This is similar to what happened with God’s personal Name. We read in Exodus 3 that Moses is drawn to a burning bush where God wants to talk to him. When asked what he should say to the people Who had sent him, God says to Moses in verse 14: *“I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”*

This KJV translation (and many others) is in reality not a true rendering of the original Hebrew, which reads: *“אֲדֹנָי אֲשֶׁר אֲדֹנָי”* and should be translated as “I AM, WAS, SHALL BE THAT I AM, WAS, SHALL BE.” This points directly to God’s Omnipresence and Omnipotence and proves that He is outside of time, because He has always been and He will always be – without beginning and without end. This lie has consequently been forced down our throats for hundreds of years, and because of the fancy way it was presented, we accepted it as truth because it came from so-called academics! It is scary to think people want new translations, as we may never know how many transgressions rather than translations there would be... or maybe they want to add more lies?

Not being someone who just accepts for acceptance’s sake, I’ve searched high and low for better translations, including English and Afrikaans translations. There are quite a few translations where the original Names of God have been restored, as also those of the patriarchs, prophets and disciples. Amongst others, you will find the Hebrew Names Version (based on the ASV), Hebraic Roots Bible 2012, Halleluyah Scriptures and The Scriptures (1998 and 2009). Please stay far away from the Aleph Tav Scriptures by Bill Stanford. It is more of a transgression than a translation – do not touch it with a bargepole. Out of all those translations I have gone through, I find the Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)³ to be one of the better translations. It was done by David Stern and, although not

³ <https://www.thewordbooks.com/index.php/product/complete-jewish-bible/>

perfect, much better than the KJV. To be quite honest, I'm not sure one would ever find a perfect translation in any language. The CJB can also be purchased as an electronic version for theWord to help in personal studies and preparation of presentations.

When searching the Scriptures and looking at God's personal Name, I must admit that not only the translators are to be blamed for lies and deception. According to God's third command we are not to abuse His Name. The Rabbis certainly did a good job of preventing that, especially in countries they were exiled in. Until now they have certainly also done a sterling job amongst their own people. However, most of them were not really as pious as they pretended to be. In fact, we see Jesus reprimanding them in many cases. He calls them hypocrites, whitewashed tombs and blind guides. The Rabbis of old had placed a prohibition on using God's real name and instead use the word "Adonai" when praying. "Adon" (אֲדֹנָי) is the Hebrew for Master. The term "HaShem" is used in general, as in social and non-"religious" events. This word simply means "the Name" (הַשֵּׁם "ha" – the) en (שֵׁם "Shem" – name) and has no other real meaning. Adonai can mean "my Master" or "my master" – the use of capitalisation or not could indicate any pagan god, depending on the context it was used in. Please refer to the last paragraph of "Means of Explanation" on page 1. Once again we see the importance to study Scriptures yourself, personally, and not necessarily depend on the pulpit incumbent, towards whose pension you help contribute. For the same reason, and more, I can stand in line as well.

In spite of what is mentioned above, God mentions in several places that we should call on His Name, not His title: Psalm 116:13, 17; Isaiah 52:6; Zechariah 13:9. In Shakespeare's play, Romeo & Juliet, the famous line "What's in a name?" is used. Names actually mean something and the Hebrews (Jews) mostly named their children according to their destiny. Most of the names of the prophets include part of God's Name, something we will look at a bit later.

A famous Italian composer, Giuseppe Verdi, has a name which can literally be translated as Joseph Green. However, it is doubtful whether he would respond when being called by that name. Imagine one of these large roadside advertising signs next to the highway reading: "Joseph Green Live in the Civic Theatre!" Very few people, if any, would know who it is and not support the show. I am not insinuating that God will not respond when I don't use His Name, I'm only saying that He wants us to use His Name, because in this way we acknowledge Him as our Creator, our Provider, our loving Father, the Almighty One. When using the Name of God the enemy also realises that I am calling on the Highest Authority and he trembles!

A name speaks of a person's character and the authority that person represents. Avraham (Abraham) means "father of many", Eve's original Hebrew name (חַוָּה – Chava, pronounced cha-va [as in Bach]) means "mother of life", Esau means "hairy". When looking at God's original Name in the Hebrew text, it consists of four characters, יהוה, called the tetragrammaton (Greek for four letters), and is transliterated as YHVH or YHWH. This Name is indeed set-apart (holy) and should not be used unless calling upon the only true Creator-God. For this reason I personally do not have any qualms when hearing people say in a movie "oh my god", because chances are that those fictitious characters don't even know upon whom they are calling in any case. It could be one of their own demons or friends, or just to say something when they don't know what else to say – similar to these "prosperity" preachers. More about them later...

Even actors who regularly utter "jesus christ", probably have no idea what they are saying and we should therefore rather intercede on their behalf like Jesus did on the execution stake and say: "Forgive them, for they do not know the Redemption of God or the God Who effected Redemption!"

When I talk to God, though, He wants us to honour Him by using that Name, יהוה. I may also

address Him as Father or use the Aramaic word, Abba, which also means Father. When I call on God's Name, I acknowledge Him for Who and What He is – the Giver of everything! There is one caveat, though: some people, who have heard the bell but have not seen the hammer, call to God as Abba-Father – one term. This is absolutely foolish, as these words mean the same and we would then be saying "Father Father." God is not deaf and will hear us the first time we call Him. This is, once again, one of those nice-sounding, ear-soothing clichés picked up from the prosperity teachers. When these terms are used in Scripture, all three times, the term used the second time around is to explain, to illustrate, the first word. Only in third-world countries are terms repeated, mainly for and by the underprivileged.

There are many thoughts and arguments regarding the "correct" pronunciation of God's Name, but nobody has ever really mastered the final pronunciation. While some people may say "Yahweh" or "Yahveh", I personally prefer to use "Yahuah". God is indeed aware that we are addressing Him and that is the most important.

As mentioned earlier, most prophets have a short form of God's Name somewhere in their own:

- ☪ Isaiah is actually *Yasha'yahu*, which means "Yah is our salvation"
- ☪ Jeremiah is actually *Yirmeyahu*, which means "Yah will exalt"
- ☪ Daniel is actually *Dani'el*, which means "my Judge is El"
- ☪ Ezekiel is actually *Yechezq'el*, which means "El will strengthen"

Many people may not realise it, but most believers already know and probably already use at least five Hebrew words:

- ☪ *Amen* (אמן) – it is true, let it be so
- ☪ *HalleluYah* (הללויה) – praise/exalt Yah (God)
- ☪ *Shofar* (שופר) - ramshorn
- ☪ *Shabbat/Sabbat* (שבת) – God's sanctified day
- ☪ *Shalom* (שלום) – common greeting, at arrival or departure and includes blessings

We should therefore use God's Name, יהוה, but with the necessary reverence and respect so that He will be magnified by it.

Fifth Lie

What about the real name of Jesus? Does the name Jesus really mean anything or do we have yet another twist? Wouldn't the Name of God be reflected in the Name of His Son?

As a teenager I had the impression that my Redeemer's name was Jesus and His surname was Christ! Most preachers mainly used it together during sermons, Jesus Christ, as it indeed should be. The truth, however, is that both these words mean nothing in English, but is merely an Anglicism of a Greek form of the original Hebrew. In Matthew 1:21 the messenger tells *Miryam* [Mary] that she will become pregnant and when the Child is born he should be called *Yeshua* – not Jesus as the KJV and many other texts were purposefully mistranslated. The word *Yeshua* means “YAHUAH (God-the-Father) saves”, which is exactly the purpose of *Yeshua*'s coming to earth! The Hebrew word for saves is *yasha* (יָשַׁע) and can also mean to call out for help. An inflection of *yasha* is used in *Mattityahu* [Matthew] 21:9 when the crowd calls out: “**Save (us)** (הוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ – ho-Shi-'Ah) **please** (נָא – Na), Son of Dawid (David)! Blessed is He Who comes in the **Name** of יְהוָה. You in the highest heaven: **save us now!**” At that stage most of the Jews were under the impression that *Yeshua* was their new earthly king who would save them from the persecution of the Roman empire. Nobody ever considered the spiritual realm. They had all followed the writings and prophecies and knew the time was ripe for the new king which Scripture mentioned. The KJV, as many other flawed translations, incorrectly add the two words (*hoshia* and *na*) together to form “Hosanna (to the Son of David) and “Hosanna (in the highest.)” This creates the impression that “hosanna” is a word of praise, like I always thought, was taught and lied to. However, it is absurd! The only text I could find that rendered the translation correctly was the CJB. The words “*hoshia na*” are a call for deliverance and also a shadow picture, insight of the coming Messiah as can be seen in Psalm 118:

²⁵*Please, ADONAI! Save us! Please, ADONAI! Rescue us!* ²⁶*Blessed is he who comes in the name of ADONAI. We bless you from the house of ADONAI.*

This is substantiated in *Mattityahu* [Matthew] 21:9; 23:39; *Markos* [Mark] 11:9; *Luka* [Luke] 13:35; *Yochanan* [John] 12:13. These are words which you and I can call out when in oppression or trouble.

When the Name of *Yeshua* was rendered in Greek, the “translators” had to take a shortcut. In the Greek alphabet the closest letter to “y” is “i”. Greek has no “sh” sound or letter and they simply used “s”. The Greek language, similar to Hebrew and many other languages, has masculine and feminine forms and in Greek all names or words ending with “a” is considered feminine, therefore a “s” was added to indicate a masculine name. This is how *Yeshua* ended up as *Iesous* and how we literally “lost” our Redemption. During the 17th century *Iesous* was translated into Latin as *Iesus*, which later changed to Jesus, when the letter “j” was added to the alphabet as a separate letter, roughly 500 years ago. For almost 2 000 years this lie has been going around, misleading everybody, not only with our Redeemer's Name, but also with His birth.

Long before the birth of *Yeshua* the pagans celebrated the sun solstice. Unfortunately the background for this would take up too many pages, which is not the aim of this article. Basically it boils down to the venerating of the sun by pagan cultures who would celebrate the sun's “rebirth” around 25 December in the northern hemisphere, from where summer will come forth. This custom was introduced by “believers”, and it was actually accepted into the Christian (read RCC) church as the birthday of *Yeshua*. A pagan festival with a “Christian” flavour is **not** a pleasant aroma for God. See my remarks at the end. He has commanded us to break with those customs! While God stipulates specific sacrifices and contributions in His Word, those are less important. He delights in our **obedience**. In *Yochanan* 14:15 *Yeshua* says (on behalf of God-the-Father, see *Yochanan* 14:10): “*If you love me, you will* [always, continually] *keep my commands;*”

The words “always” and “continually” are not in the translation, but the text is written in the present continuous tense in the original manuscript, indicating an on-going action. This text was taken from the Complete Jewish Bible (CJB) and from here, unless indicated otherwise, all citations will be from the CJB. In the previous chapter more information is given regarding this translation.

There is enough evidence to prove that *Yeshua* wasn't born in December. It was in the middle of winter and no shepherd would be so inconsiderate to keep his sheep outside, also because he didn't want to be out in the cold himself. Moreover, God has given us His own appointed times, which makes it more likely that *Yeshua* would be born on one of these dates. It is unfathomable that His Son, our Redeemer, would be born on one of those pagan festivals. He explicitly prohibited His chosen nation not to learn the ways of the heathen in (amongst others) *Yirmeyahu* 10:

²*Here is what ADONAI says: “Don't learn the way of the Goyim, don't be frightened by astrological signs, even if the Goyim are afraid of them;*

In the following lie we will learn that God even gave them a new beginning of the year in order to move away from pagan customs. We are taught from Scripture that births are mentioned but never celebrated. What is important, is when and how people die, as this is what we leave behind for our loved ones and the world. For this reason God didn't see the necessity of telling us when *Yeshua* was born. Those really interested can calculate it since all the information is in Scripture. Please do not believe everything Professor/Doctor/Reverend/Pastor/Rabbi Google tells you!

At this stage I must make an important statement: many people came to faith and got saved through the Name of Jesus and in future many more people will use that Name. This Name of our Redeemer got to us through deception and lies and was incorrectly used by the wickedness of the enemy. I am therefore, in no ways, running the Name of Jesus down and will even use it myself as I have up to now and also, where necessary, to lead a sinner to God and repentance. However, after getting the full picture, I prefer to use the Name that was used originally, also by the Messenger to *Miryam*. From here, onwards, I will make use of the original names and supply the well-known names [in brackets] when used for the first time.

Sixth Lie

Like any building needs a foundation, God has given us foundations and building blocks with which to help build His Kingdom. During Creation He gave us *Shabbat*, a special time during which He gives us special attention, but also expects the same of us, as we saw in a previous section. These *Shabbats* are, notwithstanding, the rudiment of something much more exciting and illuminating.

One of the most neglected books in Scripture in the average Christian church is Leviticus. I believe the reason for this to be the fact that most of God's rules are contained in this book and that human nature is rogue and rebellious in order not to follow God's instructions. Most preachers probably have no idea of what Leviticus is all about since they were never taught this in seminary, especially when Scriptures (Bibles) were not even opened! Some of those who do understand the book, though, refuse to teach it to their congregants, because in some cases it could put their pensions at risk – words from a preacher's mouth!

We will look at other chapters later, but let's start with chapter 23. Seven feasts are described here, apart from *Shabbat* which is a feast on its own and always part of **every** feast:

- ☞ *Pesach*: a week long feast divided into three feasts, with *Pesach* on the 14th of the first month, the Feast of Unleavened Bread on the 15th and the Feast of First Fruits on the 16th. Each of the first and last day is a *Shabbat*;
- ☞ *Shavu'ot* (Hebrew for "weeks"): 50 days after *Pesach*, seven weeks plus one day; also called the Feast of Weeks and it is a *Shabbat*. This feast is also known as *Pentecost* (50th in Greek) and no! It was not invented by any of the Christian churches, although this is about the only one still receiving some recognition;
- ☞ *Yom T'ruah*: Feast of Trumpets, a *Shabbat*, on the first day of the seventh (previously first) month. According to legend this is the day that *Adam* and *Chava* [Eve] were created and it used to be the only "new year". This is the same day *Noach* [Noah] removed the covering of the ark and saw that the ground was dry (Genesis 8:13);
- ☞ *Yom Kippur*: Day of Atonement, the tenth day of the seventh month and the most set-apart day on God's calendar, once again a *Shabbat* and also a day of complete fasting;
- ☞ *Sucot*: Feast of Tabernacles, a jubilant and cheerful feast of eight days during which no work is done; the first and last days are *Shabbats*.

More information about these feasts later.

Nobody needs a doctorate or pilot's license to understand simple words in their mother tongue. The first words of Leviticus 23 read as follows:

¹*ADONAI said to Moshe,* ²*"Tell the people of Isra'el: 'The designated times of ADONAI which you are to proclaim as holy convocations are my designated times.*

God Himself creates the appointed times when people should get together to celebrate the feasts, because God talks to His servant, Mosheh [Moses], and tells him they are His (God's) feasts – not only for the Jews, Greeks, Palestinians, British, Russians, South Africans or any specific nation. These are God's feasts and should be honoured and acknowledged by everybody: Jews, Greeks, Palestinians, British, Russians, South Africans... **all** nations.

Scripture can prove itself: let's rewind time a few thousand years to Genesis 1:

¹⁴*God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to divide the day from the night; let them be for signs, seasons, days and years;*

The Hebrew word for "signs" is *otot* (אֹתוֹת – ô-tôt), plural, and *ot* (אֹת – ô-t), singular. According to

the Mickelson *Strong's Dictionary of the Hebrew and Greek Testaments* it points to:

a signal (literally or figuratively), as a flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence, etc.

God thus gave us the sun, moon and stars as beacons (compare early shipping), as a flag or a sign of something extraordinary (compare *Yeshua's* birth).

The Hebrew word for “seasons” is *moedim* (מוֹעֲדִים – mô-eh-deem), plural, and *moed* (מוֹעֵד – mô-ed), singular. According to the Mickelson *Strong's Dictionary of the Hebrew and Greek Testaments* it means the following:

1. (properly) **an appointment, i.e. a fixed time or season.**
2. (specifically) **a festival.**
3. (conventionally) **a year.**
4. (by implication) **an assembly** (as convened for a definite purpose).
5. (technically) **the congregation.**
6. (by extension) **the place of meeting.**
7. (also) **a signal** (as appointed beforehand).

Seasons can therefore be substituted with appointments or fixed times. Your boss calls for a “fixed time” for Tuesday at 15:00 in his office – or – your boss makes an appointment for Tuesday at 15:00 in his office. There is no difference.

We can therefore see that God made the sun, moon and stars to point to specific signs. One rotation of the earth around the sun is one day, which can be divided into seconds, minutes and hours. The day is divided into dark and light, or night and day. When the sun sets, it is a **sign** that one 24-hour day is passed and a new 24-hour day starts: *So there was evening, and there was morning, one day/a second/third... day* (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31) – first the evening and then the morning, with the afternoon following by implication. After six evenings and mornings we get to *Shabbat*, which God created for everybody and after *Shabbat* one week has passed and the cycle starts afresh. Sunset on *Shabbat* is therefore a **sign** that one week has passed. THINK CYCLICAL. This reminds me of a saying we used to have as youngsters: and the desert (pudding) is always last. What is meant here: the best is always kept until the last. This is the way God did it for us, by leaving *Shabbat* until the last! THINK CYCLICAL. God always moves in circles, not a long line from beginning to end. He is outside of time!

After new moon, when the first sliver of light appears, a new month (moon) starts; a cycle of approximately four weeks. After the moon has appeared 12 times, the earth has moved around the sun once and one year has passed. When putting all these signs together, we get the seasons. This is the simple version, because in all cases the stars also play a part and during the great flood many other things were caused to change. However, it is not the purpose of this article to explain all those details. The most important fact is that God created all these cycles, these circular events, **for mankind.**

God commands His servant, *Mosheh*, to tell the chose nation, *Yisra'el* [Israel], that He has appointed times to spend with them, like a parent is obliged to spend time with a child. These are more intensive, however, as we will see. Each of these feasts includes at least one *Shabbat* and this is why, long before the feasts, long before the Jews, at the start of time, we are made aware of and taught about *Shabbat*.

A question now arises: why choose only *Yisra'el*? Didn't God create other nations? Doesn't He love them? Is it unfair of Him to favour one nation with certain privileges? Can God, indeed, be so prejudiced as to select one group of people to spend time with?

The shocking answer is: **YES!**

God created man to have fellowship with Him. Man misbehaved and descended into sin. God found one righteous man on earth, *Noach*, and started a new society through him after annihilating the previous one by means of a world-wide flood. Once again man refused to comply with God's instructions and He called out *Avraham* to start a nation through which God would teach the rest of the world what He expects of everyone – also the nation out of which the Redeemer would be born. This chosen nation, *Yisra'el*, would be a nation of priests (*and you will be a kingdom of cohanim* [priests] *for me, a nation set apart.* – Exodus 19:6) and would train all other nations in praise and worship and serve as an archetype for other nations. As the chosen nation, other nations would be blessed:

- ☞ *I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed.*” (Genesis 12:3)
- ☞ *How blessed is the nation whose God is ADONAI, the people he chose as his heritage!* (Psalm 33:12)

If *Yisra'el* could therefore teach the other nations everything regarding God's rules and also keep to it themselves, the entire world would almost be back to where it was before sin entered through *Adam* and *Chava*. However, at mount *Sinai* the nation lapsed into idolatry when they decided to build an icon which they could lay eyes on while in reality praying to God. Obviously this didn't please God and the only tribe which wasn't involved in this abomination, was the Levites, who were then chosen to be priests, instead of having an entire nation of priests. Therefore, *Yisra'el* became a nation with priests instead of a nation of priests. Keep in mind that around 3 000 people died because of the sin with the golden calf; we will address this again later. *Yisra'el* nevertheless remains God's chosen nation (because He never changes) and no person is or will ever be excluded to join then or become part of them:

- ☞ Deuteronomy 31: ¹²*Assemble the people — the men, the women, the little ones and the foreigners you have in your towns — so that they can hear, learn, fear ADONAI your God and take care to obey all the words of this Torah;*
- ☞ 1 Kings 8: ⁴³*then hear in heaven where you live, and act in accordance with everything about which the foreigner is calling to you; so that all the peoples of the earth will know your name and fear you, as does your people Isra'el, and so that they will know that this house which I have built bears your name.* (part of the prayer of *Shlomo* [Solomon] when dedicating the first temple)
- ☞ *Yechezq'el* 47: ²³*You are to give the foreigner an inheritance in the territory of the tribe with whom he is living,' says Adonai ELOHIM.*

These thoughts are also confirmed in:

- ☞ Galatians 3: ⁷*Be assured, then, that it is those who live by trusting and being faithful who are really children of Avraham.*
- ☞ Philippians 3: ³*For it is we who are the Circumcised, we who worship by the Spirit of God and make our boast in the Messiah Yeshua! We do not put confidence in human qualifications,*

Conditions laid down by God were to be strictly adhered to and until today not one rule has changed, because He doesn't change. As soon as you hear God's calling and agree to abide by His rules, you become part of His nation, according to 1 *Kefa* [Peter] 2:

⁹*But you are a chosen people, the King's cohanim, a holy nation, a people for God to possess! Why? In order for you to declare the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

This does not mean, I repeat: does not mean you suddenly have to become Jewish! Don't leave

everything you know just to find out how to become Jewish – in fact, you already probably know more than many Jews! We are talking here about spiritual *Yisra'el*, the spiritual children of *Avraham*, all of us who have a circumcised heart and the reason why *Yeshua* had to die on a torturing stake. This will be discussed in detail later.

God only wants to spend time with people who really love Him, people who are obedient out of their own, free will. Scripture is God's rules; He wrote it and if you want to make it part of your life, you have to abide by it – everything – you can't change the rules to suit your lifestyle, unless you're Roman Catholic! According to the Pope he may change anything in Scripture as he pleases. Somebody once put it very well: you can't practise shopping trolley religion where you pick what you want and leave what you don't want. It is all or nothing.

As a teenager my parents sometimes invited children from a children's home to spend school holidays with us. Those children had to obey the same rules as us and were given the same punishments as us. However, they also had the same privileges as us.

You therefore have to become part of spiritual *Yisra'el*, the spiritual generation of *Avraham*: you must be born again and live in obedience, according to the example set by *Yeshua*. What God showed us with a physical *Yisra'el* in the "old testament", has now become a spiritual requirement with the death and resurrection of *Yeshua*. Texts which confirm this:

- ☪ *Yochanan* 3: ³*"Yes, indeed," Yeshua answered him, "I tell you that unless a person is born again from above, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."*
- ☪ *Yochanan* 1: ¹³*not because of bloodline, physical impulse or human intention, but because of God.*
- ☪ *Ya'aqov* [James] 1: ¹⁸*Having made his decision, he gave birth to us through a Word that can be relied upon, in order that we should be a kind of firstfruits of all that he created.*
- ☪ *1 Kefa* 1: ²³*You have been born again not from some seed that will decay, but from one that cannot decay, through the living Word of God that lasts forever.*
- ☪ *Titus* 3: ⁵*he delivered us. It was not on the ground of any righteous deeds we had done, but on the ground of his own mercy. He did it by means of the mikveh [baptism] of rebirth and the renewal brought about by the Ruach HaKodesh [Holy Spirit],*

God chose a nation to set an example for all other nations on earth. By means of this nation He would guide other nations to Him and this nation's priests would teach others how to obey God. The problem, though, was that it was easier for *Yisra'el* to be just as disobedient to God as the other nations they actually had to teach! The entire book of *Shoftim* [Judges] tells us how many leaders God had to send to bring an apostate nation back to Him. Later it was the turn of the prophets to guide the nation back and, lastly, *Yeshua* appeared on the scene. Compare this to the parable of the householder and his winepress in *Mattityahu* 21:33-46.

Most of the physical nation of *Yisra'el* forfeited their opportunity when they allowed, actually insisted, *Yeshua* be crucified and have therefore temporarily been excluded from God's divine plan (Romans 11:7-15). This opened the door for non-Jews (non-*Yisra'el*, foreigners according to Scripture) to be grafted in to the cultivated olive tree through the favour of God (Romans 11:17-24). For this exact reason (verses 18-21) no non-Jew may look down on born Jews (physical *Yisra'el*). Therefore we read in Ephesians 3:

⁶*that in union with the Messiah and through the Good News the Gentiles were to be joint heirs, a joint body and joint sharers with the Jews in what God has promised.*

Every promise, though, also has a condition: we see in Revelation 14:

¹²*This is when perseverance is needed on the part of God's people, those who observe his*

commands and exercise Yeshua's faithfulness.

This is also confirmed in Deuteronomy 7:9, *Yochanan* 14:15; 15:14 and Revelation 22:14.

More proof that the feasts are God's and not only for the Jews, is found in Acts. We read in Acts 2:

¹*The festival of Shavu'ot arrived, and the believers all gathered together in one place.*

²*Suddenly there came a sound from the sky like the roar of a violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

This gathering was around 120 **obedient** men, Jews, believers in and followers of *Yeshua*, who, at His command, stayed in *Yerushalayim* [Jerusalem] to celebrate *Shavu'ot*. *Luka*, who also wrote the book of Acts, has a complete rundown of *Yeshua's* last days on earth and His ascension. In chapter 24:49 he tells us: *"Now I am sending forth upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been equipped with power from above."* This was ten days previously, as we know *Yeshua* ascended forty days after His death.

As a digression: when the nation sinned with the making of the golden calf about 3 000 people died. This was during the first celebration *Shavu'ot*, when God's church was established. Now we read in Acts where obedient men sit in anticipation, something wonderful happens: the endorsement of God's church, according to the order of our new, everlasting Priest, *Yeshua*! God sends the *Ruach haQodesh* according to Acts:

³*Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire, which separated and came to rest on each one of them. ⁴They were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh and began to talk in different languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.*

Some people thought they were drunk, but *Kefa* was filled with the Spirit and started teaching them that it was the fulfilment of the prophecy in *Yo'el* [Joel] 2:

²⁸*"After this, I will pour out my Spirit on all humanity. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions; ²⁹and also on male and female slaves in those days I will pour out my Spirit. ³⁰I will show wonders in the sky and on earth — blood, fire and columns of smoke. ³¹The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the coming of the great and terrible Day of ADONAI." ³²At that time, whoever calls on the name of ADONAI will be saved. For in Mount Tziyon and Yerushalayim there will be those who escape, as ADONAI has promised; among the survivors will be those whom ADONAI has called.*

Please note: in some translations this could be the first 5 verses from chapter 3

When reading to the end of the chapter we see another miracle in verse 41: 3 000 lives are added to the group. What God had taken away years ago at the first *Shavu'ot*, He gives again at this *Shavu'ot*. Sounds like good basic bookkeeping rules. We learn from our friend, *Iyov* [Job] in chapter 1:21b: *ADONAI gave; ADONAI took; blessed be the name of ADONAI.*

As believers we have an obligation to abide by God's Word, the entire Word, all His instructions; this also includes the **feasts of God** about which He teaches us scrupulously in Leviticus and other places in Scripture. The lies taught to us by Christian churches that these feasts are only for Jews must be completely unlearned and we, as believers must honour these feasts just as *Yeshua* celebrated it with His followers and disciples in order to receive those blessings. There are seven feasts and each one points to a part of the redemption plan of God. *Yeshua* has already fulfilled four of these feasts up to the minute with His first coming; the last three will be fulfilled with His second coming. Several articles are available for the feasts^{4,5} even some in Afrikaans – please contact me should you want

⁴ <https://hebrew4christians.com/Holidays/Introduction/introduction.html>

these.

When studying God's feasts, you will notice that some feasts you were taught to celebrate over the years are not mentioned: christmas, easter and many other festivities that God does not condone in any way. I find it amusing that people like to put a Christian stamp on pagan festivities, whether it be the Heidelberg Pork Festival, the Bloemfontein Roses Festival or the Ficksburg Cherry Festival: the local minister or pastor opens the festivities with a reading from Scripture and a short prayer. What happens after that is normally enough to make old Lucifer feel welcome! Likewise, towards the end of the secular year, anything that looks good is painted red or green and used for entertaining santa claus... and so all acquaintances should ne'er be forgot. Shame!

⁵ <https://feastsofgod.org/category/introduction/>

Seventh Lie

Any calendar is about keeping track of the larger form of time: days, months and years, similar to which a watch keeps track of the smaller form of time: hours, minutes, seconds. A calendar is accordingly used to order our lives for work, school, social activities and other memorable times or appointments. Every person is reminded annually of a birthday, a wedding day or any other milestone that was achieved. Unfortunately calendars also remind us of times of heartache, such as losing a loved one or any other disappointing events. Even without a physical calendar there is enough influence from outside to remind us of which day it is: work schedules, radio, television, newspapers, friend and colleagues.

A calendar is all about appointed times as we saw in the previous chapter – every day has 24 hours and every month has around 30 days and a touch over 365 days give us one year. Every country has at least one day it isolates as a memorial day, such as independence from another country or the birthday of a leader. Many other days fill the calendar of each country with national holidays, such as South Africa’s day of reconciliation on 16 December, America’s Thanksgiving every second last Thursday in November, the queen of England’s birthday celebration every second Saturday in June in Britain and the Jews’ commemoration of the genocide in Europe on 27 January. Literally every day around the world some country will be celebrating or commemorating something and then the humanists add to the chaos such garbage as mother’s day, father’s day, friendship day and anything else that honours man and moves the focus away from God.

It is possible that some of these celebrations could have had a humble start, but they are still not linked directly to our Creator-God and not a command from Scripture. This means that God didn’t institute or even suggest any of these days. This doesn’t necessarily mean we should totally ignore them, but we should ask ourselves if our activities on these days really deserve God’s blessing. Most people, especially those working for a boss, welcome each holiday and depending on which day it falls, will take an extra day or two of leave to relax a bit longer – especially over a “weekend”⁶. Obviously this is not a transgression. However, what is disconcerting of the average human, is that most of these “holidays” are known for the raucous, indecent behaviour and debauchery; although God didn’t “arrange” this break from work He is also not thanked for it.

Scripture only mentions birthday celebrations three times – all three end in heartache. In Genesis 40:1-23 we read about Pharaoh’s chief baker and chief cupbearer being incarcerated for some offense. It is strange that their names are not mentioned, should birthdays be that important. While celebrating his birthday, Pharaoh ordered the release of both, but had the nameless chief baker hanged. The flesh of his body was eaten by the birds. Then *Mattityahu* tells us in 14:3-11 that *Herodes* [Herod] had his birthday celebration. He was illegally married to *Herodias*, the wife of his brother. Her daughter danced before them and *Herodes* was pleased with it, so much that he promised her anything she asked. *Herodias* told her daughter to ask for the head of *Yochanan* the Immerser (Baptist). It was brought to her on a platter. The last mention is in *Iyov* where his children would hold feasts “on their set (birth)day”. *Iyov* 1:

⁴It was the custom of his sons to give banquets, each on his set day in his own house; and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

Now for the interesting part, in verse 5a:

*After a cycle of banquets, Iyov would send for them to come and be **consecrated**;*

⁶ The article “Where and how did the weekend originate” is available on request: hein@zentgraf.org

Why would he do this? We get the reason later in verse 5:

“My sons might have sinned and blasphemed God in their thoughts.” This is what Iyov did every time.

The birthday celebrations of the children of *Iyov* were all but abominable before God and as a righteous man it was his responsibility (like every God-fearing father) to intercede for his children. We are told in verses 6-13 and 18-19 that all ten of *Iyov*'s children were killed with what was most probably a tornado – by the hand of *hasatan* and with permission from God (*Iyov* 1:12)

In mitigation I want to say that it isn't wrong to wish someone well on their birthday. We must keep in mind, though, that it is God's will to keep that person alive in order to swing around the sun on the blue planet for another cycle and that we have the privilege and responsibility of guiding people according to God's desire. I have it against pagan customs like lighting candles on cakes, flippancy, self-indulgence, debauchery and unnecessarily squandering money, most of which is normally associated with wasting of food and excessive human reverence.

While on the subject of birthdays, I believe whole-heartedly that, somewhere in Scriptures, we would read, even if only once, how the disciples of *Yeshua* would organise a surprise party for Him – maybe even for one of the disciples. Alas, we read nothing, except for the three cases previously mentioned; this is a good indicator that God has no delight in us celebrating our birth dates – certainly not in any frivolous way. Clearly this is a pagan custom which the Jews had no intention of joining in and it was therefore never recorded. We are not prohibited of chronicling our years, however, as Scripture is loaded with the ages of people. Every aspect God wants us to know is written in Scripture, sometimes more than once, and the more times, the more important. Note the amount of chapters of Scripture in which rules are given – yet no mention of celebrating birthdays or our own (national) feast days.

Early in Genesis God already told us about appointed times. He taught us in Leviticus what these appointed times are – day and month. We can therefore not celebrate or honour God's appointed times in our own way or at our own times, but only according to what He gave us and in the manner He explained to us. A calendar is about time and time started with Creation, therefore God's calendar also started with Creation. The calendar God created is therefore totally different to what other nations use, including the current one we are used to. The calendar currently used by most of the world, the Gregorian calendar, was introduced in 1582, proving that people are still trying to change God's times – a form of rebellion. When God's times and calendar are changed, He is written out of the equation. *Dani'el* brought this prophecy long ago:

He will speak words against the Most High and try to exhaust the holy ones of the Most High. He will attempt to alter the seasons and the law; and [the holy ones] will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time. (Dani'el 7:25)

Earlier we looked at Leviticus 23 and the stipulations of God's feasts. We also see that every feast is on a particular day that starts at **sunset**. Seven feasts are mentioned:

- ☞ *Pesach*, 14th of the first month (:5)
- ☞ Unleavened bread, 15th of the first month (:6)
- ☞ First fruits (wave offering), 16th of the first month (:10, 11)
- ☞ *Shavu'ot* (Feast of weeks), 50 days after *Pesach* (:16)
- ☞ *Yom T'ruah* (Feast of trumpets), 1st day of the seventh month (:24)
- ☞ *Yom Kippur* (Day of atonement), 10th day of the seventh month (:27)
- ☞ *Sucot* (Feast of tabernacles), 15th day of the seventh month (:34)

Compare these to the pagan calendar currently used. Every year easter is on a different date,

ascension day (for those who follow it) is on a different date. It is most certainly not like that with God's calendar.

From the beginning of time people kept up with days. We realise this when we read about all the ages people reached, when their children were born, when the flood was and how long the *Yisra'elites* were oppressed in Egypt. From Creation until the end of the slavery of *Yisra'el* God's calendar worked as He had started it. However, God decided that *Yisra'el* would enter a new era and swung the calendar around by six months. Exodus 12:

²*"You are to begin your calendar with this month; it will be the first month of the year for you.*

This "your" is *Yisra'el*, of which much has already been said and more will be said later.

God brought about this change for four reasons, in my humble opinion:

1. After their slavery and oppression God wanted them to start a "new beginning" and with it a new year with which to celebrate it.⁷
2. Until now everybody recognised the years as conveyed orally, mostly by *Adam* and *Seth*. However, according to *Josephus*, a historian who lived during and after *Yeshua's* lifetime, God was bringing man into a specific pattern for the festivals He was going to introduce.⁸
3. Most other nations, pagans, Egypt, from where they had just come, included, celebrated their new year when the constellation of *Libra* came in conjunction. This is during autumn in the northern hemisphere and was also religiously significant for most pagan nations. In order to separate the chosen nation from pagan nations, God instituted a new year which would start when the constellation of *Aries* started coming in conjunction. *Aries* is the sign of the ram and would also point to the first feast, *Pesach*, which *Yeshua* has fulfilled to the second.⁹
4. All feasts coincide with agriculture (Leviticus 23:10, 16, 39 and other).¹⁰

The last point above is a link to a short series of three videos in which Brad Scott gives a sterling explanation of how God's Creation, agriculture and Hebrew letters are related. For those who didn't know or may have forgotten: in beginning God spoke the Creation into being. He used ten words. Isn't it wonderful that, at *Sinai*, He once again used ten words to announce His rules?

God wants His people to be set-apart [holy, sanctified], different from every Tom, Dick and Harry. He wants us to do things His way and not like people who don't honour Him. Also, it shouldn't be done in a way people think they honour God. If it is not of Him, it doesn't please Him.

Very few people seem to notice that months in Scripture are only referred to by numbers. God's calendar doesn't have names for months and days – not ever, except for *Shabbat*. In the land of *Yisra'el* and other countries with large Jewish communities, days are still only referred to by numbers – no names. They talk of day one, day four, *Shabbat*. Only when talking to non-*Yisra'elites*, will they use the pagan names for the days. Names for days and months is something adopted from *Bavel* [Babilon]. Just like *Yisra'el* wasn't happy to have God as King but wanted a human king, they were also not satisfied to use numbers for months, but took care of naming months after pagan entities which they encountered while being in exile. God teaches us in Exodus 23:

¹³*"Pay attention to everything I have said to you; do not invoke the names of other gods or even let them be heard crossing your lips.*

⁷ http://www.heraldmag.org/1995/95nd_10.htm

⁸ <http://biblical-thinking.org/cgi-bin/article.pl?035>

⁹ <http://biblical-thinking.org/cgi-bin/article.pl?035>

¹⁰ Brad Scott has brilliant teachings on this subject. It starts at http://www.yah-tube.com/videos/scott/06_agri-bio_linguistics_p1/index.html

The enemy, on the other hand, in his shrewd way, ensured that everybody would at least once a day, utter the names of pagan deities by using the names of days or months. This is one of the crucial reasons to return to God's calendar, to live according to God's rules and to stand out as somebody set apart for God. I challenge you to do it!

Addendum A contains a comparative calendar to indicate how calendars can differ and coincide, but can mainly be used to see that God's calendar stays the same, through all the years. Man has tried many times to capture time or to determine its exchange, but without success. Even with modern technology, the calendar of God is irreplaceable.

Eighth Lie

It was no coincidence that *Yisra'el* reached mount *Sinai* in less than fifty days. Once again this was meticulous planning of the only Creator-God, because another feast was imminent. Keep in mind the first feast was *Pesach* with unleavened bread and first fruits – three feasts in one.

Shortly after arriving at mount *Sinai*, *Mosheh* was instructed to prepare the nation by washing themselves and their clothes and be ready for the third day (Exodus 19:9-15). Keep in mind that these people were used to follow orders from Pharaoh's slavemasters for less than two centuries. It must have been extremely difficult for them to experience their freedom and realise they would never be in bondage again. However, there was still plenty of Egypt in them; characteristics, possibly superstitions, all acquired from the people they have just been rescued from, which God wanted them to unlearn, forget – just like you and I are to unlearn the lies the church taught us. They were not fit for waging war and for this reason God took them to the promised land in a circuitous way, while teaching them to trust on Him and to unite as a nation against any form of hostilities.

On the appointed day, day six of the third month, three days after washing their clothes and themselves and 50 days after God had rescued them from Egypt, God Himself blew the *shofar* [ramshorn] to call *Mosheh* and the nation to order. This was followed by a dialogue between God and *Mosheh* and when God started speaking to the nation, they requested that God would rather speak to *Mosheh*, who would then pass the information on to them (Exodus 20:18-21). According to legend this request was done after God had spoken the second command. What we see here is an exceptionally terrified group of people, almost to the point of superstition, which obviously had been learnt in Egypt.

We need to halt a while considering a few facts: the nation arrives at *Sinai* 50 days after their departure from Egypt. We see in Exodus 12:43 to 13:10 how God instituted the feast of *Pesach*. This is endorsed in Leviticus 23:5-14. In Leviticus 23:15-21 God institutes *Shavu'ot*, to be celebrated 50 days after *Pesach*. What we see here at *Sinai* is therefore the first celebration of *Shavu'ot*! The giving of God's *Torah* coincides with *Shavu'ot*. In the previous chapter we briefly touched on Acts 2 where followers of *Yeshua* are filled with *Ruach haQodesh* [Holy Spirit] during *Shavu'ot*. Here we can refute another lie that the church proclaims: the establishing of the "church" when *Ruach haQodesh* was poured out according to Acts 2. This is yet another lie (from the RCC) to diminish the "old testament" and the Jewish roots of our faith. What a load of hogwash!

The "church" was in reality founded at *Sinai* where God called the chosen nation together. It is ludicrous to think God called a nation together 3 500 years ago, set them apart for Himself, teaches them His rules and instructions and disciplines them through various exiles, only to reject them after the agonizing death of *Yeshua* and then starts a "new" church seven weeks later! That is what we call "replacement theology" and is a doctrine devised by the enemy, which should be rejected by every true believer.

Rabbi *Sha'ul* [Paul] also teaches us about this "church in the wilderness" in Acts 7:

³⁸This is the man who was in the assembly in the wilderness, accompanied by the angel that had spoken to him at Mount Sinai and by our fathers, the man who was given living words to pass on to us.

The Hebrew word for assembly is *qahal* (קהל – ka-hal). We find six inflections of this word before *Sinai* (Genesis 28:3; 35:11; 48:4; 49:6; Exodus 12:6; 16:3) where it refers time and again to a gathering, assembly, of the entire nation. The people are called together at *Sinai* to learn how to become a nation and are blessed several times. At *Sinai* the nation officially becomes God's "bride"

with the *Torah* as the contract. See below. After this we find it 19 times in Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy where God instructs the assembly concerning sacrifices, legal matters, civil matters and much more. This is how God teaches a nation who was in slavery for a long time to follow Him, to please Him. God teaches us in Deuteronomy 13:

⁴You are to follow ADONAI your God, fear him, obey his mitzvoth [rules], listen to what he says, serve him and cling to him;

Please note: in some translations this may be verse 5

Let's look at the practicality...

When reading this section in Scripture, there are extremely good descriptions of thunder, lightning and a complete cloud cover:

☞ Exodus 19: *¹⁶On the morning of the third day, there was thunder, lightning and a thick cloud on the mountain. Then a shofar blast sounded so loudly that all the people in the camp trembled.*

☞ Exodus 20: *¹⁸All the people experienced the thunder, the lightning, the sound of the shofar, and the mountain smoking. When the people saw it, they trembled. Standing at a distance,*

Please note: in some translations this may be verse 15

In short: during a Hebrew (Jewish) wedding ceremony, the bride and groom stand under a *chupah* (חופה – pronounced “choo-puh”), a canopy similar to a “gazebo”, but it could also mean “covering”. The bridegroom gives the bride a unilateral wedding contract, a *k'tubah* (כתובה – kuh-too-buh, literally “something which is written”), in which he promises to provide her with clothing, food and fulfil other spousal commitments. The bride keeps this written document in safe custody. She is under no obligation to reciprocate, although it would be ethical to do so. This has been the custom for many years and was probably initiated with the tent of *Avraham*, which was just a covering and open on all four sides. Genesis 18:1-8 explains this refuge in the wilderness. It could even be where *Yitz'chak* [Isaac] took *Rivkah* [Rebecca] as bride in Genesis 24:66. This “home” also indicates that the foundation of any marriage is simply the couple with no possessions, with God as the covering and subsequent blessings of children and material additions.

This cloud cover, like the date, God's calendar, was not by chance. God had orchestrated all of this to cover, to protect the nation and was ready to present His written contract to His bride. This was an unilateral contract in which God made the promises and set certain demands. The “bride” received the contract through *Mosheh* on tablets of stone upon which God Himself had written. In fact, it was written twice because of the idolatry with the golden calf. Remember repetition. God also took care that this “marriage” didn't take place in the promised land, but in a “public” place, since it wouldn't only involve the nation of *Yisra'el*, but be inclusive of all people on earth. Keep in mind that God would have had a nation of priests and that these priests would instruct the other nations.

From Exodus 20 to Exodus 31 God hands *Mosheh* instructions and rules regarding civil and ceremonial aspects, as well as the blueprint for the tabernacle, but we read only of one “law”, one contract *Mosheh* received: *When he had finished speaking with Moshe on Mount Sinai, ADONAI gave him the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.* (Exodus 31:18).

All these instructions and rules are summarised in one Hebrew word: *Torah*. This word does not only mean law, as erroneously used in many translations; it can mean the first five books of Scripture (Genesis to Deuteronomy), it can mean all instructions from Genesis to *Mal'akhi* [Malachi] while it may also include every other form of Hebrew teaching and custom. Still, the general and most acceptable explanation is that it is God's rules for **every** person who acknowledges Him as Creator

and *Yeshua* as God's Redemption.

This marriage contract, consequently, has nothing to do with unbelievers and by this I am also talking about and to the average Christian. God gave this originally to His physically chosen nation, yet everyone who confesses that *Yeshua* is the Redemption of God, everyone who is born from Above, becomes part of spiritual *Y'sra'el*, spiritual children of *Avraham*, for whom this marriage contract is still as valid as the day it was given – one contract with various (ten) commands. When you break or disobey one command, the entire contract is broken. Should you, therefore, decide the fourth command (*Shabbat*) is not applicable to you, neither then will the other nine be and you may then sit in church on a Sunday with your pious face, but it means **nothing** to God. You may as well commit murder, steal, or disregard any of the other commands of God's law – you have already violated one part.

We can now see that the "law" was not only given to the Jews and this lie was fabricated by anti-Semitic preachers and pastors who would rather proclaim their own theology instead of God's, people who would rather fill church pews and their own bank accounts, than looking after the needy and minister to unsaved souls. The same is true for all the other instructions God gave to *Mosheh*. Nevertheless, the law **cannot save** and is only there to prove our **obedience** to God. We don't abide by the law to be saved, we abide by the law **because** we are saved! Only the blood of the Lamb (*Yeshua*) can cleanse us from sin. From all the instructions God gave us, many are not applicable since some were only for men or women, while others pertained to the temple, which does not exist any longer. We are compelled, though, to analyse what pleases God and what not – He will not ask whether you are happy with what you're doing!

While on the subject of the Jews, we may as well settle another delicate issue. *Avraham* is the main ancestor and he was the father of *Yitz'chak*, who was the father of *Ya'aqov* [Jacob]. *Ya'aqov* had twelve sons out of which the tribes of *Yisra'el* come. During *Dawid's* [David – pronounced Duh-veed] kingship, political unrest which had started earlier, reached boiling point and caused the northern ten tribes to separate themselves from the two southern tribes. After the death of king *Shlomo* [Solomon] the nation officially split into two – the northern tribes (kingdom of *Yisra'el*) and the southern tribes (kingdom of *Y'hudah* [Judah]). The northern ten tribes were never "lost", as alleged by many, but were assimilated into the "Gentile" nations – those not direct descendants of *Ya'aqov* – while the southern tribes, *Y'hudah* and most of *Binyamin* [Benjamin], remained under the name *Y'hudim*, plural form of *Y'hudah*. The word Jew/Jews was derived from this and also proves that present-day Jews are not the entire nation of God, but only a remnant. Sometimes the northern tribes are referred to as *Efrayim*, one of the sons of *Yosef* [Joseph]. Unfortunately this subject is not part of the aim of this document. The good news, though, is that God, in His infinite wisdom and grace, promised to reunite all twelve tribes in future: *Yeshu'yahu* 11:

¹²He will hoist a banner for the Goyim, assemble the dispersed of Isra'el, and gather the scattered of Y'hudah from the four corners of the earth. ¹³Efrayim's jealousy will cease – those who harass Y'hudah will be cut off, Efrayim will stop envying Y'hudah, and Y'hudah will stop provoking Efrayim.

It is a fact that not only do we serve the greatest God, but also the only, true Creator-God!

Ninth Lie

Having read this far, you are either very curious or busy jotting down notes to confront me personally. After having read this chapter, you will probably accuse me of being a heretic or decide never again to talk to me.

Be that as it may, the load of codswallop proclaimed by preachers from pulpits and on television (especially TBN) concerning the trinity is totally unscriptural and unfounded. I challenge anyone to prove the trinity to me **from Scripture**, not only where (deliberately), but also incorrectly translated (transgressed) as a doctrine, such as the KJV. It must also not be used as a feeble excuse, like Dr. Walter Martin¹¹ states:

No man can fully explain the Trinity, though in every age scholars have propounded theories and advanced hypotheses to explore this mysterious Biblical teaching. But despite the worthy efforts of these scholars, the Trinity is still largely incomprehensible to the mind of man.

God gave us His manual to understand, not to speculate over. All the answers for everything is in Scripture and only people who truly follow Him in all seriousness, people who have a living covenant relationship with *Yeshua*, will find the answers they are looking for. Some answers may emerge quicker, other longer, because God wants to test our relationship with Him, and we should therefore move closer to Him in our daily walk.

Even though I don't necessarily agree with any or all translations, one of the better study Bibles is the NIV Faithlife Study Bible. There is a plethora of explanations and clarifications, various maps, a wide timeline starting at Creation and naturally a complete glossary. Where the word "trinity" should be there is nothing! The words in that group start with "trials", followed by "tribes", "tribulation", "triumphal" and "triumphing" – but "trinity" sparkles in its absence!

At the end of the second century after *Yeshua*, a Greek bishop, *Theophilus* of Antioch, used the word "trinity" for the first time. Essentially it wasn't used like we know it today, but he put it as: God, the Word (Logos) and His Wisdom (Sophia)¹². *Tertullian*, a Roman author from Carthage, defined the trinity explicitly as "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" while also defending his theology in this regard against *Praxeus*. Very little information is available regarding *Praxeus*, except that he was of Greek descent from present-day Turkey. *Praxeus* was a Monarchist, someone who believes that God is One, as described in Deuteronomy 6:4, in direct antithesis to the trinity doctrine.

In 325 aY the Council of Nicaea, under the leadership of Caesar Constantine I, the (Christian faith) creed¹³ was accepted after being changed by 318 bishops from the original creed as compiled by the apostles (followers of *Yeshua*). It is alleged that each follower/apostle contributed one creed to form the "twelve articles" of the creed¹⁴. I would love to know which one was contributed by *Y'hudah from K'riot* (Judas Iscariot)! This creed is discussed in detail in addendum B.

For many years the bishops disagreed regarding the actual terminology and according to *Athanasius* (293-373)¹⁵ specific nomenclature, not found in Scripture, was used because some Scriptural terms would be seen as heretical.¹⁶ During the last years of his life, *Athanasius* brought about many

¹¹ Walter Martin, *Essential Christianity*, Vision House, Santa Anna, 1975, p. 21

¹² *Apologia ad Autolyicum, Book II, chapter 15. Patrologiae Graecae Cursus Completus (in Greek and Latin).*

¹³ <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/creeds1.iv.iii.html>

¹⁴ "Apostles' Creed", *Dictionary of the Christian Church*, Oxford University Press, 2005, p. 90, ISBN 978-0-19-280290-3.

¹⁵ "Athanasius, Bishop of Alexanria, Theologian, Doctor". *Justus.anglican.org*. Retrieved 2 January 2012

¹⁶ "*Athanasius: De Decretis or Defence of the Nicene Definition, Introduction, 19*". *Tertullian.org*. 6 August 2004. Retrieved 2 January 2012.

changes and some additions, especially concerning the *Ruach haQodesh*, which initially didn't receive much attention. At the end of the fourth century the Cappadocian Fathers, i.e. Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nyssa and Gregory of Nazianzus all bishops from modern-day Turkey, confirmed and accepted the trinity doctrine as it is today.

Supporters of the trinity doctrine quote various verses from Scripture to "prove" its correctness. The truth is, though, that studying Scripture proves there is only one God according to Deuteronomy 6:

⁴*"Sh'ma, Yisra'el! ADONAI Eloheinu, ADONAI echad [Hear, Isra'el! ADONAI our God, ADONAI is one];*

This is confirmed in Deuteronomy 4:

³⁹*know today, and establish it in your heart, that ADONAI is God in heaven above and on earth below — there is no other.*

In *Mattityahu* 6:9 *Yeshua* teaches us:

You, therefore, pray like this: 'Our Father in heaven! May your Name be kept holy.

We see in *Luka* 18:

¹⁹*Yeshua said to him, "Why are you calling me good? No one is good but God!*

Markos uses similar language in his rendition at chapter 10:

¹⁸*Yeshua said to him, "Why are you calling me good? No one is good except God!*

Some people claim the words of 1 *Yochanan* 5:6-8 prove the trinity, but once again this is more rape than translation, delusions to deceive people, which make these verses only sound correct, when in fact they are not. Let us compare a few translations. For lack of space I will only look at six: Bible in Basic English 1965 (BBE), Complete Jewish Bible 1998 (CJB), English Standard Version 2011 (ESV), Hebrew Roots Bible 2012 (HBR), King James 1611 (KJV) and The Scriptures 1998 (TS). For intelligibility and continuity the table will be started on a new page:

Verse/Translation	BBE	CJB	ESV	HRB	KJV	TS
6	This is he who came by water and by blood, Jesus Christ; not by water only but by water and by blood.	He is the one who came by means of water and blood, Yeshua the Messiah — not with water only, but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth.	This is he who came by water and blood— Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.	This is the One coming through water and blood, Yahshua Messiah; not by the water only, but by the water and the blood.	This is he that came by water and blood, <i>even</i> Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.	This is the One that came by water and blood: יהושע Messiah, not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the Truth.
7	And the Spirit is the witness, because the Spirit is true.	There are three witnesses —	For there are three that testify:	And the Spirit is the One witnessing, because the Spirit is the truth.	For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.	Because there are three who bear witness:
8	There are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water, and the blood: and all three are in agreement.	the Spirit, the water and the blood — and these three are in agreement.	the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.	And there are three who bear witness: The Spirit, and the water, and the blood; and these three are united.	And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.	the Spirit, and the water, and the blood. And the three are in agreement.

Except for the difference in breaking up the verses, one doesn't need a looking glass to see the forgery in the KJV! Verse 7 has clearly been tampered with, as the other translations seem to agree substantially. Old Jimmy certainly had puppet translators dancing to his tune...

It is unfortunate that, as can be seen by the above table, certain translators or publishing houses build their own doctrine into translations. We are warned to guard against these false prophets in *Mattityahu 7*:

¹⁵*"Beware of the false prophets! They come to you wearing sheep's clothing, but underneath they are hungry wolves!"*

Yeshua gives us the solution to identify them in the first part of the following verse:

^{16a}*"You will recognize them by their fruit."*

He repeats it in verse 20: *So you will recognize them by their fruit.*

We are also unmistakably warned not to take away from or add to Scripture. God's Word is unwavering and may not be altered by man, irrespective of what king Jimmy or the Pope and his comrades say. We learn from Deuteronomy 4:

²*In order to obey the mitzvot of ADONAI your God which I am giving you, do not **add** to what I am saying, and do not **subtract** from it.*

Mosheh also teaches us in Deuteronomy 12:

³²*"Everything I am commanding you, you are to take care to do. Do not **add** to it or **subtract** from it."*

Please note: in some translations this may be chapter 13 verse 1

Conversely it is not only *Mosheh* who teaches this. We also learn from *Shlomo*, under the pseudonym *Agur*, in Proverbs 30:

⁵Every word of God's is pure; he shields those taking refuge in him. ⁶Don't add anything to his words; or he will rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

This was probably meant for Jimmy's version of verse 7 in the table above...

The last quotation on this topic is taught by *Yochanan*, not necessarily only for that book, but for Scripture as a whole, from Revelation 22:

¹⁸I warn everyone hearing the words of the prophecy in this book that if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues written in this book. ¹⁹And if anyone takes anything away from the words in the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the Tree of Life and the holy city, as described in this book.

People who regularly study Scripture will know that any repetition in Scripture is God's way of conveying the importance of a particular matter. When reading something and never coming across it again, could mostly be seen as information or history; reading something which is repeated at another stage would mean that God considers it important and we should take note of it. A third or more time is an explicit command which is not to be disregarded. *Shabbat* is a major example, because it is found 21 (7 X 3) times only in *Torah*... now isn't that en-light-ening!

We certainly do not have any excuse of falling into a trap. God gave us His manual to study ourselves, not for other people to read it to us while helping to replenish their pension. You should also not listen to a preacher who reads 50 verses from one chapter and then build his own philosophy around one selected verse. While you may tithe to your preacher, it is not to teach you, but to support him.

The trinity is a gimmick that was invented by the Roman Catholic (catholic=Universal, Encompassing, Global) Church and anyone partaking of this commits idolatry.

When we see that God is one, it means *Yeshua* is not God. *Ruach haQodesh*, the Set-apart Spirit is also not God. Proverbs 8 states it very distinctly; it is highlighted brilliantly in verses 22 to 25. This is why *Yeshua* tells the man that nobody is good, except for God. Make no mistake, though: *Yeshua* is indeed Divine, He has a Godly nature; He is the Right hand of God, He is the One through Whom our salvation is established. We may, however, not worship Him, because then we do exactly the same as the nation of *Yisra'el* did with the golden calf and *Yochanan* with the messenger in Revelation. We are taught that, after being born again, we become joint-heirs with *Yeshua*. Romans 8:17 can't express it any better:

¹⁷and if we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Messiah — provided we are suffering with him in order also to be glorified with him.

Here we see heirs and fellow-heirs – two different terms and yet the same. *Yeshua* can't be an heir of Himself; He is an heir of God, like you and I are heirs of God. You and I are created beings, nonetheless, therefore *Yeshua* is a created Being (Proverbs 8), but for a **specific** purpose and with the necessary Deity which you and I don't have. *Yeshua* indeed has that special relationship with Father which you and I will never have, in any case not on this sinful earth. Nevertheless, we have the same characteristics as "child of God". You and I were created for a purpose: the most important is to honour God in everything you do, but we have a sinful nature which doesn't please God. His Son, *Yeshua*, on the other hand, could fill that gap having been created like us, but without the sinful nature. He could therefore die on an execution stake on our behalf, so that everyone who confesses Him, everyone who admits to the fact that He is God's Redemption for us, can now become joint-

heirs and spiritual children of *Avraham*. By endorsing the Deity of *Yeshua*, we see in Him the fullness of Father-God's Spirit. This is what makes Him different to any other being, except maybe *Adam* before falling into sin. However, we may not worship *Yeshua*, because He is only the Way to God Who must be worshipped. If we were to worship *Yeshua*, we would be practising polytheism, a custom strictly forbidden by God (Exodus 20:3).

This concept takes a bit of getting used to, especially taking into account all the lies woven into it throughout the years. We should also never get the idea that we are in any way *Yeshua's* equal, definitely not on this sinful earth, anyway. We have a privilege, though, to look forward to: in the hereafter we will not only be children of the only Creator-God, but also brothers and sisters of Him Who died in our stead, just like *Yosef* died a spiritual death to save his brothers and family.

Everything that happened in the "old testament" is not only the grounding of the "new testament", but also a shadow picture, a foretaste of what was to come. For this reason we should never, but never, underestimate or ignore the first part of Scripture.

Yes, those men with their shiny suits, shiny cars and shiny shoes – everything shines except their faces, like that of *Mosheh* after his encounter with God. So you will recognise them by their fruit...

Tenth Lie

While talking about the “front section” of Scripture, that which professed academics call the “old testament”, let’s get this matter settled right away.

What exactly is old about this “testament”? The “new testament” is also much older than you and I. Why, then, is that not “old” as well, or maybe “newer”? Why are these compilations of books called “testaments”? Enter our dear Roman Catholic church fathers stage right...

The Hebrew Scripture consists of only the “old testament”. It is called the *TaNakh* (tanach) and is an acronym for “*Torah*” (the pentateuch – first five books), the “*Nevi'im*” (pronounced neh-vee-eem – Hebrew plural for prophets) and “*K'tuvim*” (pronounced keh-too-veem – Hebrew plural for writings). The first five books are therefore *Torah*, in Greek it is Pentateuch (five books) and the other books are divided up between poetry and prophetic documents. The poetry books include *Tehilim* [Psalms], *Song of Songs*, *Mishle* [Proverbs], *Ecclesiastes*, *Rut* [Ruth], *Esther*, *Iyov*, Lamentations and even *Dani'el*. The Jews do not consider the book of *Dani'el* a prophetic book as it was written outside the land of *Yisra'el* and not in Hebrew either, but in Aramaic.

All other books are divided into great (important) and small (less important) prophets. Great prophets include *Yeshu'ahu*, *Yirmeyahu* and *Yechezq'el* (Ezekiel) while smaller prophets include *'Amos*, *Yo'el*, *Ovadyah* (Obadiah) and a few others.

While *Yeshua* was on earth, He and His student followers (disciples), *Yochanan* who immersed Him, as well as *Sha'ul* and many others in the same time period, didn't have the privilege we have of reading about themselves in various books or manuscripts. On the contrary, those who wrote at all did so either to record historical events or to write to fellow-believers, helping them to stay aligned with God's rules. Those books were in the process of being written, until about 100 years after *Yeshua*.

The only writings *Yeshua* and His contemporaries had was the *TaNakh* – the “old testament”. The “new testament” was in the process of happening. The other indisputable fact is that every Hebrew/Jew during and after the time of *Yeshua* still kept *Shabbat* and celebrated the feasts. They also followed the dietary and health rules as found in Leviticus 11 *et cetera*, something you should try for a healthy body, spirit and mind. Take a look at *Kefa* when he was invited to eat unclean food. It is recorded in Acts 10. He actually loathed the thought of having to eat something he had never considered food, even thirty years after *Yeshua's* ascension. This proves to anyone of a sound mind that none, but none of God's “laws”, God's rules pertaining to hygiene, food, *Shabbat* or any of the remaining nine commands have expired or was cancelled – neither by *Yeshua* (and He had plenty of opportunity to do so) nor by anybody else. Try to remember what we discussed in the previous chapter regarding important issues for God. He would have put it in the manual – not to indemnify Himself, but to teach us.

Let's briefly digress to consider the history of Scripture. Remember this Book was not originally intended for you or me. In fact, it wasn't intended for anyone specific. It is purely a compilation of history that doesn't really concern us, plenty of poetry and prophecy for which we don't really have any use – or can we maybe benefit by some of it?

The Bible, Scripture, currently consists of 66 books and was written by 40 writers over more than 1 600 years. Most of the books were written in Hebrew, being the *lingua franca* of the nation of *Yisra'el*, with whom God had a personal relationship. The prophets, kings, shepherds and other

writers were all from the nation of *Yisra'el*. Some books in the *TaNaKh*¹⁷ were written in Aramaic. The language is closely related to Hebrew, almost like a dialect, and was frequently used when *Yisra'el* wanted to exclude other groups or nations from their own undertakings (2 Kings 18:26, *Yeshu'ahu* 36:11, *Dani'el* 2:4). Approximately 250 years before *Yeshua* these Hebrew and Aramaic documents got the attention of some outsiders and some 72 Hebrew scholars got together in Alexandria, Egypt, to translate the *TaNaKh* into Greek. This came to be known as the “*Septuagint*”, which simply means 70 (the number of people involved in the translation). For an unknown reason they changed the order of the *TaNaKh* to the order we have today. Some modern translators have decided to revert to the original order, however, especially those who also restore the original names.

After nearly 400 years of silence, *Mal'akhi* being the last prophet, and no other prophecies or writings, *Yeshua* arrived on the scene. From about 40 aY until 95 aY many eye witnesses and historians notated the life of *Yeshua*. It is claimed that the entire “new testament” was written in Greek. I beg to differ, though, and believe that maybe half of it could have been in Greek, simply because it was written for non-Jewish groups, people outside of the promised land. It is highly likely, therefore, that at least *Mattiyahu*, *Yochanan* (1 gospel and 3 epistles), Hebrews, *Ya'aqov*, *Kefa* (2 epistles), *Y'hudah* and Revelation were written in Hebrew when we see all the Hebrew idioms filtering through.

Yeshua, the student followers, *Sha'ul* and every other teacher of that time, as stated before, therefore quoted only from the *TaNaKh*. We read in *Yirmeyahu* 31:

³¹“Here, the days are coming,” says ADONAI, “when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of *Isra'el* and with the house of *Y'hudah*.”

Please note: in some translations this may be verse 30

It is quite possible that *Yeshua* would have quoted these words somewhere, like He quoted others. A fine example is *Luka* 4:21 where He quotes *Yeshu'ahu* 61. He taught us in *Mattiyahu* 26:

²⁸For this is my blood, which ratifies the **New Covenant**, my blood shed on behalf of many, so that they may have their sins forgiven.

Sha'ul teaches in 1 Corinthians 11:

²⁴and after he had made the *b'rakhah* [blessing] he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this as a memorial to me”; ²⁵likewise also the cup after the meal, saying, “This cup is the **New Covenant** effected by my blood; do this, as often as you drink it, as a memorial to me.”

...also in 2 Corinthians 3:

⁶He has even made us competent to be workers serving a **New Covenant**, the essence of which is not a written text but the Spirit. For the written text brings death, but the Spirit gives life.

Lastly we see quotations from *Yirmeyahu* by *Sha'ul* in Hebrews 8:

⁸For God does find fault with the people when he says, “‘**See! The days are coming,**’ says ADONAI, ‘when I will establish over the house of *Isra'el* and over the house of *Y'hudah* a new covenant. ⁹“It will not be like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by their hand and led them forth out of the land of Egypt; because they, for their part, did not remain faithful to my covenant; so I, for my part, stopped concerning myself with them,’ says ADONAI. ¹⁰“For this is the covenant which I will make with the house of *Isra'el* after those days,’ says ADONAI: ‘I will put my Torah in their minds and write it on their hearts; I will be their God, and

¹⁷ Henry H. Halley, *Halley's Bible Handbook*, 25th ed., Zondervan Publishing House, 2000, 1071.

*they will be my people.*¹¹ *“None of them will teach his fellow-citizen or his brother, saying, “Know ADONAI!” For all will know me, from the least of them to the greatest,¹² because I will be merciful toward their wickednesses and remember their sins no more.”*




Please note: bold text is from original text

All these texts mention a “new covenant” which has obviously stuck in the minds of many people. About 30 aY we read in Acts 11:

²⁶and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. They met with the congregation there for a whole year and taught a sizeable crowd. Also it was in Antioch that the talmidim for the first time were called “Messianic.”

Most translations contain the word “Christians”, which, yet again, is a repulsive term. *Yeshua* was sent to this earth to set believers free of their sins – we saw earlier this is actually what His Name means. The custom at that time was to anoint someone in a specific office. We see that many times with priests and kings. The Hebrew word for “anointed” is *mashiach* (מָשִׁיחַ – mah-she-uch). During His time of teaching on earth *Yeshua* was known as *Yeshua haMashiach*, which would be rendered *Iesous Christos* in Greek, giving us Jesus (the) Christ in English. Christian therefore means nothing else but a follower of the anointed one, as the translation above proves.

When searching for the word “Christian” with doctor/professor Google, you will find plenty of different explanations. Anything from disciple (are you really someone who leads others to God and how many have you led?) to imitation of the religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ! Here are a few citations:

-  Professing belief in Jesus as Christ or following the religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus.¹⁸
-  There are many important differences of interpretation and opinion of the Bible and sacred tradition on which Christianity is based.¹⁹
-  Because of these irreconcilable differences in theology and a lack of consensus on the core tenets of Christianity, Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox often deny that members of certain other branches are Christians.²⁰

Something else to tickle your fancy:

Unfortunately over time, the word “Christian” has lost a great deal of its significance and is often used of someone who is religious or has high moral values but who may or may not be a true follower of Jesus Christ. Many people who do not believe and trust in Jesus Christ consider themselves Christians simply because they go to church or they live in a “Christian” nation. But going to church, serving those less fortunate than you, or being a good person does not make you a Christian. Going to church does not make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile. Being a member of a church, attending services regularly, and giving to the work of the church does not make you a Christian.²¹

Ouch!

The term “Christian” is therefore not necessarily used only to identify a specific group of people, but also to ridicule them. Although it was used by people to refer to non-Jewish believers, the term was

¹⁸ <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/Christian>

¹⁹ Olson, *The Mosaic of Christian Belief*.

²⁰ Ehrman, Bart (2003). “Introduction: Recouping Our Losses”. *Lost Christianities: the battles for scripture and the faiths we never knew*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press. p. 1. ISBN 978-0-19-518249-1. “Many of these Christian groups, of course, refuse to consider other such groups Christian.”

²¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-a-Christian.html>

never used by believers inside the land of *Yisra'el*. The term seriously took root, though, to such an extent that it became “universal” – read **catholic**. The word “catholic” means universal, global, because it was the main aim of the RCC to break worldwide from anything connected to Jews or any other true followers of *Yeshua*.

The catholic bishops, led by the caesars and later to be replaced by a pope, engrossed themselves in fulfilling *Dani'el* 7:25. They changed times – *Shabbat* to Sunday – and added filthy names to calendars in the form of days and months; and you, my dear friend, allowed yourself to be hoodwinked by these RCC con artists simply because you don't study Scripture yourself!

The term Christian has come to stay. It also caused great confusion amongst many people and currently there are more than 41 000 denominations or branches of Christianity! Suppose every branch has only one person, it means there are at least 41 000 people who differ in their faith and refuse to agree, simply because they “interpret” Scripture differently. Is this why *Yeshua* came to earth?

Lastly, a quotation from an article I wrote in Aril 2012:

If a doctrine doesn't line up with *Torah*, then it cannot be true. If this is the case, then “Christian” is yet another title, not a way of life.

Given all this information, the term “Christian” actually belongs to the Roman Catholics and subsequently every true follower of *Yeshua* should dissociate him-/herself from it, since they follow Jesus, not *Yeshua*.

Back to the topic: we looked at testaments and covenants. These Christians, whoever they may be, embraced the word “covenant”. During the late first and early second centuries many books were translated from Greek (those actually written in Greek) into Latin, Coptic (Egypt) and Syrian (Syria) and was widely distributed as “inspired literature” throughout the Roman Empire and further.²² In 397 aY, to protect them against refuters and other spiritual institutions, the 27 books that were recognised, were officially compiled by the Synod of Carthage as the “new testament” – obviously based on the utterances of *Yeshua* and *Yirmeyahu*.²³

Alas, the damage was done, as the *TaNaKh* suddenly became the “old testament” and most people thought it had also expired!

What should really be the case, and I challenge every person reading this to do so: tear out that blank page, pages, or whatever else it may be, separating the two “testaments”, because the Word of God is ONE – as He is! There is no old and new testament. There is the *TaNaKh* and the Apostolic Writings, since the apostles, the imitators, the student followers of *Yeshua*, wrote them. A testament (will) is only valid when somebody dies and our Salvation lives! We therefore need no testament and subsequently I urge you to tear out whatever separates the two “testaments” and make it one book as it should be! This is one of the reasons the curtain, the veil, separating the two sections of the temple, was ripped from top to bottom. You will have a peaceful sleep tonight.

²² F.F. Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* 5th rev. ed., Intervarsity Press, 1960, 21-28.

²³ *Ibid.*, 27.

Eleventh Lie

On 31 October 1517 Martin Luther, a German monk, priest, professor of theology and composer, pinned 95 statements of critique on the church door at Wittenburg. This was in revolt against certain customs (abuses?) in the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) which he could not come to terms with and also some doctrines he wished to reform. Previous efforts had been made by people like John Hus, Peter Waldo and John Wycliffe. Their efforts had unfortunately not been successful and they paid for it with their lives; John Hus was burnt alive.

Around the same time two men in Switzerland, Zwingli in Zurich and Calvin in Genève, also attempted to change certain doctrines and customs in the RCC. Various Lutheran churches shot up in Germany and Scandinavia, while reformed churches were founded in Switzerland, Hungary, France, Netherlands and Scotland. The RCC fought back heavily with a contra-reformation and Rome managed to regain many lost territories and followers. No two reformers had the same grievances. Luther started with compliances with respect to punishments for specific sins, especially purgatory; some addressed theological principles, such as faith in Jesus only and not good works; others had it against the Pope as a person while nationalism and humanism were also bottleneck subjects. While Martin Luther and the fellow-reformers could achieve much, they were also thwarted by the RCC and the reformation did not happen as it should have. Furthermore Luther was unfortunately very anti-Semitic and even though he wanted to live according to Scripture he wanted nothing of Scriptural customs, simply because the Jews also practised it. Consequently he shot everything “Jewish” down in flames.

For these reasons *Shabbat* worship was moved to Sunday worship (sun god worship?) – “we do not want to be associated with Jewish customs.” They rejected all God’s feasts and instituted their own. This includes various pagan feasts, because they believed the church would allure the pagans and “convince” them to become believers. Exactly the opposite happened, though: pagan feasts were brought into the church by pagans who remained but refused to be Christianised! The RCC also instituted a “holy” day to celebrate the birth of Jesus and mesmerised the entire world – in spite of what Scripture and history teach us. “Good Friday” became like a law and “three nights and three days” disappeared in the mist – together with number logic.

Many of these and plenty other false doctrines hid in the theological wardrobes that were brought over with Luther and the other reformers, similar to the ghost who moved with the household.

Two important aspects come to light here: “christening” and “confirmation”.

In 197 aY *Tertullian* wrote the first reference regarding infant baptism.²⁴ This custom started early in the second century because of the erroneous teaching that rebirth would take place by means of baptism – a lie brought in by the founders of the RCC to add numbers to their parish lists. *Tertullian* strongly condemned this custom, similar to the baptism of the departed, which the RCC practised for the same reason.

Both these customs are in aberration of Scripture where people are baptised only after confession of faith. We read of Cornelius in Acts 10:

³⁰*Cornelius answered, “Three days ago around this time, I was at minchah [afternoon] prayers in my house, when suddenly a man in shining clothes stood in front of me³¹ and said, ‘God has heard your prayer and remembered your acts of charity.*

²⁴ *Die Taufe. Gedanken über die Urchristliche Taufe ihre Geschichte und ihre Bedeutung für die Gegenwart*, Joh. Warns

Kefa started delivering the message to him, still in Acts 10:

³⁴Then Kefa addressed them: "I now understand that God does not play favorites, ³⁵but that whoever fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him, no matter what people he belongs to.

The end of the message is Acts 10:

⁴³All the prophets bear witness to him, that everyone who puts his trust in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Afterwards, very excited, they came to a place with water: Acts 10:

⁴⁷"Is anyone prepared to prohibit these people from being immersed in water? After all, they have received the Ruach HaKodesh, just as we did."⁴⁸And he ordered that they be immersed in the name of Yeshua the Messiah. Then they asked Kefa to stay on with them for a few days.

I suggest you read through this attentively and slowly with the help of *Ruach haQodesh*. It means a lot for believers and prompts unbelievers to get to know *Yeshua* and eventually follow Him.

Cornelius was **baptised**, immersed, not christened or sprinkled, after confessing *Yeshua* as the Anointed One. No infant, how ever clever they are born nowadays, can make that type of confession. Baptism should be one of the most pleasurable experiences for any born-again person, someone born from Above, who has placed his or her faith in *Yeshua*, but the RCC has built so many lies into it that it has become a mockery of the good news message. This entire untruth, with all its ornaments and christening dress, shoes, christening cake and whatever else is all part of pagan customs which gradually became part of RCC tradition. People who would never set foot inside a church are now invited to this event where an infant is baptised/christened (in some churches almost even drowned!) and yet can't say a word, let alone do a confession! Afterwards the big party that know no bounds will commence, without God...

Rabbi *Sha'ul* writes regarding baptism in Romans 6:

³Don't you know that those of us who have been immersed into the Messiah Yeshua have been immersed into his death? ⁴Through immersion into his death we were buried with him; so that just as, through the glory of the Father, the Messiah was raised from the dead, likewise we too might live a new life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was put to death on the execution-stake with him, so that the entire body of our sinful propensities might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For someone who has died has been cleared from sin. ⁸Now since we died with the Messiah, we trust that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that the Messiah has been raised from the dead, never to die again; death has no authority over him. ¹⁰For his death was a unique event that need not be repeated; but his life, he keeps on living for God. ¹¹In the same way, consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God, by your union with the Messiah Yeshua.

The problem with christening ("sprinkling") probably came about because of misunderstandings, incorrect interpretations and maybe (my own thought) a lack of knowledge. We read in various texts (Leviticus 4:6, 17; 5:9; 14:7, 16, 27; 16:14, 15, 19 and others) how the priest would sprinkle blood or oil on the altar, on a leper, in front of the curtain of the sanctuary or on a goat to sanctify it or set it apart. When a person is baptised of his or her own accord, that person is not sanctified or set apart – this has already taken place. By being baptised the person acknowledges to have died with *Yeshua*, only to stand up in a new, everlasting life. This is what baptism is all about: the nation of *Yisra'el* came out of Egypt (set free from bondage – sin) by the hand of God; He let them die spiritually before the Red Sea and led them through it (baptism) in order to come out on the other side as new

people, spiritually fearless and zealous for a new life, to travel to the promised land (Eternity with *Yeshua*). Baptism doesn't save anybody. Baptism is a stage of obedience. Does an infant of three months have that obedience?

It is very possible that *Mosheh* wouldn't have had the time to "christen" (sprinkle) every *Yisra'elite* before the Egyptian army destroyed them – and then they would still need to learn how to swim, as it wouldn't be necessary for God to part the waters – they had already been "saved by christening".

Events were recorded in Scripture for the reasons mentioned above, to give us a shadow picture, a preview, of our salvation. It is therefore essential that you, after having been convinced by *Ruach haQodesh* and your confession that *Yeshua* is the Redeemer, be baptised (immersed) in obedience – not to be saved, as that has already taken place. When you have the privilege of becoming a parent, your infant should not be christened or sprinkled or baptised, but should be dedicated as a gratification for the parents. The parents (neither the church nor schools) then have the responsibility to raise that child in the footsteps of *Yeshua* and until around age 13 for boys and 12 for girls the parents are responsible for the child's actions.

When the child reaches the specific age, or the age agreed upon by child and parents, he or she enters the "grown-up world" and becomes responsible for his or her own actions. This occasion is one of the most important in the life of a young person. For boys it is called "Son of the Blessing" and for girls "Daughter of the Blessing". It is celebrated very modestly, with no frivolousness, and with family and friends acting as witnesses that the father has absolved the person of being a child and now hands him or her over to society as an adult. This young person then confesses in front of the witnesses that he or she will live a life committed to God. It is a pity that very few parents connect the child's dedication as an infant and the parents' blessing at this occasion as one long process during which the child is prepared for the day he or she will squarely face life as an adult.

The custom of handing a "child" a key to the adult world at 21 years of age was taken over from pagan and secular traditions and should under no circumstances be supported by true believers. It all started with the ban on cigarettes and alcohol, particularly in the USA (where else?!), where people were only allowed tobacco and alcohol products at age 21. It was like getting a booze license! Sounds similar to catechism...

...which brings us to the next topic.

By christening infants, the church could add numbers to their members lists and inflate figures. The infants, later children, wouldn't make any contribution to the church coffers for years, though. They were nevertheless taught various stories from Scripture and then, when old enough to earn their own wages, were tested on their "knowledge" before the entire congregation during a very dignified affair. If successful, and nobody ever wasn't, they would be taken up as full church members and now their "tithing" could help increase the priest's retirement. Thus catechism was instituted.

The word catechism is derived from the Greek word *κατηχέω* (*katēkhismos*), which means to transmit or teach by word of mouth. This tradition started off in the RCC and was never abolished during the reformation, like so many other paraphernalia and garbage brought into the Protestant churches. In fact, every Protestant denomination still added its own version as well! Prospective church members, in this case young people between 16 and 18, are brought before the congregation in a group and are "tested" for their knowledge of the doctrine of the church. In most cases the questions asked are not necessarily from Scripture, but based on human interpretations and personal convictions. Various forms of catechisms are found in churches in South Africa, apart from the Catholic Church, as the Protestant churches all have their own: Reformed, Pentecostal, Anglican,

Methodist, Lutheran and other. While the basics may be the same, most of them will contain more philosophical twaddle than anything else.

Infant christening and catechism is therefore a trick of the church, although legal, to help fill its coffers. There are probably young people who really take this process seriously, but most consider it an unnecessary annoyance and reply positively to all questions just to put it behind them and become confirmed members of the church in order to partake of the sacraments – christening and communion.

Sacraments?

Sorry, something else the reformation broom skipped. The RCC has seven “sacraments” and unfortunately only five died in the reformation battle. The two that remained with the Protestants is christening and communion. These are two things that prevent you and I as “christian” to live like God wants us to. Carry on reading...

Why a word like this is used, goes beyond reason – probably because *Yeshua* had a “close relationship” with His student followers, because that is what communion means. Even worse is the term used by the RCC: mass! Mass means to send out, to dismiss, from the Latin “*messa*”. You can see the word messenger.

A sacrament is something considered good enough to be very special, even something to be made “holy”. The word is derived from Church Latin *sacrāmentum*, from Latin *sacrō*, which means “hallow” or “consecrate”. Here we can also see the word “sacred”, which means to be set apart [holy]. It is therefore a “holy ceremony”. Now, baptism is purely an act of obedience for the person experiencing it and not necessarily “holy”. Communion, or to use a better term, the love meal, is a personal matter between the partaker and God and is actually a festive event!

Probably the main reason the RCC considers the latter as “holy”, is because they believe that the biscuit they eat actually changes into the body of Jesus when going into the mouth of the partaker. Really now! The same is true about the wine/grape juice. Really now! They call this process “transubstantiation”: **"The signs of bread and wine become, in a way surpassing understanding, the Body and Blood of Christ."**²⁵ Apparently it happens in a mysterious way, like the trinity is mysterious – for those who want to believe it.

This is where I must admit that the Jews also have strange ideas regarding certain customs. They have two books, *Talmud* and *Mishnah*, which, for some of them, is more important than *Torah*! Both books contain handed down rules, laws and instructions which is called the “oral *Torah*”. According to legend *Mosheh* would have received these rules and laws from God after the ten decrees at *Sinai*. The *Mishnah* was made press ready by *Yehuda HaNasi* at the beginning of the third century aY. Certain important laws are not dealt with in the *Mishnah*, however, and were edited and later compiled in the *Gemara* with Rabbinic commentaries. When put together, the *Mishnah* and *Gemara* form the *Talmud* which consists of 63 tracts (written works on specific topics). The *Mishnah* is written in Hebrew while the *Gemara* is written in Aramaic, therefore the *Talmud* contains of both languages. Who in their right mind would want to read Rabbinic commentaries when they can read the Word of God?

They also try to prove strange rules from Scripture. Three texts (Exodus 23:19; 34:26; Deuteronomy 14:21) triggered the Jews to separate meat and milk. Their restaurants serve the products separately and you won’t find a cheeseburger at a Kosher MacDonald’s. Subsequent to this rule every

²⁵ ["Article 3 The Sacrament of the Eucharist"](#). *Catechism of the Catholic Church. Holy See.*

observant Jew has a double kitchen – one for meat and one for milk/cheese and other food. It is important to remember that, as the feasts of God have not been done away with, neither have the rules regarding healthy food and we should strictly observe Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. In spite of all of this we read in 2 *Sh'mu'el* 17:

²⁷After David had arrived in Machanayim, Shovi the son of Nachash, from Rabbah of the people of 'Amon; Machir the son of 'Ammi'el from Lo-D'var and Barzillai the Gil'adi from Roglim ²⁸brought beds, basins, clay pots, wheat, barley, flour, roasted grain, beans, lentils, roasted millet, ²⁹honey, curdled milk, sheep and cheese made of cow's milk for David and the people with him to eat; because they said, "These people are hungry, tired and thirsty from the desert."

Possibly the "man after God's heart" may have indulged in a cheeseburger! Not only him, though, but even *Avraham*. We see in Genesis 18:

⁸Then he took curds, milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it all before the men; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate.

Ironic that the Rabbis of the *Talmud* give no reason for this prohibition,²⁶ yet it is part of modern Judaism!

Similar rules exist, which are not explicitly found in Scripture, but may be implied, like wearing a *kippa*, a small round disc worn on the crown of a man's head; lights and kettles that may not be switched on during *Shabbat* and too many more to mention here.

My personal opinion is that anything unambiguously commanded in Scripture should be done and unambiguously prohibited should not be done – no unnecessary implications of personal conclusions should be made compulsory through philosophic nonsense.

²⁶ [Pesachim](#) 44b: the third tract of [Seder Moed](#) ("Order of Festivals") of the [Mishnah](#) and of the [Talmud](#).

Twelfth Lie

As with some of the previous lies, where possibly more than one topic was addressed, this lie will be no exception. In fact, most of those lies I could think of, big and small, will find a place here.

We're all going to heaven!

As children we were taught that we would go to heaven when we die. I'm not sure whether or not this was an appeasing answer or an easy way out for parents to avoid the trick questions children could sometimes ask, or if the parents and teachers (Sunday school included) actually believed it themselves. I'm not talking about the immediate event when you die, but in the afterlife – eternity. We are taught that good people go to heaven and bad people go to hell, but unfortunately this statement is not true.

What happens to man's spirit from the moment of death up to when *Yeshua* comes again is somewhat mystifying, because Scripture gives us very little information and we are in no position to hypothesise. It is, however, absolutely certain that nobody, whether good or bad, will spend eternity in heaven or in hell.

Through various studies, research and interacting with scholars, I've come to realise that this lie is told partly due to ignorance and partly out of desperation.

As mentioned previously, many *Shabbat*-obedient people crossed my path since God had called me to this way of life. A very good friend sent me information concerning this subject and I was shocked to understand, from Scripture, that nobody will go to heaven! This includes the preachers who proclaim it...

A short while later I corresponded with a pastor and this subject was raised. I passed on the necessary texts with my explanations, receiving his reply that our correspondence has just been terminated. This was more than ten years ago.

We see in Revelation 5:

*⁹and they sang a new song, "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals; because you were slaughtered; at the cost of blood you ransomed for God persons from every tribe, language, people and nation. ¹⁰You made them into a kingdom for God to rule, cohanim to serve him; and they will rule over the **earth**."*

Before sinning, man was given the task to rule over the earth: Genesis 1:

*²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, in the likeness of ourselves; and let them rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the animals, and over **all the earth**, and over every crawling creature that crawls on the **earth**."²⁷So God created humankind in his own image; in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them: God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the **earth** and **subdue it**. Rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air and every living creature that crawls on the **earth**."*

Everything is restored to what it was before man's sin. There will be no need to go to "heaven"!

In the final book of Scripture we read that God confirms what He had said earlier and had planned since Creation in Revelation 21:

*¹Then I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the old heaven and the old earth had passed away, and the sea was no longer there. ²Also I saw the holy city, New Yerushalayim, coming*

down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³I heard a loud voice from the throne say, “See! God’s Sh’khinah [Presence] is with mankind, **and he will live with them. They will be his people, and he himself, God-with-them, will be their God.**

Please note: bold text is from original text

This is the same promise given to *Yisra’el* in Leviticus 26:

¹¹I will put my tabernacle among you, and I will not reject you, ¹²but I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.

This promise is also given in Exodus 19:6; *Yesha’yahu* 61:6 and 1 *Kefa* 2:5, 9. Keep in mind when God (Scripture) repeats something...

God walked with man before sin entered; God wants to tabernacle with man once again and it will be on the new earth – not in heaven!

People who refuse to follow God’s way but persist in their sins, won’t go to “hell” as we were taught, but to a lake of fire and sulphur where they will be tormented eternally. The enemy, *hasatan*, will also not be handing out punishment, but will be receiving his punishment. Hell will be not to be in the Presence of God.

Since nobody will be going to heaven, there also won’t be a “dog heaven” (or animal heaven) and even though our pets are more loveable and reliable than many humans I know, we will definitely never see them again. There will, nonetheless, be animals on the new earth. According to *Yesha’yahu* 65:

²⁵The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion eat straw like an ox (but the serpent — its food will be dust). They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,” says ADONAI.

Elsewhere in *Yesha’yahu* 11:

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb; the leopard lie down with the kid; calf, young lion and fattened lamb together, with a little child to lead them. ⁷Cow and bear will feed together, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸An infant will play on a cobra’s hole, a toddler put his hand in a viper’s nest.

Additional information can be found in addendum C.

Once saved, always saved

Many prosperity theology advocates and preachers wallow in the pleasure of “assuring” their congregants that they are saved for ever after having been saved the first time. It may be good to consider *Yeshua*’s words in *Mattityahu* 24:

¹³But whoever **holds out till the end** will be delivered.

The context of this teaching is exactly that we will not weaken or indulge when being deceived or tortured.

Ya’aqov, the half-brother of *Yeshua*, writes in chapter 5:

¹⁹My brothers, if one of you wanders from the truth, and someone causes him to return, ²⁰you should know that whoever turns a sinner from his wandering path will save him from death and cover many sins.

Strange that, having been “always saved”, I must now turn to be saved from death.

Rapture/Snatching away

While hitting on the prosperity junkies, let’s do it properly. They have such a craving as to not be tormented or undergo difficulties, that they believe the heap of manure that started during the eighteenth century by father and son team, Increase and Cotton Mather, two Puritan preachers from Massachusetts Bay, USA. The principle is that, before coming for the mainstream believers, *Yeshua* will come in secret to fetch a select few who will not endure any pain or tribulation to be safe with Him (maybe in heaven?) – they will simply vanish from earth! Only later, with His second coming, will the rest of the believers be fetched.

This gimmick was extended and made famous by John Nelson Darby²⁷ and the Plymouth Brethren²⁸, of which he was a member. The irony of this group, which had its origin in Dublin, Ireland during the late 1820s, is that they apparently live *sola scriptura*, the conviction that Scripture is the highest authority for any church doctrine. The word “rapture” cannot be found anywhere in Scripture and is nowhere insinuated or implied. The text on which this lie is based is found in 1 Thessalonians 4:

¹⁷then we who are left still alive will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will always be with the Lord.

I can’t find anything wrong in any of the translations I referenced – even the KJV text contains all the necessary words:

¹⁷Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Should any words have been omitted, it would have been “secretive”, or “privileged” or something similar. What most of these mistaken people do not read or bring into the proper context, though, is the previous verse of 1 Thessalonians 4:

¹⁶For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a rousing cry, with a call from one of the ruling angels, and with God’s shofar; those who died united with the Messiah will be the first to rise;

Once again the KJV can’t be faulted.

¹⁶For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

This is one of the cases, though, where I prefer to consult other translations as well, because almost every translation shows “the Lord” will come down, yet it fails to distinguish between God Himself and *Yeshua*, since both are referred to as “the Lord”. Here is the Hebraic Roots Bible:

¹⁶Because the Master Himself shall come down from Heaven with a commanding shout of an archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of YAHWEH. And the dead in Messiah will rise again first.

And The Scriptures:

¹⁶Because the Master Himself shall come down from heaven with a shout, with the voice of a chief messenger, and with the trumpet of Elohim, and the dead in Messiah shall rise first.

This is in line with the Aramaic English New Testament (AENT) and now at least it is confirmed that

²⁷ Bray, John L (1982). *The origin of the pre-tribulation rapture teaching*. [Lakeland, Florida](#): John L. Bray Ministry. pp. 24–25.

²⁸ [Blaising, Craig A.](#); [Bock, Darrell L.](#) (November 1993). *Progressive Dispensationalism*. Wheaton, IL: [Bridgepoint Books](#). ISBN 9781441205124.

Yeshua is the One coming down, although not secretly!

The text “dead in Messiah” means only one thing: if you were baptised as a sign of obedience, you are “dead in Messiah”; if you are physically dead you will be gathered (rise) and then those still alive will also be taken – everybody together. God doesn’t have blue-eyed children or favourites; everybody will go **together**.

For those of us who had army training, we know that a command isn’t whispered in your ear. Similarly a trumpet, or something which may sound like it, is not covered in a blanket before being blown. This doctrine is once again one of those lies that has been teen told so well for so long, that people who are too lazy to study Scripture themselves, actually believe it. Ironic that few people like Hitler, probably because of his saying: “**if you tell a big enough lie regularly enough, people will start accepting it as truth.**”

Predestination

As mentioned earlier, most reformers did good, though incomplete, work. John Calvin from Genève and Ulrich Zwingli from Zurich could not come to terms with a God who gives man a total free will. These men were, however, not the first to utter these thoughts. During Yeshua’s time the Essenes held a similar point of view, according to *Josephus*. During the middle ages Gottschalk of Orbais, Thomas Aquinas and Wilhelm of Ockham were all in agreement as to a two-fold predestination.

Rabbi *Sha’ul* teaches us in Romans 8:

²⁸Furthermore, we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called in accordance with his purpose; ²⁹because those whom he knew in advance, he also determined in advance would be conformed to the pattern of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers; ³⁰and those whom he thus determined in advance, he also called; and those whom he called, he also caused to be considered righteous; and those whom he caused to be considered righteous he also glorified!

Even though these texts may look like an advocate for predestination, we must scrutinise the relationship made here. Firstly, those who love God, according to Deuteronomy 6:5 is “*and you are to love ADONAI your God with all your heart, all your being and all your resources.*”, are the only ones who God will help in everything. Because of their love for God they are then set apart, consecrated (Leviticus 11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:7, 26; 21:8; Deuteronomy 23:14; 1 *Kefa* 1:15, 16) and called. It is therefore a conscious decision of man to be consecrated for God – **obedience**. God already knows the end from the beginning (*Yeshu’yahu* 46:10) and knows who will actively follow Him and who not. It is these people God “calls, causes to be considered righteous and be glorified”. God didn’t create anyone exclusively for perdition. In fact, He doesn’t want anyone to perish, as we can see from one of the most well-known texts in *Yochanan* 3:

*¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only and unique Son, so that everyone who trusts in him may have eternal life, **instead of being utterly destroyed.**”*

This is echoed in 1 *Yochanan* 4:

*¹⁰Here is what love is: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the *kapparah* [covering] for our sins.*

It is unfortunate that most people think by sitting in church on Sunday they will accomplish their redemption. This is not what *Sha’ul* meant with the last part of Philippians 2:12. If that was the case, I could become an airplane just by sitting at the airport long enough!

God wants people to call on Him, to turn to Him. Like most human fathers He wants only the best for His children, whom He created Himself, personally and have known their names before they were born. *Yirmeyahu 1:*

⁵“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I separated you for myself. I have appointed you to be a prophet to the nations.”

The same promise is applicable to every person, without exception, without premeditated ideas and certainly without predestination. God wants to care for us: 2 Corinthians 6:

*¹⁸In fact, **I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters.**’ says ADONAI-Tzva’ot.”*
Please note: bold text is from original text

...and then we can't forget *Yesha'yahu 49:*

¹⁵Can a woman forget her child at the breast, not show pity on the child from her womb? Even if these were to forget, I would not forget you.

He gives everyone a fair chance: 2 Kefa 3:

⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some people think of slowness; on the contrary, he is patient with you; for it is not his purpose that anyone should be destroyed, but that everyone should turn from his sins.

Personally I hate it when attending funerals and I hear preachers or funeral directors say: “It has pleased God to take away our beloved...” Was it only the relatives who loved that person, or did God love that person as well? Typical of the general philosophic hogwash, these words are used when the speaker is at a loss of words. God takes no pleasure in anybody's death, neither to “take someone away”, as can be seen from the texts above. Please scrap this lie regarding predestination, as it is simply totally unsubstantiated and something used by the ill-advised to place God in a bad light.

Then I've also heard the cliché “he/she is left in the Lord's grace”. It is used for the departed, but even sometimes for someone with a serious illness. Firstly, if that person was not born from Above (born-again, saved), there is no “grace” in which that person can be left – not that of “the Lord's” or anyone else's. The grace of God is a gift which is accepted personally; it can't just be bestowed on anyone who doesn't have a personal covenant relationship with God.

Three wise men

This is also one of those lies in which I participated for many years. It was so wonderful to relate the “christmas story” to young and old, or even to present it with a large choir, accompanied on a pipe organ!

“And then, after many days, the three wise men arrived at the stable, saw Jesus in the manger and gave Him three gifts.”

When the last notes of the organ faded out, everybody left the auditorium and outside the building shared the wonderful experience they had had. Nobody would ever think that the preacher, organist, choir and other participants had blatantly lied to them, apart from the three gifts!

Nowhere in Scripture is any mention made of three men, three groups, three camels or donkeys or anything else, except the three types of gifts. Once again we're keeping ourselves busy with

isogesis²⁹, the science of reading our own interpretation into something, by saying something which is not really there. One person may have brought all three gifts, while it is also possible that many slaves were involved, since the wise men, also called Magi, were highly ranked people, similar to kings; they would probably not carry the gifts themselves. There are scholars who surmise the entire caravan could have consisted of as many as sixty people! This is how a carol was birthed, telling us of three kings and everyone merrily joined in, singing this lie!

What many people don't realise, is that the three types of gifts were symbols of *Yeshua's* life on earth: gold symbolised His Kingship and Deity; frankincense, a pleasant fragrance when burnt, would indicate His willingness to become a sacrifice, a pleasant aroma before God; myrrh was a spice used for embalming, symbolising *Yeshua's* death, but being bitter, it also symbolises His suffering.

Addendum C contains more information of stories, untruths, that people distribute.

Three nights and three days

In this case the liar is *Yeshua*, or Scripture, or the RCC.

The RCC alleges Jesus was crucified on Friday and rose on Sunday morning. They even have a service starting at sunrise to "celebrate" this occasion. According to the Douay-Rheims translation (DRC), the norm of the RCC, we read in *Mattityahu* 28:

¹AND in the end of the sabbath, when it began to dawn towards the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalen and the other Mary, to see the sepulchre.

Scripture is very clear in *Mattityahu* 28:

¹After Shabbat, as the next day was dawning, Miryam of Magdala and the other Miryam went to see the grave. ²Suddenly there was a violent earthquake, for an angel of ADONAI came down from heaven, rolled away the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were as white as snow. ⁴The guards were so terrified at him that they trembled and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Yeshua, who was executed on the stake. ⁶He is not here, because he has been raised — just as he said! Come and look at the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell the talmidim, 'He has been raised from the dead, and now he is going to the Galil ahead of you. You will see him there.' Now I have told you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly, frightened yet filled with joy; and they ran to give the news to his talmidim.

Yeshua taught us in *Mattityahu* 12:

*³⁹He replied, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign? No! None will be given to it but the sign of the prophet Yonah. ⁴⁰For just as Yonah **was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea-monster**, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the depths of the earth.*

Please note: bold text is from original text

While talking about him: *Yonah* was not swallowed by a whale, because the throat is too small. It was a different type of fish, maybe even one specifically created by God for that purpose or the sea-monster as in this translation. Here drowns another lie!

Back to the facts of the resurrection:

☩ The two women got to the grave at the end of *Shabbat*, just after sunset, "as the next day

²⁹ The opposite is exegesis and this article explains it very well: <https://www.gotquestions.org/exegesis-eisegesis.html>

was dawning”. Remember that “dawning” also means “beginning”, and is not necessarily “daybreak”. Jewish timing has days ending and “dawning” just after sunset. This is therefore not “began to dawn” – becoming light – as rendered by the DRC;

☞ Friday to Sunday is maximum two days and two nights, only if *Yeshua* arose on Sunday morning at sunrise;

☞ *Yeshua* stated “three days and three nights” – that is a period of 72 hours. Some texts have it as “three nights and three days” which makes more sense. Either way, it was a 72-hour period.

Working back from here we get to see the crucifixion should have happened on Wednesday, day four, to give us three nights and three days. According to Scripture, it should be on *Pesach*, which falls on the 14th of the first month, now called *Nisan*, as *Yisra’el* preferred to call their months by names during their exile. Scripture also teaches us that the lamb for *Pesach* was to be chosen on the 10th day of the month and was to be thoroughly checked for any defects before being slaughtered. We see that *Yeshua* visited friends outside *Yerushalayim*: *Yochanan* 12:

¹Six days before Pesach, Yeshua came to Beit-Anyah, where El’azar lived, the man Yeshua had raised from the dead;

The following day He rides into the city on a donkey while people utter shouts of happiness: *Yochanan* 12:

¹²The next day, the large crowd that had come for the festival heard that Yeshua was on his way into Yerushalayim. ¹³They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Deliver us!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of ADONAI, the King of Isra’el!” ¹⁴After finding a donkey colt, Yeshua mounted it, just as the Tanakh says — ¹⁵“Daughter of Tziyon, don’t be afraid! Look! your King is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt.”

Please note: bold text is from original text

During the previous couple of days, *Yeshua* and His student followers had covered close to 100 kilometres on foot. Now, at one of the entrances to *Yerushalayim*, he suddenly decides to get onto a donkey! Why not just walk in, like He’s been doing all along? This was to fulfil the prophecy in *Z’kharyah* 9:

⁹Rejoice with all your heart, daughter of Tziyon! Shout out loud, daughter of Yerushalayim! Look! Your king is coming to you. He is righteous, and he is victorious. Yet he is humble — he’s riding on a donkey, yes, on a lowly donkey’s colt.

This was the fifth day before *Pesach*, 9 *Nisan*. From the next day *Yeshua* taught at various places. People could question Him (examine Him for “blemishes”?), but the authorities, Pharisees and fellow-citizens started planning to have Him killed. Like the lamb that was slaughtered on *Pesach*, *Yeshua* now came into the limelight. The night before He was killed, He was illegally tried six times and even though He was found innocent by the Roman justice system, the Jewish authorities through ‘*Anan* (Annas), *Kayafa* and the *Sanhedrin* found Him “guilty”. The next morning at the third hour, 09:00 as we know it, *Yeshua* was nailed to the execution stake. This is the same time the morning sacrifices were brought. Six hours later, at the ninth hour, *Yeshua* called out “*Nigmar!* – it is accomplished!” He had done what He was sent to do and delivered up His Spirit at exactly the same time as the *Pesach* lamb would be sacrificed. In this way *Yeshua* fulfilled this prophecy to the minute. Likewise He also perfectly fulfilled the sign, as given long ago by *Yonah* – three complete nights and three complete days – from the end of day four to the end of *Shabbat*, at the start of the new week. Praise *Yah!*

Church music

One of the ways we can praise God is with music. We read in Psalm 98:

⁴Shout for joy to ADONAI, all the earth! Break forth, sing for joy, sing praises!

The psalmist makes it very clear that this is not quiet. The same person who shouted his lungs out for "Province!" at Newlands on Saturday afternoon gets to church on Sunday morning and can't open his mouth to sing praises to God! As church organist I regularly made myself very unpopular when getting up to address the congregation when they would "praise and worship" as at a funeral.

As musician I started finding it difficult in playing certain types of music in church. Initially I had no problem, because I wasn't active in any secular groups and the praise and worship at church surely made up for that.

Small question marks started forming in my mind regarding certain music and these question marks grew bigger as time marched on. I seriously started researching various forms of church music and received many answers, also from strange sources. Obviously all these answers were compared to Scripture, especially the latter ones, and I couldn't condemn any of it.

After my wife and I had bid farewell to the mainstream reformed, Pentecostal and Charismatic churches and ended up at this "moderate" non-denominational group, the preacher and various congregants confirmed what I had already researched and Father had convinced me of. Any form of drums must be eliminated.

There is enough proof of various musical instruments in Scripture, but drums are not mentioned anywhere. The most closely related instrument would be the tambourine (some translations use "timbrel") and this has not changed much since then. The skin stretched over it is purely to assist acoustics and help amplification. The other percussion instrument in Scripture is the cymbal, mentioned 10 times outside of Psalms and referenced twice in Psalm 150! Rattles, probably something like castanets, is mentioned once in 2 *Sh'mu'el* 6:5 and it wasn't for a bull fight. All other instruments are string or wind instruments and obviously the human voice.

Research has shown that drums were used during warfare. After battle a few appointed people would escort the soldiers back home. Various beats and rhythms on the drums would indicate whether or not the war had been successful, in order for the women at home to prepare the necessary – dressings and bandages or lighting the victory fires. Drums were also used for sending messages from one group of people to another, similar to morse code. Lastly, drums are also used by pagans to call up demonic powers – something still happening and on the increase. Nations who practise voodoo have brilliant drummers. However, it doesn't sound like the way I would like to praise my Creator!

Classical (serious) music is still very popular with many people and mostly does not contain any drums, apart from the timpani (kettle drums) which are tuned to specific pitches and used to complement the music – not as rhythm like in modern music. You will enjoy listening to Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture". The rhythm of secular music is often louder than the music itself, making it almost impossible to hear the melody line! You will also find that classical musicians are regularly modestly dressed – something that can't be said of modern music. Unfortunately this trend has been blown into churches as well, where musicians and vocalists wear the same clothes as when going to a disco – torn, tight-fitting jeans which leave nothing for the imagination and tops with a neckline so low that one can see the belly ring. People just don't care about themselves anymore, so why should they care about God?

In spite of anybody else's opinion, I will keep to my conviction that praise and worship music should

consist primarily of voice and acoustic instruments and definitely no drums. It needn't be monotonous or bland, because drums don't add to music's appeal. I also do not want to make music to praise God where the enemy feels just as welcome and takes a front seat.

Many years ago Afrikaans theologian and musician Jan de Wet composed a children's song "Loof Hom met die tromme..." (praise Him with the drums). I'm not sure from which newspaper he got the lyrics, but it surely wasn't Scripture. The "Him" I know isn't praised with drums!

Dispensations

I will not say too much on this topic, except that I do not agree with it.

I consider dispensations analogous to the rapture gimmick, mainly because someone like Darby was also involved and rejects the first on the list below. According to one group of dispensationalists there are seven dispensations:

- ☪ Innocence (Genesis 1:1-3:7)
- ☪ Conscience (Genesis 3:8-8:22)
- ☪ Government (Genesis 9:1-11:32)
- ☪ Patriarchs (Genesis 12:1 – Exodus 19:25)
- ☪ Mosaic laws (Exodus 20:1 – Acts 2:4)
- ☪ Grace (Acts 2:5 – Revelation 20:3)
- ☪ Millennium (Revelation 20:4-20:6)

As with everything else, there have to be people who disagree and some say there are only four, so the debates never stop.

The first stone I wish to cast against dispensationalism, is point 6. Up to the pouring out of the *Ruach haQodesh* we seem to have been living under a God Who never showed any mercy. From what I gather from supporters of this doctrine is that God was that typical old grumbler who sat waiting for someone to do wrong so He could plonk him on the head. Yet we read in Genesis 6:

⁸*But Noah found grace in the sight of ADONAI.*

A short verse that saw the light long before Acts 2, tells us a totally different story – in fact, it tells us the truth! God is a caring God, a loving God and since we do read about the millennium in Revelation and is something we're all looking forward to, I consider the entire Scripture to be God's manual for man, a history journal and God's love declaration for people who obey Him. Grace has been around ever since Creation started and didn't suddenly pitch in Acts 2.

The second, and for now the last, stone is that the Mosaic laws have not been abolished. Some may not be applicable, as discussed earlier, but it still forms the foundation on which *Yeshua* expanded.

My advice to believers is to spit out the doctrines of dispensation as well as predestination and anything else not found in Scripture, since it just leaves a bad taste in the mouth. Study Scripture yourself and move away from philosophic ways of thinking. Learn to think in a Hebraic way and understand Scripture as God gave it to us and stay away from those guys in their shining suits...

In conclusion

Much more can be said about all these lies, but I want every person who has read this to consider the facts without having to go through an entire thesis. We will never be rid of lies, but we can limit what we pass on. Remember one thing: a lie doesn't make you special! On the contrary, I have learnt from experience that people treat you with contempt once they discover your lies.

One of the most important aspects is not to do what other nations do: Deuteronomy 12:

³⁰be careful, after they have been destroyed ahead of you, not to be trapped into following them; so that you inquire after their gods and ask, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I want to do the same.' ³¹You must not do this to ADONAI your God! For they have done to their gods all the abominations that ADONAI hates! They even burn up their sons and daughters in the fire for their gods! ³²Everything I am commanding you, you are to take care to do. Do not add to it or subtract from it.

Please note: in some translations verse 32 may be chapter 13 verse 1

Don't let your children hear lies from you regarding santa clause, the sandman, the easter bunny, the tooth fairy or any other mythological characters. Every child should know from very young that there are no fairies, no goblins. When your child discovers that you have been lying, even about petty things, your integrity will become questionable, to such an extent that they won't believe you when you start telling them about *Yeshua*...

Move away from superstitions like black cats, walking under a ladder, making a wish when you blow out the candles on a birthday cake or throw coins in a fountain, getting good luck with a bunny foot or when picking up a coin, bad luck when you break a mirror, "knock on wood" to fend off bad luck, making a wish with the wish bone of a chicken, to cross your fingers for "good luck" or hope something will come true, opening an umbrella inside a house, Friday the 13th, the use of a horseshoe for good or bad luck and a plethora other senseless things people gather into their lives over the years. This includes all the Grimm and similar stories where a wolf chases a girl with a red cape, catches her only to be cut open later to rescue her, or the three pigs who can build houses. It would be preferable to tell your child the truth in every way, maybe by means of a story from Scripture or something for you own childhood.

Let us move away from these worldly things, lies, superstitions and cling to the Word of God. Let us live like *Yeshua* lived, like He set the example for us: focused on what God desires from us, not people. You will probably lose friends, relatives would want to disown you, but to be part of the kingdom of God is worth far more than anything on this earth.

Christianity failed dreadfully because it didn't keep the law of *Mosheh*; even *Yeshua* did it! Keep in mind that *Yeshua* and His student followers were Jews, not Christians.

How does God want us to live?

☞ 2 Yochanan 1: *⁴I was very happy when I found some of your children living in truth, just as the Father commanded us.*

☞ Y'hoshua [Joshua] 22: *⁵Only take great care to obey the mitzvah and the Torah which Moshe the servant of ADONAI gave you — to love ADONAI your God, follow all his ways, observe his mitzvot, cling to him, and serve him with all your heart and being."*

☞ Colossians 3: *²Focus your minds on the things above, not on things here on earth.*

☞ Psalm 51: ¹⁶*For you don't want sacrifices, or I would give them; you don't take pleasure in burnt offerings. ¹⁷My sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; God, you won't spurn a broken, chastened heart.*

Please note: in some translations these may be verses 18 and 19

☞ 1 Sh'mu'el ²²*Sh'mu'el said, "Does ADONAI take as much pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying what ADONAI says? Surely obeying is better than sacrifice, and heeding orders than the fat of rams.*

Lastly, 1 Yochanan 2:

³*The way we can be sure we know him is if we are obeying his commands. ⁴Anyone who says, "I know him," but isn't obeying his commands is a liar — the truth is not in him. ⁵But if someone keeps doing what he says, then truly love for God has been brought to its goal in him. This is how we are sure that we are united with him. ⁶A person who claims to be continuing in union with him ought to conduct his life the way he did.*

What is left and what am I to do now? If your doctrine differs from that of *Torah*, change your doctrine, because you can't change *Torah*. God is not concerned whether you practise Christianity, Judaism or call yourself Messianic; He wants your **obedience** as we see in *Yochanan 3*:

³⁶*Whoever trusts in the Son has eternal life. But whoever disobeys the Son will not see that life but remains subject to God's wrath."*

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Resources:

<https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Library.sr/CT/BQA/k/143/Was-God-Tired.htm>

<https://spokanefav.com/ask-a-jew-how-can-god-be-refreshed-when-god-is-the-all-powerful-creator-of-all-existence/>

<https://rcg.org/books/ttagc.html>

https://hebrew4christians.com/Scripture/Torah/Ten_Cmds/ten_cmds.html

<https://www.themessianictorahobserver.org/2018/03/09/torah-portions-body-christ-messiah/>

<https://www.thesacredcalendar.com/>

<https://www.bibleprophecyblog.com/>

<https://www.biblehub.com/>

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/is-god-a-trinity/what-about-passages-that-prove-the-trinity>

<https://thetorah.com/when-does-counting-the-omer-begin/>

http://www.albatrus.org/english/church-order/worship/drums_suitable_worship_god.htm

NIV Faith Life Study Bible, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI

The Pilgrim Church, EH Broadbent, Gospel Folio Press, Grand Rapids, MI, ISBN 1-882701-53-4

The Names of God, Marilyn Hickey, Whittaker House, New Kensington, PA, ISBN 978-1-60374-086-9

CJB, electronic version

KJV 1611/1769 with Strong's numbers, electronic version

DRC, translated from the Latin Vulgate, electronic version

Addendum A

This comparative calendar starts with the year as instituted by God in Exodus 12:2 and refers to the Hebrew years 5778/5779 and the secular years 2018/2019 from 1 *Nisan* 5778/17 March 2018. This shows that God’s calendar has fixed rules, while the secular (pagan, Gregorian) calendar jumps around to keep up with what man tried to set up and is still revised regularly. You will notice, when looking at the references, how God’s calendar runs in a circular, rhythmic time pattern, according to harvesting of crops. The word “*Netzarim*” (נְצָרִים) – neh-tsoh-reem) used here, is the collective noun for people who follow God and *Yeshua* according to Scripture, as *Yeshua* taught us through His student followers. There is nothing strange about this word and it was already used during the time of *Yeshua* on earth: *Natzrati*, someone from *Natzeret* [Nasareth]. There are obviously variations, due to spelling and sounds, but this version will suffice. Addendum C also has some information. As mentioned earlier, it is regretful that people have to use labels to show (or prove) their faith or lifestyle. Consequently *Netzarim* is used to show the way *Yeshua* came to teach us and differentiate between Christians and Othodox Judaism. I trust that you are already on that way.

Feast/holiday	Celebrated by	Initiated by	Hebrew date	Secular date
Human rights day	Whoever is interested	RSA government	5 <i>Nisan</i> ^A	21 March ^C
Good Friday	Christians	RCC	14 <i>Nisan</i> ^{A, B}	30 March ^{A, B}
<i>Pesach</i> (3 feasts)	<i>Netzarim</i> , Jews	God	15-21 <i>Nisan</i>	31 March-6 April ^B
Freedom day	Whoever is interested	RSA government	12 <i>Iyar</i> ^A	27 April ^C
Workers day	Whoever is interested	Communists	16 <i>Iyar</i> ^A	1 May ^C
<i>Shavu'ot</i>	<i>Netzarim</i> , Jews	God	6 <i>Sivan</i>	20 May ^B
Pentecos	Christians	RCC	6 <i>Sivan</i> ^{A, B}	20 May ^{A, B, D}
Women’s day	Whoever is interested	RSA government	28 <i>Av</i> ^A	9 August ^C
<i>Yom T’ruah</i>	<i>Netzarim</i> , Jews	God	1-2 <i>Tishrei</i>	10-11 September ^B
<i>Yom Kippur</i>	<i>Netzarim</i> , Jews	God	10 <i>Tishrei</i>	19 September ^B
<i>Suqot</i>	<i>Netzarim</i> , Jews	God	15-22 <i>Tishrei</i>	24 September-1 October ^B
Heritage day	Whoever is interested	RSA government	15 <i>Tishrei</i> ^A	24 September ^C
<i>Chanukah</i> ^E	Jews, Whoever is interested	Jews	25 <i>Kislev</i> -2 <i>Tevet</i>	2-9 December ^B
Day of reconciliation	Whoever is interested	RSA government	8 <i>Tevet</i> ^A	16 December ^C
Christmas	Christians	RKK	17 <i>Tevet</i> ^A	25 December
Day of goodwill	Whoever is interested	RCC, Government	18 <i>Tevet</i> ^A	26 December ^C
New year’s day	Whoever is interested	Babylonians	24 <i>Tevet</i> ^A	1 January ^C
<i>Purim</i> ^F	Jews, Whoever is interested	Jews	14-15 <i>Adar</i>	21-22March 2019 ^B

^A Changes every year on Hebrew calendar.

^B Changes every year on secular calendar.

^C Extra holiday (Monday) is added when it falls on a Sunday.

^D Pentecost is calculated according to “good Friday”. This was one of the exceptional years where it coincided with the Hebrew calendar.

^E A dedication feast in remembrance of the rededication of the temple in *Y’rushalayim* in 165bY when a group of Jews rebelled against *Antiochus*, a Syrian king who tried to Hellenise them. A Jewish priest, *Mattityahu*, and his five sons rebelled against the system and fought against the Syrians for almost two years. The one son, *Yehuda*, was known as *Yehuda haMakabi* (Judah the hammer) and the name *Maccabees* was derived from this. Two canonical books, *Maccabees* 1 and 2 are available online from various websites and contain very interesting information. Another lie, this time not from the church, was born from this event. In spite of most people knowing it isn’t true, this story is related every year during *Chanukah*. According to legend it would take eight days to produce new oil according to Torah standards for the lamp stand in the temple. There was apparently only enough oil for one day, but the lamps stayed lit for eight days until the new oil arrived. Subsequently a feast of eight days was instituted by Judah the hammer to commemorate this “miracle”. However, this is not the true story and also not the platform to elaborate any more. Readers may request to receive the

true story by e-mail or study it themselves. Alongside this feast is also a toy, *dreidel* in *Yiddish*, or *sevivon* in Hebrew. It is a four-sided spinning top made from wood or plastic and spun by each player successively. Every side has a Hebrew letter starting with the equivalent of “great miracle happened here”. Depending on which letter is visible when it stops, chocolate coins are taken, given or exchanged. Outside of the land of *Yisra’el* the word “here” is replaced by “there. This feast is also known as “Feast of Lights”.³⁰

F *Purim* was instituted to celebrate the victory over their enemies during which queen *Esther* convinced her husband, king *Achasverosh* [Ahasuerus], of the cunning plan *Haman* had devised to annihilate the Jews. The entire book of *Esther* is read over the two days of this feast and every time the name of *Haman* is read all participants shout sarcastic remarks, make noise with wooden graggers, stamp their feet and more to demean the memory of Haman. The feast is very pleasant and colourful, but is unfortunately sometimes accompanied by roguishness and intemperance which is not permitted by Scripture. This feast is also known as the Feast of Lots.

³⁰ Epstein, Baruch. ["All's Well – When it Ends"](#).

Addendum B

The English Apostolic Creed

While it certainly isn't wrong to have a creed, it is important that the creed is true to the facts it advocates. When someone meets you in a street or a shopping mall and enquires of you what your spiritual convictions are, a proper creed is priceless, provided everything in it is verifiable from Scripture.

As we saw from the chapter regarding the ninth lie, the trinity, this creed is apparently a compilation of declarations made by the student followers of *Yeshua*. Whether legend or truth, it doesn't change the text Christians have become used to while being part of the RCC or any of the 41 000 Protestant derivatives.

Three creeds were compiled, of which the most well-known is the Apostolic creed. The other, ascribed to but not compiled by *Athanasius* (293-373), is the least-known of all three and the better-known creed of *Nicaea* is sometimes used by certain congregations. The latter was compiled in collaboration with Constantine I to refute "certain forms of heresy, especially Arianism".

Arianism is the theology that *Yeshua* is not one in being with God the Creator – exactly what chapter nine is about. This was the declaration and convictions of a priest from Alexandria, *Arius*, who passed on in 336aY. The adjective is "*Arian*" and described as follows³¹:

1530s, pertaining to the doctrines of Arius, priest in Alexandria early 4c., who posed the question of Christ's nature in terms which appeared to debase the Savior's relation to God (denial of consubstantiation). Besides taking an abstract view of Christ's nature, he reaffirmed man's capacity for perfection. The dissention was widespread and split the Church for about a century during a crucial time.

It would be a good exercise to analyse the most well-known creed and see where the early church fathers missed the bus. For clarity I place red tick marks after the Scriptural truths and a reference character after a declaration not found in Scripture, after which it will be discussed below. The letter "l, i" was purposefully left out:

I believe in God[☑], the Father almighty[☑], creator of heaven and earth[☑].
I believe in Jesus Christ^A, his only Son[☑], our Lord^B,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit[☑] and born of the virgin Mary[☑].
He suffered under Pontius *Pilate*^C, was crucified[☑], died, and was buried[☑]; he descended to hell^D.
The third day he rose again from the dead^E.
He ascended to heaven[☑] and is seated at the right hand of God[☑] the Father almighty[☑].
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead[☑].
I believe in the Holy Spirit^F,
the holy^G catholic* church^H,
the communion of saints^J,
the forgiveness of sins^K,
the resurrection of the body^L, and the life everlasting[☑]. *Amen*^M.
**that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places*

³¹ Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2010 Douglas Harper

^A Confusing statement, but let's leave it at that. *Hasatan* also believes in *Yeshua*...

^B Master is a much better description. We must also keep in mind that "the Lord" will not be applicable to God-the-Father.

^C Totally off track. *Yeshua* suffered indeed, but not under "Pontius" *Pilate* – Pontius simply means "governor" and needn't even be capitalised. See the last paragraph at "Means of Explanation" on page 1. This man, *Pilate*, was in fact the one trying to free *Yeshua*. His wife came to him, telling him about a vision she had had and requested he drop the case. *Yeshua* suffered under you and I, under His fellow-citizens, the Pharisees and the likes. The Romans could care less what happened to Him, they just didn't want any form of uprising.

^D Where is hell? Except for the little town in the Karoo, "hell" still needs to be created. We read about it in Revelation 20:

¹⁰*The Adversary who had deceived them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

The worst is also in Revelation 20:

¹⁴*Then Death and Sh'ol were hurled into the lake of fire. This is the second death — the lake of fire.*

Yeshua never descended to hell; he never, as I've heard some preachers say "stole the keys of hell from *hasatan*". "Hell" is the final, second death for those who refuse to live according to God's Word; yes, even for you reading this if you still want to believe the law has been abolished and you needn't honour *Shabbat* and God's feasts. That is where you will end up and you will never see *Yeshua*, only *hasatan* and his cronies.

^E As we saw at the Twelfth Lie: Three Nights and Three Days, *Yeshua* rose at the **end** of the third day, not on Sunday and also not any other time during the third day. The word "again" is confusing. When previously did *Yeshua* rise from the dead?

^F I'm not trying to be too critical, but one can't really "believe in the Holy Spirit". You can, however, believe in the existence and working of the Holy Spirit, especially after seeing what had happened in Acts 2 when the *Ruach haQodesh* was poured out. This is probably an addition made at a later stage, since almost nothing is mentioned anywhere else regarding *Ruach haQodesh*.

^G This is highly debatable. "Holy", rather set-apart, is something only a person can be who really walks the walk with God. No "church" can be holy as it simply a body of believers. Should you add only one grain of sand to a glass of clear water, you don't have clear water any longer. You only need one person not living a set-apart life to contaminate the entire body. *Sha'ul* teaches us in 1 Corinthians 12:

²⁶*Thus if one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; and if one part is honored, all the parts share its happiness.*

We should therefore strive to live the way *Yeshua* set the example for us. Not only should we live in harmony with each other, but be able to advise and also accept criticism.

^H It is enjoyable to pursue the same interests and perspective with people who share those ideals. However, this specific section deals not with personal interests, but the doctrines of a group, even a church and to abide by those. As seen earlier, "catholic" means general and is used here for "worldwide". This also suggests the One World Religion which is not only prophesied by Scripture, but already on the cards and promulgated by, amongst others, the Pope and his henchmen. This is definitely not something which appeases God and following this type of "religion" is to agree to become a pawn of the RCC.

^J Similar to ^G above, "holy" or set-apart can only be attributed to someone who really walks the way which pleases God. We were all created equal and nobody is better or worse than anyone else. We may never demean others, irrespective of what the circumstances are and should always be

discerning to watch against any forms of heresy.

^K The Pope has given every catholic priest carte blanche to forgive sins left, right and centre, provided the person looks or sounds remorseful, contributes to the church coffers and says ten hail Mary's – or maybe drinks ten bloody Mary's! Only God forgives sins and only when we confess remorsefully in the Name of *Yeshua*.

^L It will be interesting to find out how a body that was placed in a grave and has already been decomposed, can stand up as flesh. When we follow *Yeshua* into Eternity, we will have divine, glorified bodies, immortal, according to Philippians 3:

²¹*He will change the bodies we have in this humble state and make them like his glorious body, using the power which enables him to bring everything under his control.*

No flesh will enter God's Kingdom, according to the words *Yeshua* clearly spoke to *Nakdimon* [Nichodemus] in *Yochanan* 3:

⁵*Yeshua answered, "Yes, indeed, I tell you that unless a person is born from water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.*

We also see in 1 Corinthians 15:

⁵⁰*Let me say this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot share in the Kingdom of God, nor can something that decays share in what does not decay.*

^M Strange, and this is mostly amongst the English congregants, that the creed is ended by saying "Amen", almost as if for validation. Others prefer to leave it as is.

From 25 commentaries this creed got 13 positives and 12 negatives.

Should we try to transform the negatives, this declaration could appear as follows:

I believe in God, the almighty Father, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in *Yeshua*, his uniquely born Son, our Master and anointed One,
who was conceived by *Ruach haQodesh* and born of the virgin *Miryam*.
He suffered, was crucified under *Pilate*, died and was buried.
At the end of the third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, the almighty Father,
from where He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the working of *Ruach haQodesh*,
the regular assembly of believers,
the mutual gathering of like-minded people,
that only God can forgive sins through *Yeshua*,
Who will come again to gather true believers with Him to the everlasting life. (*Amen*).

These few lines are not cast in stone and certainly not something I will force on to every believer. It may form a basis onto which we can build and also come to realise how fragile mankind is and that we can only rely on the favour of God for everything in our lives.

Addendum C

This table was compiled many years ago over a period of a few months between myself and a Sabbath keeping friend. I can't take any credit for this and only place it here to serve as complementary information pertaining to untruths and assumptions made by the church and people involved with it. This list is not at all exhaustive and you are more than welcome to contact me to add anything I may have overlooked.

No.	What is taught or generally believed	What Scripture says
1	Three wise men came to honour the Anointed One.	Unknown number of wise men; three types of gifts mentioned: gold, frankincense and myrrh (<i>Mattityahu</i> 2:11).
2	<i>Yeshua</i> was a Nazir [Nazarite] and may not drink wine (Numbers 6:2-4).	<i>Yeshua</i> was a <i>Natzrati</i> [Nazarene] (someone from <i>Natzeret</i> [Nazareth]) (<i>Mattityahu</i> 2:23) and did drink wine (<i>Mattityahu</i> 11:19; 26:29 and others).
3	<i>Yeshua</i> was 'n Nazir [Nazarite] and may not cut His hair (Numbers 6:5).	<i>Yeshua</i> was 'n <i>Natzrati</i> [Nazarene] and was so similar to other young men, He had to be spotted with a kiss (<i>Mattityahu</i> 26:48-49).
4	יהוה (God) is not in control of the earth, but <i>hasatan</i> .	All authority was given to <i>Yeshua</i> (<i>Mattityahu</i> 28:18). He allows certain things because of the sin on earth.
5	<i>Yeshua</i> had long hair.	1 Corinthis 11: ¹⁴ <i>Doesn't the nature of things itself teach you that a man who wears his hair long degrades himself?</i> <i>Y'chezq'el</i> 44: ²⁰ <i>They are not to shave their heads or let their hair grow long, but must keep their hair carefully trimmed.</i>
6	When <i>Qayin</i> [Cain] and <i>Hevel</i> [Abel] brought sacrifices to יהוה, the smoke of <i>Hevel's</i> offering went up straight, but that of <i>Qayin's</i> went up askew.	Genesis 4: ⁴ <i>and Hevel too brought from the firstborn of his sheep, including their fat. ADONAI accepted Hevel and his offering</i> No mention is made of smoke, proving this is another myth from the children's bible. ^A
7	<i>Avshalom's</i> [Absalom] long hair was caught in the branches of a tree when his mule walked underneath it.	2 <i>Sh'mu'el</i> 18: ⁹ <i>Avshalom happened to meet some of David's servants. Avshalom was riding his mule, and as the mule walked under the thick branches of a big terebinth tree, his head got caught in the terebinth, so that he was left hanging between earth and sky, as the mule went on from under him.</i> All translations have it as "head", not his hair. He had lovely hair which was cut once a year; it could therefore not be much longer than 12-18 centimeters (2 <i>Sh'mu'el</i> 14:26).

No.	What is taught or generally believed	What Scripture says
8	The virgin <i>Miryam</i> [Mary] stayed a virgin for the rest of her life – hence her still being called that.	<i>Yeshua</i> had brothers and sisters. <i>Mattityahu</i> 1:25; 13:55-56 ^B
9	<i>Yeshua</i> was crucified on good Friday and rose on easter Sunday (36 hours).	He was crucified on the Wednesday before a special <i>Shabbat</i> (<i>Yochanan</i> 19:31) and rose at the end of the weekly <i>Shabbat</i> as He had promised in His sign – 72 hours (<i>Mattityahu</i> 12:39-40).
10	The forbidden “fruit” from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden of Eden was an apple.	Scripture doesn’t mention an apple, but it was a desirable fruit. ^C
11	<i>Yonah</i> was swallowed by a whale.	All the translations at my disposal have it as “large (or huge) fish” and not “whale”. ^D
12	Genesis 2: ^{17b} <i>because on the day that you eat from it, it will become certain that you will die.</i> The enemy tries to contradict in Genesis 3: ^{4b} <i>The serpent said to the woman, “It is not true that you will surely die;</i> Who spoke the truth? <u>The day</u> they ate of it, they didn’t die.	Genesis 5: ⁵ <i>In all, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.</i> 2 Kefa 3: ^{8b} <i>with the Lord, one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day.</i> <i>Please note: bold text is from original text</i> <i>Adam “surely died” before his “day” of a thousand years was over. Also compare Psalm 90:4.</i>
13	A chariot of fire took <i>Eliyahu</i> [Elijah] away.	A fiery chariot <u>separated</u> <i>Eliyahu</i> and <i>Elisha</i> and he was taken up into heaven by a whirlwind (2 Kings 2:11).
14	The stone had to be rolled away for Jesus to come out of the grave.	The stone had to be rolled away for people (witnesses) to <u>enter</u> . <i>Yeshua</i> appeared to His student followers after His resurrection at more than one occasion without using doors (<i>Markos</i> 16:14; <i>Yochanan</i> 20:26).

^A Children’s bibles and their poppycock... Advertisements for these books hit the target time and again: The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name – by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Jago. Even the publishers, Zondervan, should already trigger the red flags. Most of these stories are what they aim to be: stories, untruths. The fact that they are whispered puts the cherry on top, because wherever *Yeshua* is involved, it should be shouted out! This is one of many of these falsehood books...

The Spanish Jesuit priest, *Baltasar Gracián y Morales*, also known only as *Baltasar Gracián*, made the following renowned statement: “Give me a child for his first seven years and I’ll give you the man”. The idiom “bend the tree while it is young” also comes to mind and then we see in Proverbs 22:

⁶*Train a child in the way he [should] go; and, even when old, he will not swerve from it.*

Please note: bracketed text is from original text

Children are much more sensitive and observant than most people realise. Many parents mostly consider their own needs, their careers, their circle of friends, their social activities, their status – all of which will pass away, while very little attention is paid to eternal matters, and simultaneously

exposing their children to it. Some parents consider it the duty of the “church” and school to educate their children and are then dumbfounded by the degeneration of society, the youth in particular. At various occasions I have seen either or both parents dropping children off at entertainment centres, stuffing some cash into their hands and then drive off, probably fulfilling their own interests. Those parents are clueless as to what the child will be doing with that cash and may, at a later stage, blame the child’s friends or other people for a child who has to be treated for drug or alcohol abuse, unwanted pregnancy, or even needs to be bailed out of jail. A child should learn the same material as an adult, not in a “simpler” way, but with the necessary discernment and patience only Father can provide. The television and smartphone games should also not oblige as fulltime baby sitters.

If there is one abhorrence that I would like to break down, if it were in my authority, it would be the “cry room”. It is typically the lazy, uneducated mother who makes use of this, someone who obviously has no relationship with God and who prefers to be at an assembly without being part of the assembly. This facility was evidently created by people who could not acknowledge or apply any form of discipline. Nowhere in Scripture do we read of children being separate from their parents when attending synagogue. In truth, many verses substantiate that children were part of every assembly. *Yeshua* regularly spoke to and about children. After riding into *Y’rushalayim* on a donkey, many people were in the temple area to be healed. He quoted Psalm 8:2 in *Mattityahu* 21:

¹⁵*But when the head cohanim and Torah-teachers saw the wonderful things he was doing, and the children crying out in the Temple, “Please deliver us!” to the Son of David, they were furious.*

There are many features of modern Judaism I do not condone or agree with. However, there are no synagogues with a “cry room” and there is also no “*TaNakh* for Children” in any form. Children are as much a part of the assembly as they are part of the Kingdom of God, like God Himself and should never be taught or educated separately. Furthermore they should also not have their “own version” of Scripture, but from very young, when they start reading, every child should be given their own personal copy. Children’s bibles are saturated with appealing pictures through which children draw the wrong conclusions: Jesus with long (blond) hair and blue eyes; *Adam* and *Chava* each hiding behind a tiny fig leaf, *Noach*’s ark that looks like a cruise ship with some animals on deck, two fat lions grinning at *Dani’el* and many more abominations *ad infinitum*. From that same despicable book children are also taught to pray to “dear Jesus”, as if He is God and capable of everything. This is probably also how some people acquire the disgusting habit of not addressing God by His proper Name(s), maybe due to their nervousness of not having a proper relationship with Him, by using nicknames like “the Old Man upstairs”, or any or derogatory term. Consider your reaction if God should treat you similarly, or maybe, by accident, not allow you into His Kingdom.

B The epistle of James was written by *Ya’aqov* [Jacob], half-brother of *Yeshua*; *Miryam* could therefore not have stayed a virgin and this is yet another lie concocted by the RCC. Similarly, the name “James” was added by king Jimmy to eternalise his own name. Worshipping *Yeshua* is not acceptable in the eyes of God, but worshipping people is an abomination. God made no person inferior or superior to anyone else – this is a gimmick by which people cheat themselves. In the highly improbable case where God may have allowed us to worship *Yeshua*, it would stop right there and the person who had brought Him forth would most certainly not be worshipped, let alone be honoured. Once again the RCC tricked themselves and exchanged the two roles, in such a way that our Redemption, as God had arranged for man, is now honoured on a cross while the woman who gave birth to Him is worshipped and exalted almost above God. We haven’t even started talking about the other priests, bishops and charity workers (such as mother Theresa) who are hallowed and given their own special day on the pagan calendar. Our dear nation was educated well in this atrocity by exalting and worshipping a traitor, a communist, a criminal...

C It is quite possible that the word “fruit” could mean something totally different to what we think

and that it may not be literally edible. We should never underestimate the deviousness of the enemy. The tree of life is a shadow picture of *Yeshua*, therefore the tree of the knowledge of good and evil could have been something which was equally attractive physically. The punishment the woman receives may be related to this, but while we don't really have much to go on, most will be conjecture and is particularly one of those things we should guard against. The word "fruit" is even referred to in Scripture in a spiritual way in Philippians 4:

¹⁷*I do not say this because I seek a gift, but I seek the fruits of the good news multiplying to you.* (HRB2012)

Some other texts mention "fruit". One of the most well-known is Galatians 5:

²²*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³humility, self control. Nothing in the Torah stands against such things. ²⁴Moreover, those who belong to the Messiah Yeshua have put their old nature to death on the stake, along with its passions and desires.*

We should therefore not deduce the type of fruit that brought sin to the earth, but rest assured that *Yeshua*, the final *Adam*, has already rectified that problem. All you have to do now is to trust on Him and live it in obedience.

▫ The text mentions a "large (huge) fish" and even suggests that it was prepared (created?) by God for the purpose of saving *Yonah*. We see in *Yonah* 1:

¹⁷*ADONAI prepared a huge fish to swallow Yonah; and Yonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.*

Please note: in some translations this may be chapter 2 verse 1

The Hebrew interpolated Study Bible uses the word "*hayah*":

H1961 הָיָה *hayah* (haw-yaw) v.

1. to exist.
2. to be or become.
3. to come into being, i.e. to happen, to occur

All whales are big, but not all big fish are whales!

Addendum D

Animals and Eternity

Similar to the lies in children's bibles, this gimmick is probably an answer from someone who doesn't know the facts, but wants to console somebody who had lost a beloved pet. "Not to worry, Johnny, Rex is now in pet heaven. You will see him again, one day."

Suppose there were a pet heaven, how would Johnny see Rex again if Johnny is not also an animal? Even if the "human heaven" and "pet heaven" were to amalgamate, Johnny may not even go to heaven. This load of pig dung is thus not only the product of a fertile imagination working overtime in top gear, but also the insecurity of the person regarding his/her relationship with the only true, living, Creator-God.

God made the animals almost last, after the plants and signs in the sky and saw that it was good. After all of this He made man in His own image, as we see in Genesis 1:

²⁷So God created humankind in his own image; in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them.

No one ever asks if favourite plants go to heaven, yet we know there will be plants in Eternity, according to Revelation 22:

²Between the main street and the river was the Tree of Life producing twelve kinds of fruit, a different kind every month; and the leaves of the tree were for healing the nations —

Animals were not made in the image of God. Man was appointed to rule over the rest of the earth as we see in Genesis 1:

*²⁸God blessed them: God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and **subdue it. Rule over** the fish in the sea, the birds in the air and every living creature that crawls on the earth."*

From this we can see that animals are not equal to man. In spite of the animals having been made of the same substance as man and breathes the same air, God only made man to reason, as we can see, amongst others, in Deuteronomy 30:

*¹⁹"I call on heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have presented you with life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore, **choose** life, so that you will live, you and your descendants,*

Yeshua didn't come to earth to save animals, but humans. We learn from Yochanan 3:

*¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only and unique Son, so that **everyone who trusts in him** may have eternal life, instead of being utterly destroyed.*

No animal can ever have this type of trust and can therefore not be saved.

This doesn't mean, though, that there won't be animals with us in Eternity. The texts quoted on page 46 and others are applicable; there will therefore be newly created animals, like the plants.