

*Truth  
that  
transforms*

Issue 47 Autumn 2010

The Congregation of Yahweh

# Ha'Shem Magazine



## Embracing the Future



## Celebrating the Past

**Inside:**

The Covenant of Unity

The Torah 4 2Day

Gen-X Praise

Now you have the festival dates, book them now as holidays from your work, so you can have the full time to celebrate with the community of believers.

# 2011 Feast Dates

**Passover**  
18 April



**Unleavened Bread**  
(1st Day) 19 April

**Unleavened Bread**  
(7th Day) 25 April

**Feast of Weeks**  
(Shavu'ot) 12 June

**Memorial of Blowing of Trumpets**  
29 September

**Day of Atonement**  
8 October

**Tabernacles**  
(1st Day) 13 October

**Tabernacles**  
(8th Day) 20 October

## Ha'Shem is Hebrew for the 'The Name' (Yahweh)

### DIVINE NAMES AND TITLES

Throughout this magazine you will see the names YAHWEH and YAHSHUA. Yahweh is the original name for the heavenly Father and Yahshua is the original name of His Son, our Saviour. Also the term ELOHIM (or its shortened form El) may be used. This literally means 'Mighty One' and is usually translated 'God' in the King James Version of the Bible.

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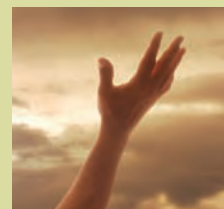
## What's In This Issue

### Issue Features:

- 10 The Re-emergence of Musical Levites  
**Shirley Bate & Eleanor Williams**
- 16 The Covenant of Unity  
**Michael Maurice**
- 21 The Torah 4 2day  
**David Hayes**
- 26 Gen-X Praise  
**Jemrose Walker**

### Regular Features:

- Current:  
4 Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future  
**Sasha Nesmejanow**
- Lifestyle:  
6 Life Above The Water Line  
**Susan Goodinson**
- Lifestyle:  
8 Be Ye Holy!  
**Micah Green**
- Disciples Dugout:  
14 One Life! (part one)  
**David Townsend**
- Disciples Dugout:  
19 One Life! (part two)  
**Esther Chopping**
- Reflections:  
24 Revival Fires  
**Beverly Nembhard**



### Ha'Shem 47:

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Editor: Alcot Walker  
Design: DHC Creative







## Editorial

by Alcot Walker

# Let's Have More . . . Please!

Ha'Shem, meaning 'the name', is used by Jewish people when referring to the God of Israel. This is instead of using the revealed name Yahweh, to diminish the possibility of dishonouring the sacred name.

Forty years ago the Congregation received the revelation of the Father's personal name and the Hebrew name of His Son. From that time we stopped using the old names and titles. It marked the beginning of a new phase in the Congregation's journey, which resulted in a number of changes. Our publication division underwent major transformation. At the time, 'Reality' was our premier magazine and was influencing believers and non-believers alike; however, it was to evolve into a brand new magazine which was to be a vehicle for disseminating the truths that the Holy Spirit was pouring into the Congregation. We searched for a suitable name for this 'newcomer'. Ha'Shem was chosen. This seemed appropriate because our mission was to share with the world all the learning about Yahweh which the Holy Spirit was implanting in us. In Hebrew culture the name of a person is synonymous with the individual; therefore, Ha'Shem gave us the platform to share truth that revealed Yahweh's character, His will and purpose for our lives.

Ha'Shem magazine has been distributed across the world, bringing an interesting mix of teaching and empirical experiences that not only inspired people but transformed lives. Over a number of decades a rich diversity of people, from different cultural and social backgrounds, and from different parts of the world have

contributed to Ha'Shem, making it both colourful and globally relevant. Thousands of people write in to tell us how much they enjoy and appreciate what we're saying... and they want more! There is a hunger in various parts of the world for the clear, biblical teaching and the real-life, relevant testimonies that are being offered in the magazine. Time and again we hear the statement, "it's more than theories being propagated, it's truth being lived out by real people who have the Spirit in their lives". That is a wonderful witness to the value of Ha'Shem!

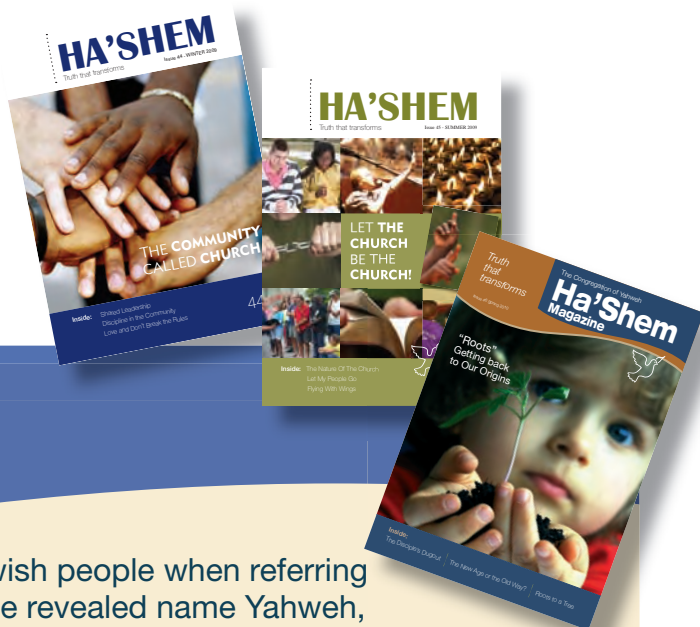
The Congregation is celebrating 50 years of growth and development, and Ha'Shem has been part of that journey. This particular issue is a special commemorative edition. It draws from many previous articles going back to the very first edition. In doing so, it not only gives us a flavour of the kind of teaching that was being shared, but also the journey and development that the magazine has made. We sincerely hope you will enjoy it and will also be encouraged by it. However, as we start out on another 50 years what can we say of Ha'Shem? Does it have a future in the overall vision of the Congregation? Please read on!

As a people we're still on a journey, and I dare say that that journey will continue until our glorious Messiah returns. We are still imperfect human beings being changed into

His likeness, which means there will still be stories to be told of His amazing grace. Yes, we definitely have something to say both now and in the future, and if that is the case Ha'Shem will have a role to play. The magazine will change and develop over time, I'm sure, finding new and creative ways of connecting with people and communicating its message. If you have access to the internet you can now read or download the full colour magazine via our website. New technologies are available, and no doubt the future will spawn more giving us the opportunity to communicate our message more widely and effectively. As part of future developments, we will be using new innovative ways to share the message of Ha'Shem and to broaden its potential to change lives.

We want to make Ha'Shem more relevant to younger people so they can find answers to some of the searching questions they have in a postmodern world. So, in the future we will be taking on one or two youth editors to speak effectively to the needs of young people.

As you read this edition of Ha'Shem you'll be inspired, challenged, and enriched by its contents, but I hope you'll also be encouraged by the knowledge that there'll be more of this magazine in the future – that's what people all over the world are asking for.





by Sasha Nesmejanow

# Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future



Well, hello there! Greetings to all our old friends and a very warm welcome if you are a newcomer. As an ancient Celtic saying goes, "There are no strangers here, only friends we haven't met yet"

As you may have already gathered this edition of Ha'Shem is rather special. We are celebrating! Having a birthday, in fact, but not just any ordinary birthday, it's our 50th anniversary. What a wonderful achievement! It is a time of happiness, merriment and rejoicing with the opportunity to reminisce and recollect the roads travelled. We can ponder the events of the past, have some time reflecting over the journey so far, and we can look forward with hope, excitement and anticipation to what lies ahead.

In the light of such remembrance let's take a leisurely stroll down memory lane. In the very first edition of Ha'Shem, some 20 or so years ago, the opening article was entitled,

"WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?" I think it's quite relevant to revisit this to remind ourselves (and inform our new friends) about who we are and how we got here.

Now, as then, we remain a diverse people. Coming together from many different backgrounds and cultures, the scriptures might very well call us a 'mixed multitude'. We have come from far and wide, from Jamaica, Africa, India, Asia, North America, Scandinavia, Russia, Europe and the U.K. Our backgrounds are just as varied as our ancestries; there are those among us who were once atheists or strict religionists, some from well-to-do homes and yet others from poorer circumstances. There are some who are well-educated, with

degrees to their names, and some who have had no formal education whatsoever. Yet, regardless of all the assorted differences we all have one thing, or rather one person, in common. We have come into a relationship with one another through this one person, Yahshua Ha'Mashea. Known by many as 'Jesus Christ', we came into the knowledge of His original name, the name by which He was known while He lived and walked in Israel over 2000 years ago, and we call on Him using this name. We later came to an understanding of Yahweh's Feasts, His Sabbath, the Fivefold Ministry and Water Baptism. Yahshua has made a dynamic change in all our lives. One by one He sought us out



and called our names. We heard His voice and answered, opening the doors of our hearts and lives to Him. "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

Once Yahshua found us, were we not filled with a desire to find others who had had this same experience, who wanted to live their lives exactly as Yahshua had taught? Many of us in fellowship now took a long time to find each other, but through prayer and a commitment to the Truth, with a longing to share our Faith, we found each other and we have

spent the years getting to know one another.

So here we are: neither denomination nor sect, not a breakaway from any other church, or a conventional church as understood by most. No, we remain a group, a family, even (the Bible calls it) a Congregation, which continues to seek the perfect will of Yahweh for our lives, filled with a desire to walk in all His commandments and wanting to be used by Him to help others to find His perfect love and hope for themselves.

Over the years many more have found their way to our doorsteps. We have sat and shared meals and

stories of how our wonderful Saviour has brought us together, allowing our paths to meet. We know there are still many others whom Yahweh is leading this way and we look forward to meeting them someday soon.

Ha'Shem has travelled far and wide in all its years of publication, and we know its themes and articles have brought many blessings to all our dear brothers and sisters overseas. We steadfastly pray that it will continue to do so and we hope you will all continue to share its contents and your faith with the friends we have yet to meet.

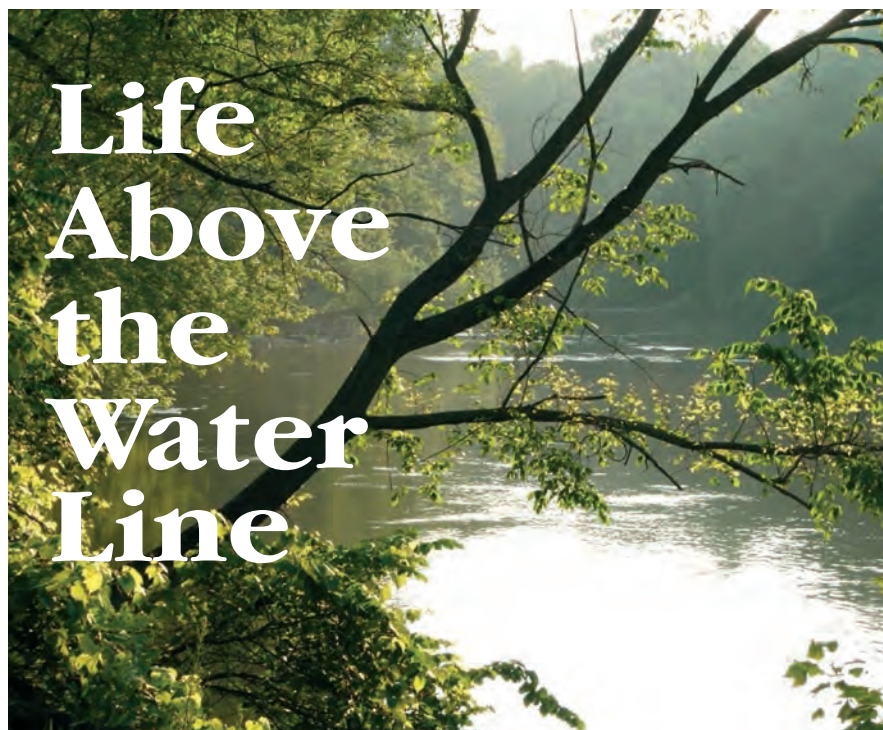
SHALOM!



# Celebrate!



by Sue Goodinson



Imagine a flowing river with the sun reflecting on the water. On the surface it is a beautiful sight but you do not know what lies beneath.

To live above the water line means that we are living a life that is higher than the murkiness and pollution that is below the water. It means living above 'the sin that so easily besets us'.

*"No one who is born of Yahweh will continue to sin, because Yahweh's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of Yahweh."* (1 John 3:9)

Is this our experience, or do we still have a problem with living above sin

even after salvation? Yahshua knew that His disciples would have a problem living above sin so He prayed for them to be sanctified.

*"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."* (John 17:15-18)

## Sanctification – What do we mean?

The Greek word for 'sanctify' used in the New Testament is 'hagiazō'. It means 'to make holy, to separate and to set apart'. Sanctification is to be separated from the world and consecrated unto Yahweh. When Yahweh sanctifies believers, He not only sets them apart for a holy use, He also makes them holy. Yahshua was "sanctified and sent into the world". (John 10:36NKJV) He was set apart for a special, holy work, the work of saving the world from sin. When He prayed, "Sanctify them by the truth" He was asking that His followers should be made holy and, therefore, be useful for the holy work for which He had chosen them. First He made them holy, and then He "sent them into the world".

Yahweh has always required His people to be holy. The Scriptures say that we are 'a holy nation', and we read in 1 Thessalonians 4:3, *"For this is the will of Yahweh, even your sanctification"*.

Like salvation, sanctification is a gift to be received by faith. Our sanctification was part of His divine plan designed in eternity before the creation.

Often when you buy toys for your children these words are on the packaging in fine print: 'Batteries not included.' Do you know what



that means? It means that you get the toy, but not the power to make it work. That is not the kind of gift that Yahweh gives. Yahweh has empowered us by His Holy Spirit to live a new kind of life.

Our minds tell us that it's impossible to live above sin. However, Yahweh never requires from us what He does not grant the power to do.

But what is the work of sanctification? What does it practically mean to be 'set apart and to be holy'? Sanctification is a free gift but it is also an inward, spiritual process of growth and development whereby Yahweh brings our life, our attributes, and our way of thinking into alignment with His own. This involves change in the life of the believer by means of the Holy Spirit. When the Almighty sees us through the blood of His Son He does not see our sin, but that does not mean we should continue sinning. It is death to the old life and resurrection to the new life. We read in the Old Testament that the presence of Yahweh Almighty dwelt in the Most Holy Place and the High Priest had to wear a clean, linen tunic before entering into His presence. White linen signifies holiness and purity. We read in Revelation 19:18 that the Bride of Messiah will be clothed in *"fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."* (KJV) Living a life of

sanctification is of the utmost importance because Yahshua will return for a church that is holy.

### Growing in Sanctification

How do believers grow in sanctification? The apostle Paul addressed that question in his epistle to the Romans. *"Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness."* (Romans 6:19)

Sanctification is the process by which we learn to depend on Yahshua every day, accepting and appropriating the power of His Holy Spirit. As we starve our fallen natures, keeping our minds focused on Yahshua and refusing to dwell on that which is evil, we grow in holiness. He is the Almighty Elohim within whose power it is to take the dirtiest lump of clay and mould it into a vessel of holiness. However, we need to do our part and live in accordance with His commands. Obedience to the Master is required if we are to grow in holiness and sanctification. The Holy Spirit will be our teacher and helper so we can live a life above sin and become reflectors of His holy character.

However, sanctification does not eliminate temptation but gives us the power to overcome it, so that sin does not have dominion over us.

*"But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to Yahweh, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life."* (Romans 6:22)

You could say eternal life is the outcome of sanctification. Or you could say sanctification is the path that leads to eternal life.

Sin will have no place in heaven; therefore sin should not dominate and control our lives here on earth.

As we grow in sanctification and holiness we will be changed into His perfect likeness—holy, sanctified, and completely separated from the presence and influence of evil.

Yahweh is calling His people to live above sin, to live a life of sanctification and holiness so that *"...he [Yahshua] might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."* (Ephesians 5:27 KJV)

So let us pray for the gift of sanctification. And don't just pray once. Pray without ceasing. Once we have received it, let us live 'life above the water line' as we allow ourselves to be changed into Messiah's likeness, for 'without holiness no one will see Yahweh'.



Yahweh never requires from us what He does not grant the power to do



by Micah Green

# Be Ye Holy!

'Be ye holy' or 'You be holy'.  
What does this mean?

## Unpacking the Phrase

It can mean a whole lot of different things to different people. To some believers it means some obscure thing that was from the Old Testament. To others it may be something that it is impossible to be. It may be received with cynicism and sarcasm as people mock the idea of holy 'Christian do-gooders who think they're better than everyone else because they go to church every Sunday'.

This phrase can also mean something a lot deeper and personal; something challenging that causes a person to want something that the world says doesn't exist. To some people it illustrates Yahweh as a pure Being who expects and demands people who are connected to Him to be pure as well.

Some definitions (and examples of use) of the word 'holy' are:

*Set apart to the service or worship of Yahweh; sacred; reserved from profane or common use; holy vessels; a holy priesthood.*

With the above definitions we start to get a picture of Yahweh setting apart a group of individuals from society's masses to serve Him and keep His commandments. These people have been kept from doing what the majority of people in society are doing. They are holy vessels because, like a vessel, they carry the Holy Spirit and something of the divine nature of Yahweh Himself (2 Peter 1:4). They are called by Yahweh to be priests (1 Peter 2:5) of the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34), that Yahweh made with Israel through Yahshua.

## A Different Lifestyle

Because I am a part of this group of individuals that has been set apart from the world and devoted to Yahweh, the phrase 'be ye holy' challenges me to not become lazy in my daily life. It tells me I'm different to most of my work colleagues and friends. It's like a trumpet call that pierces me and sparks a fire within my heart to live life on another level, where my head is clear and my heart is at peace because I'm separate from a sin-driven life and present with my Lord, Yahweh Tzevaot (Yahweh of Hosts). If I feel I'm drifting slightly, that I'm not putting up my best fight against my sinful nature, Yahweh always brings me back to my senses. Because the desire to be close to Him forces me to seek Him, I'm reminded of who I am and who I am commanded to be: I am set apart purely to serve Yahweh, separated like a Nazirite and I belong to Him alone and not my 'self'.



Everything I do must line up with Yahweh's expectations of how He's purposed me to live



# The serene beauty of a holy life is the most powerful influence in the world next to the power of [Yahweh]

Blaise Pascal

This means I can't do some of the same things that my unsaved friends do. I can't absorb the world's music like they do. Everything I do must line up with Yahweh's expectations of how He's purposed me to live.

In addition to the Ten Commandments, the Israelites were given many rules to live by in order to distinguish them from the surrounding nations, displaying Yahweh's nature. There were rules on how to correctly treat members of staff (servants), who not to marry, what to eat and how to deal with diseases.

I accept the diet that was outlined in Leviticus as a way to live, knowing full well that it is not what goes into my body that makes me unclean but what comes out of my mouth (Matthew 15:10-11). Personally, the Word of Yahweh spoken way back then sits in my stomach as a foundation from which He builds me up as a person with the identity of 'ruling with Mighty One' (English translation of the name 'Israel'). The Word is activated by the Holy

Spirit, and Yahshua's blood is applied to my heart and I'm given the power to choose not to sleep with women outside of marriage, not to swear, not to be disrespectful to my mum and my elders. I'm given the power to control myself when the Enemy tries to agitate me to act violently and I can refuse to wear clothes that are gothic or lewd.

A spotlight is on my heart exposing the way that I think and feel. The Scriptures say we were given the mind of

Messiah and that we should renew our minds (Romans 12:2). Living a holy life comes from the heart and you have to live it out so it is seen in the way that we carry ourselves, in our obedience to Yahweh's holy commandments reflecting His holy character.

So, therefore, 'be ye holy'!



## The Refiner's Fire

*He sat by the fire of seven-fold heat,  
As He watched by the precious ore.  
And closer He bent with a searching gaze  
As He heated it more and more.*

*He knew He had ore that could stand the test  
And He wanted the finest gold,  
To mold as a crown for the King to wear,  
Set with gems of price untold.*

*So He laid our gold in the burning fire,  
Though we fain would have said Him, "Nay."  
And He watched the dross that we had not seen,  
As it melted and passed away.*

*And the gold grew brighter, and yet more bright  
And our eyes were so dim with tears,  
As we saw the fire, not the Master's hand,  
And questioned with anxious fear.*

*Yet our gold shone out with a richer glow,  
As it mirrored a Form above  
That bent o'er the fire, though unseen by us  
With a look of infinite love.*

*Can we think that it pleases His loving heart  
To cause a moment of pain?  
Ah, no, but He saw through the present cross  
The bliss of eternal gain.*

*So He waited there with a watchful eye,  
With a love that is strong and sure,  
And His gold did not suffer a bit more heat  
Than was needed to make it pure!*

*Author Unknown*



by Shirley Bate &amp; Eleanor Williams

# The Re-emergence of Musical Levites



## Shirley says...



Recently I was taking part in a singing practice at my local church where we were practising the 'Hallel' (Psalms 113 – 118) for this year's celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles. We were learning a particularly difficult new song, one set to several verses

of Psalm 116 by one of our resident songwriters. As we struggled to learn the harmony I began to feel a familiar stirring of the Holy Spirit within me, which led to an awareness that we were learning music born in the heart of a gifted musician and songwriter; a New Covenant Levite! Can this be possible in the 21st Century?

During the time of the Old Covenant, we read that Israel always enjoyed musical worship, from the crossing of the Red Sea, when Miriam spontaneously took the tambourine and led the women in dance whilst singing a song of deliverance (Exodus 15:20-21), to the time of David when Yahweh chose the Levites to minister to Him and lead the people in worship (1 Chronicles 23:5).

## The Order of the Levites in Worship

The Levites were divided into twenty-four teams which matched those of the priests. Each team was to minister before Yahweh for two weeks of every year. In addition, they would also minister at the major feasts of Israel in

Jerusalem. There were 4000 Levites praising Yahweh with the instruments which David made for giving praise. The instruments had been made purely for this purpose, and were dedicated for use in the temple. The musicians and singers were expected to attend training, where they honed their skills and their lives for this most important calling. Some of the sons of Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman were set apart and instructed by David to prophesy on their instruments, and they in turn were responsible for 288 skilful singers and musicians (1 Chronicles 25:1-7). These 288 musicians included Heman's fourteen sons and three daughters.

## Eleanor says...

If, with time travel, I could go back to any Bible incident,



past or future, what would I choose? Without a shadow of a doubt, it would have to be the Dedication of Solomon's Temple. If we read the account in 2 Chronicles 5:13-14, we can only imagine the awesomeness of the occasion. Unfortunately, we are

unable to go back in time to witness such things and yet I feel sometimes in our congregational singing we have touched heaven. Sometimes it has been a loud, happy and fast song, rejoicing in the new life that has been purchased for us. Other times, it has been a reflective time, where we can ponder on what Yahshua has done for us. I remember times when there was no singing, just the sound of instruments coming together as one and ministering to the congregation, causing them to respond in many different ways. This is a unique gift. I belong to a secular choir, too, and I know firsthand how words and music can have an impact on people. I have been moved to tears by certain pieces of classical music or words I have had the privilege to sing.

Music is a special, Yah-given gift. It was given to us to enjoy, but most of all to express in our own unique way how we feel about Yahweh. Have you ever heard a moving piece of music from an opera, or children from another country singing in their native tongue? You don't





necessarily understand the words, but you feel an affinity with what they are conveying to their audience.

### Shirley goes on to say...

From Moses' song at the Red Sea, which speaks of the escape from Egypt, the drowning of the Egyptians in the Red Sea, and Yahweh's amazing warrior-like deliverance, to the whole of the book of Psalms, which in effect was Israel's hymn book, the Levites and songwriters of old have written of their experiences and the truths of Yahweh. Eleanor speaks of the Dedication of the Temple where singers, musicians and trumpeters raised a great anthem of praise to Yahweh. How would it be received? As they worshipped, the great Presence of Yahweh filled

the temple, the house was filled with smoke, and the priests could not stand to carry out their duties as the Shekinah was present! (2 Chronicles 5:13-14) What an accolade this must have been to the musicians and singers! What an amazing response from Yahweh's throne!

We are exhorted in Psalm 98:1 to "Sing to Yahweh a new song, for he has done marvellous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him." There was a time in my life when new songs literally poured out of my heart, and out of the hearts of many of my friends. For several years there has been a dearth of new songs in our church; instead we have been singing many popular Christian worship songs. While there is nothing wrong with singing

songs written by dedicated Christian songwriters (and we have had many blessed times of worship when doing so), there is something wonderful about digging into your own soul, stirring up your musical (and Levitical, perhaps?) gift, and producing a song either set to scripture, or written out of the depth of your own experience. We have seen many precious truths revealed to our own congregation expressed in song by our own gifted songwriters; songs about the Sacred Names, the Sabbath, the Feasts of Yahweh, the Covenant, etc. We have also witnessed many scriptures set to music and sung chorally by groups of people who love to sing and make music together.

## Feature

### The Re-emergence of Musical Levites

#### Rediscovering Our Levitical Heritage

► What do we need to do to develop our musical talents and, I believe, rediscover our Levitical heritage? One thing for sure is that we need to move forward in song writing and worship. If the songwriters write, then the singers will sing, the dancers will dance, and other art forms such as inspired mime and drama, photography, art, graphic displays, and multimedia will be reintroduced into our worship. Yahweh wants us to use our whole selves to worship Him "in spirit and truth" (John 4:23). How much more truth can we demonstrate in worship than that borne out of our own experience, and truths which have been revealed to our hearts and witnessed by the Spirit within us?



Wouldn't it be wonderful if our Congregation included an Academy of Music and Drama where young musicians, singers, dancers, drama and mime artists could be trained to perfect their Yah-given talents? Some of our current artists are more mature now and, while they still have a massive contribution to make to our worship, we need to see eager young people, including children and young adults, being motivated into the music ministry.

Music is a vocation and, as such, should be invested in. Where are the Musical Levites of today? Where are the descendents of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun? When I was beginning my musical ministry I was in my teens. I remember feeling excited and so privileged to be part of the 'band' in our local church. Later, when I was in my 20s and 30s, I was a member of Covenant College Singers. I loved to practise with my fellow-musicians and singers, I loved to play musical instruments, I loved to write songs, and I loved to go out for my music lesson every week so I could learn to write classical harmony for the singers to sing.

The Musical Levites in the scriptures were trained by 288 master musicians to minister to the people and, ultimately, to Yahweh. They invested in their gift so they could minister for only two weeks out of every year, plus the

major Feasts! We are privileged to be able to minister in our local churches week after week, and then to minister at major Feasts where there always appears to be a special anointing on the music. Are we investing in our gift as the Levites did in theirs, or do we complain when we have to be at the meeting two hours before everyone else to practise?

When the famous oratorio 'Messiah' was performed for the first time in London, its composer, Handel, was congratulated afterwards on the excellent 'entertainment'. Handel was most perturbed by the thought of his music being mere entertainment and replied, "...I should be sorry if I only entertain them. I wish to make them better."

As musical ministers this should be part of our goal; firstly, to touch Yahweh and worship Him in spirit and in truth, and secondly, our motive for ministering in this area should not be to perform, entertain, or be applauded, but rather to change lives through worship.





## The Year of Freedom

### Prophecy Received at Feast of Unleavened Bread 2010

by Daslie Nicholson

Indeed I see you, I see you from My throne and I look down upon you and I would speak to you today. I say to you My children if you would delight yourselves in your Elohim this week, you will see the joy of your Salvation that has been so hidden and buried within the cares of this world, released. And you will find the joy that comes from knowing your Saviour, to be as a well springing up within you, and you shall indeed find the joy of your Elohim moving through your very being into your hands and your feet. If you would delight yourselves in your Elohim and if you would dance around Him, and if you would release your spirit to Him and if you will lift your voice to Him, yes you shall indeed have joy.

You shall know that joy for I have seen many of you who have been carrying burdens; I have seen how those burdens have sought to keep you oppressed and to keep you down. But I say to you My children it is the year of release, it is the year of jubilee. It is a year of setting free; it is a year you should find freedom in your King. So I say to you, if you would believe that I am He that would release you this week, you shall feel the joy, and you shall experience the joy. It shall not be a joy that you feel from time to time but you shall know it continually and you shall know it bubbling deep within your soul.

And you shall indeed celebrate for My heart is rejoicing with you this week; My heart is set upon rejoicing with you. For I have done this, it is I that have released your spirits, it is I that have done a work in your lives, it is I who have changed your lives. It is Me, My hand that has done this in you. But I would have you to rejoice, I would have you to see that it is My hand that has worked in you. For I am working in you for the very good of your lives, so I say find it within yourselves. Know that it is I who rejoices with you and would delight with you, so delight yourselves in your Elohim and know His joy.

## Agape Love

*Though I become as rich as Bill Gates and Oprah Winfrey combined, and have not **LOVE**, I am nothing.*

*Though I become as powerful as Barack Obama and Pope Benedict XVI together, and have not **LOVE**, I am nothing.*

*Though I have the eloquence of Winston Churchill and Martin Luther King, so that I can sway multitudes, and have not **LOVE**, I am nothing.*

*Though I possess the beauty and charm of Alicia Keys and Angelina Jolie, and have not **LOVE**, I am nothing.*

### **AGAPE LOVE NEVER FAILS!**

*Though there be wealth, it shall rust and decay.*

*Though there be fame, it shall sink into oblivion.*

*Though there be political power and supremacy, it shall burst like a bubble.*

*Though there be military might, it shall crumble.*

*Though there be tongues of eloquence, they shall be stilled.*

### **BUT LOVE IS FOREVER.**

*When hoary time shall be no more,*

*When earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,*

*When the Ancient of Days is set upon His Judgement Seat,  
When angels' harps are stilled and Heaven's silence fills the universe,*

### **LOVE WILL STILL BE YOUNG.**

*When the last plane has made its flight,*

*The last satellite circled the globe,*

*The last rocket has been launched;*

*Where the debris of the melting cosmos has been swept afar  
by the fiery tempest of Yahweh's wrath;*

*When the new heaven and earth leap from the matrix of the ages - **LOVE** will still be in its infancy.*

*It will **NEVER** grow old, never fade, never decay.  
It is divine.*

*Therefore, **MAKE LOVE YOUR AIM.***

### **LIFE IS FOR LEARNING AGAPE LOVE.**

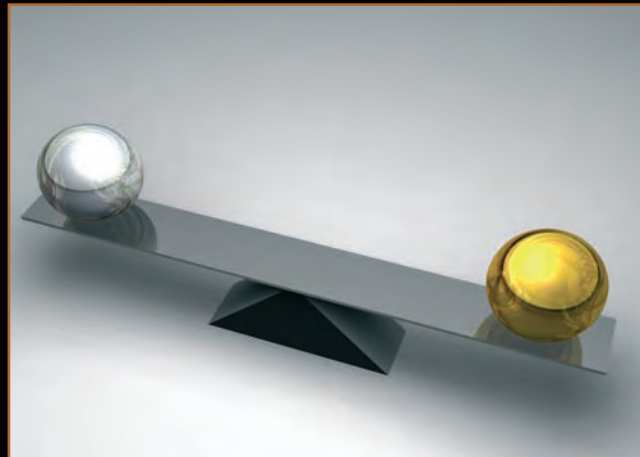
*Anonymous*

*Adapted by Shearon Walker*



# Life

Life can get really complicated, and potentially messy, with so many responsibilities, desires, and demands all competing for our time and energy. We can so easily get swamped by it all, lose focus and, ultimately, the purpose for living. Keeping a proper hold on different strands of life is especially important for believers as we are urged to “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness”. We have but ‘one life’ and it has to be lived. This will mean involving ourselves in any number of areas (college, work, family, church, etc) but we must do so in a balanced and productive way so, in the end, our life counts for something. In ‘One Life’ David Townsend and Esther Chopping (see 19) share their experience of maintaining their passion for Yahweh, the Word, and service, while facing the real pressures that the areas of work, home and church bring.



## One Life by David Townsend



**My life was once very complicated and difficult, but Yahshua made what seemed impossible, possible!**

I was bought up to know a lot about Yahshua, and I was very much in love with Him. I was filled with the Holy Spirit from a young age, but as I grew older I turned away from the straight and narrow path, and decided to enjoy myself like those around me seemed to be doing. To cut a long story short, I was an accurate representation of the Prodigal Son

that Yahshua spoke of in Luke 15. I ended up with no money and a life that was getting worse and worse by the day. I never stopped believing in Yahshua, and I longed to be with Him as I once was. But I thought to myself: I am too sinful and I don't deserve Him, because I have betrayed Him.

Eventually my life got even worse and I ended up staying with my parents for a year. I had gone back to try to sort my life out, and I was very sad, because I had a daughter who had just turned one and, at the time, she meant everything to me. Now I could only see her at the weekends. This made me realise that the close bond we had would now not be as strong.

### A Second Chance at Life

I thought to myself, “How can I be a believer now, with all the sin I have committed? How can I ever get any respect from people, when my life is such a bad testimony?” I have known Yahweh and I have turned away from Him, by doing all the things that displease Him.

I imagine that you know what happened next because you know the nature of our Father.

Yes, He forgave me and took me back! My life was once in darkness, but now I have light! Yahshua affected me so much by the power of His grace, that I now have a structured life, with a real future. I met a wonderful woman called Lyndsay, who had an identical testimony to



me, and we married in May 2009. Now there are two children in our house (my daughter Jessica, at weekends and Lydia, all the time). Our previous experiences made us very grateful for what we have now.

We can't ever repay Yahshua for what He did for us, but we are determined never to take Him for granted.

We make sure that every night the girls pray and are read Bible stories. Sometimes they will do a Bible play at bedtime. This is a routine they love and at this age they learn so easily.

### Opportunity to Work

I work full-time Monday to Friday, and Lyndsay volunteers part-time. This is important as we believe that, not only should we earn a living, but meeting people and getting to know them is the best way to reach them for Yahshua. It is sad to see people struggling with the everyday problems that life brings when I know I can help. I want to explain that Yahshua is the way. This doesn't often work, so I have to show it with my attitude towards life, my love for people, and the peace I have in knowing Yahweh. I can only do this by spending a lot of time getting to know people, and this is something I need constantly to try to improve. Yahshua's life was spent with everyday people, and He related to them by talking to them face to face, with nothing to hide. So I won't be ashamed of my past, even though much of it was bad. But in my place of work, or wherever I am for that matter, it is a way of describing how loving my God has been to me.

### Opportunity to Serve

Outside of work, I am involved with our meetings on Sabbaths and it is important for me to meet with Yahweh's people and spend time worshipping and being fed by Him. Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages this. "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." This is the most important day of the week for me. As I get to know Yahweh more and more, I love the peace and blessing that comes when the sun goes down. I believe that when we can truly appreciate this blessed day, we can understand Yahweh a lot more, and the things He stands for.

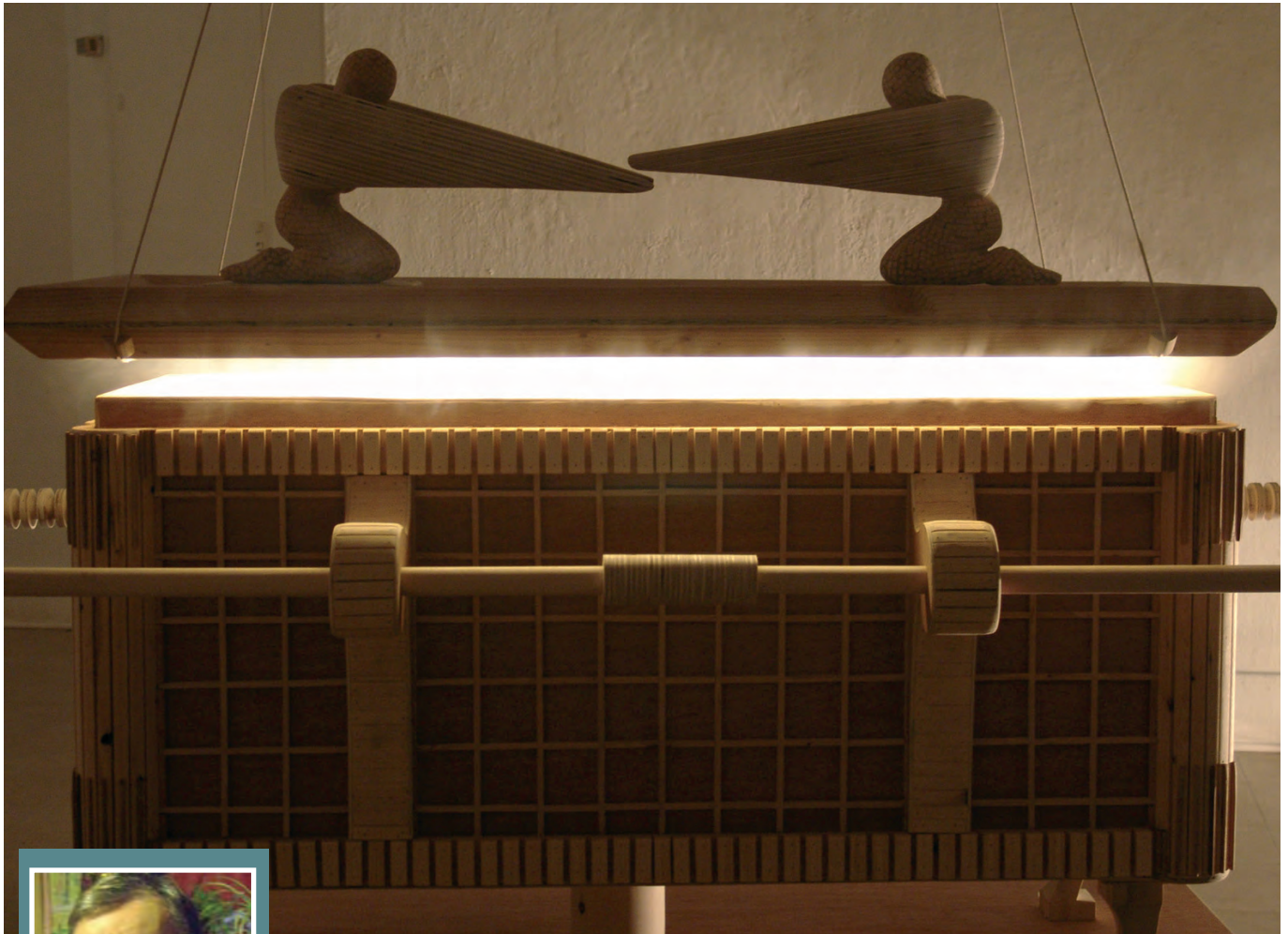
During the week we host a discipleship group in our house, and run a youth discipleship group at the church. We are grateful for the things we get out of these groups, and thankful to Yahweh for the opportunities He has given to us to give something back. I believe that I owe it to Yahweh to balance my work, church, and home life in a way that gives Him what He deserves. If I am not giving Him the lion's share of my time, but rather spending all my time with just family or just work, then am I any different from those around me?

I want to be like Yahshua. I know I will never get close to achieving that. But I need to try.

Yahshua was a carpenter. He was a teacher. He disciplined twelve men. He preached to thousands as He travelled around on foot. However, I believe one of the most important things He did was to give a lot of His time to prayer, to being in His Father's presence so that He would have the physical and spiritual energy to do the work that had to be done.

**We can't ever repay Yahshua for what He did for us, but we are determined never to take Him for granted**





# The Covenant of Unity

by Michael Maurice

## Prayer for Unity

In Chapter 17 of John's Gospel Yahshua lifts His eyes towards heaven and concludes His dialogue with the Apostles with a crucial prayer. Then . . . *"Having spoken these words Yahshua took His departure in the company of His disciples and went on His way across the Kidron valley, until they arrived at a place where there was a garden."* (John 18:1 Heinz.Cassirer Edition)

This is a description of the short journey Yahshua and His disciples

made to Gethsemane, where He was soon to be arrested. It demonstrates that the prayer of Chapter 17 takes place immediately after the Covenant Supper. I hope to demonstrate the importance of this prayer for unity for our understanding of the Covenant that Yahshua made in the upper room and fulfilled with the shedding of His lifeblood. I hope to remind you that Yahshua died for unity and that His Covenant is a Covenant of unity and therefore there is, and will be, one inclusive Covenant with one Covenant people, with one Doctrine

undergirding it, resulting in one Covenant Bride.

## The Covenant of Unity

*"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; **that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You;** that they also may be one in Us . . . I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made **perfect in one**....."* (John 17:20, 21, 23 NKJV)



The covenant is an expression of [Yahweh's] will, not man's, and man must listen to its terms, trust [Yahweh] that they are holy and just and good, and order his life accordingly.

J. Gresham Machen

These verses demonstrate firstly that there is an ideal, perfect relationship between the Father, Son and Spirit. They are perfect in one. Perhaps the Hebrew word 'Chesed', steadfast, eternally-committed 'Covenant love', is the closest we will get to understanding this relationship. It is total commitment of everything one has and is, complete identification with, and love towards, each other for ever. Elohim, the Godhead, continually throbs with and emanates this perfect harmonious-unity that comes from within, affecting and inspiring the angelic beings around the throne to praise, worship, adore, and cast their crowns down before Him. Elohim originally imbued creation itself with this perfect harmony, and this was a tremendous feat!

*"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? . . . When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"* (Job 38:4a, 7 NASB)

More than that, the Father, Son and Spirit, took council together and made our first forbearer as an image of themselves, so that they would all share in this divine, harmonious-unity. Elohim wanted to share the glory of His Covenant love with man, so prepared an Eternal Inheritance for him. Yahweh covenanted to Adam and Eve a beautiful, fulfilling, eternal life in the midst of a glorious creation, and enabled them to share the administrative authority over it. They walked and fellowshiped directly with Yahweh in the cool of the day. All this became theirs provided they observed the terms of the Covenant and ensured that they did not fall

under the influence of Satan, eating of the forbidden, deadly fruit. Since Eden, Yahweh has been working out His purposes of restoration for Adam's descendants. This great plan has been supervised by Yahweh's son, who came to restore this Eternal Inheritance through a renewal of Covenant.

### The Covenant of Unity Progresses

*"For this reason Messiah is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant."* (Hebrews 9:15)

In presenting the Covenant Meal He foretold His sacrificial death, which was to result, in a matter of weeks, in the coming of the Spirit of Glory:

*"I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."* (John 17:22-23)

Even fallen, blinded human beings will recognise that only the glory of Yahweh's love could produce a perfectly united society. It would be a Gospel letter to them. It will turn the world upside down.

We can find it happening in Acts:

*"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship."* (Acts 2:42 KJV)

All the one hundred and twenty received the same wonderful teaching from Yahshua for the duration of His three and one half year ministry, coming to a climax when He instructed them for forty days in His glorified body. They were thrilled to have as their Rabbi one who was able to interpret the Torah and the Prophets in the light of Yahweh's original intentions: *" . . . you have the words of eternal life!"* (John 6:68 NKJV) Yahshua's doctrine was a solid foundation of instruction:

*"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock."* (Matthew 7:24 NKJV)

He summarised it in Matthew 5-7, which concludes with these phrases:

*" . . . the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law."*

We note Yahshua's complete respect for the Torah of Moses (and the instruction of the prophets), Matthew 5:17, Luke 16:29-31; it was oh-so-real to Him because He was to die for the sins committed against it (Hebrews 9:15), and because He had enabled Moses to make it letter perfect. Note His anger when the traditions of men obscured the observation of the written word of Yahweh (Mark 7:6-13). His connecting of the commandments with salvation and His sending of the Spirit on the day of the giving of the Torah enabled the fullness of the commandments to be observed.

**Elohim wanted to share the glory of His Covenant love with man, so prepared an Eternal Inheritance for him**

## Feature

If *"the fervent effectual prayer of a righteous man avails much"* and the prayers of Elijah controlled the rain (James 5:16-18 NKJV) how much more will the prayers of a perfectly righteous Divine Man avail?

### The Covenant in Practice

*"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising Yahweh and having favour with all the people...."* (Acts 2:44-47 NKJV)

The Spirit of Yahweh was empowering the people to keep the doctrine of the apostles and the New Covenant.

There were no factions among them and, unlike the situation at Corinth (1Corinthians 11: 18-22), each one considered his neighbour above himself. Since they were steadfast

in the doctrine of the apostles it follows that they could examine themselves properly (1Corinthians 11: 28-31) and take the Covenant meal, the 'Breaking of Bread'. It was a Renewed Covenant – the renewal of Yahweh's purposes for Israel and, through them, all the children of Adam who believe and obey.

Yahshua prayed, *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us...."* (John 17:20-21)

### The Fullness of the Covenant of Unity

This is His prayer for all those who would believe in Him through the Apostle's Word, Jew, Israelite or Gentile. Given that there would be a realistic, incremental approach for those called out of the Gentiles (Acts 15:14-21) they too would also ultimately be steadfast in the doctrine of the apostles:

*"Go forth and make people in every nation into disciples of mine ..... instructing them at the same time that they must observe all the commandments that you have had from Me."* (Matthew 28:19-20 Heinz Cassirer Edition)

The mystery revealed to the apostle Paul in Ephesians 3 was *"that the gentiles should be fellow heirs"* of the Covenant of Redemption *"and of the same body."* This is what Yahshua prayed for before going to His death; this is what He died for and this is what **will be**.

*"Husbands, love your own wives as Messiah also loved the assembly, and has delivered himself up for it, ...that he might present the assembly to himself glorious, having no spot, or wrinkle, or any of such things; but that it might be holy and blameless."* (Ephesians 5:25-27 J N Darby Edition)

When He presents His bride to Himself at that great Marriage Supper on Mount Zion (Isaiah 25:6), as we take our places together (Matthew 8:11), I believe we will celebrate the ultimate Renewed Covenant meal and share in the inheritance of the House of Judah and the House of Israel. We shall be as *"one that is born in the land"* for many *"companions"* will come from the right and the left to sit down with the Patriarchs, for He *"hast redeemed us to Elohim by [His] blood . . . and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."* (Revelation 5:9-10 KJV)



# One Life by Esther Chopping



**Family, friends, church activities; responsibility, people, work, pressure – all in the mix and flow of our lives. Sometimes life feels like a runaway train getting faster and faster.**

"Where are the breaks?" I cry. "Oops, there aren't any!" I gasp as the train hurtles along, picking up speed as it goes. "Let me off here!" I shout, as I muster up as much courage as I can and leap off the runaway train. Ever felt like you are whizzing along in the middle of a chaotic existence?

## A Focus on Relationship

So how is it possible for us to keep ablaze our passion for the Word and for service in the midst of life? The key to it all for me is to have my relationship with Yahweh at the centre of my life. It is absolutely necessary for me to love Him, to carve out time to communicate with Him, to read His Word, to pray, to have quiet time with Him, to rest in Him. He is my strength, my life source. Any ability I may have to serve Him comes from Him. He is my inspiration; He satisfies the deep thirst in my spirit. If He is central to my life then He will be with me to enable me in all areas of life, at church, at work and in my relationships with family and friends. Without this crucial connection with Yahweh my life quickly derails.

## Setting Boundaries

So, firstly, my relationship with Yahweh is of paramount importance in keeping my passion for the Word and for service alive. Secondly, I have learnt some practical lessons along the way. I think it is important to have healthy boundaries in life. Often we want to say "Yes" to people, activities and requests, and that is good, but on occasions, to guard against exhaustion, it is necessary to say "No". Healthy boundaries are important. Being organised and managing time helps too, but not to be so

rigid that there is no room for some flexibility. Sometimes it may be essential to make life changes. For about 21 years I worked 5 days a week for my employer, Monday to Friday, but about 5 years ago I came to the point where I needed to free up some time. I had recently been promoted, which meant a pay rise, so felt that now was the time to reduce my hours. With much prayer I put in my request to reduce my hours to work Monday to Thursday. That request was granted. I have often found that if I take the step of faith then Yahweh opens the door. To keep the passion for Yahweh alive it is also necessary that we don't spend our energy doing things that Yahweh is not asking us to do. I once heard a preacher say that we all need to find out what the decreed works of Yahweh are that He has for each one of us to do. I'm not saying that it isn't necessary to help out, or stand in the gap at times, but if I spend a large chunk of my life doing what I am not called to do then it will eventually drain me of physical and spiritual life.

## A Little Help from My Friends

At times we may not be able to leap off the runaway train ourselves and I thank Yahweh for leaders who have genuinely been concerned enough to take me to one side and share their concerns, and have supported me. I am also grateful for leaders who have made it possible for some responsibility to be taken from me in order for me to take up other responsibility which Yahweh is calling me to. I thank Yahweh for mentors who have walked with me, from whom I have learnt so many valuable lessons. I thank Yahweh for those friends who have prayed for me. We have seen Yahshua release His healing power in my life, breaking chains which held me captive for years. Now I can fly, and with Yahweh in the centre I can reach for the destiny that He has for my one life.





Reflections

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# A Message of Encouragement

You have been through the fire of adversity and pain; you have been through the floods of disappointment; you have known the wilderness, criticism and betrayal. And you have known great heights of joy, great mountain tops of revelation and understanding.

You are a people knitted together through adversity; you have come together and grown together, and you are connected and solid. I say to you, my beloved ones, look to your future, for I say I am come down at this time to be among you, and I say this shall indeed be a year to you of jubilee and you shall rejoice, and you shall know liberty, and you shall be set free. And you shall lift up your eyes and see that before you is indeed a promised land; before you is indeed vats overflowing with new wine. And you shall know me and you shall continue to know me, and you shall grow closer to me, for I say to you, I am here to be found and he who seeks for me with all his heart shall find me. I will be found of you. Yes, my people, I will take a hold of you and I will cause you to grow, and I will cause you to be raised up.

Yes, I shall cause you to live in a place of jubilee, for this year is indeed to you a time of jubilee and you do well to lift your eyes to the hills, for here is your salvation and your redemption. And I am the one that you serve, yes, I am he, and I will be amongst you to meet you in every way. Stay close to me for I will be found of you and you shall know me.

**Valerie Warsop, interpretation of tongue  
by Shirley Bate – Feast ULB 2010, UK**

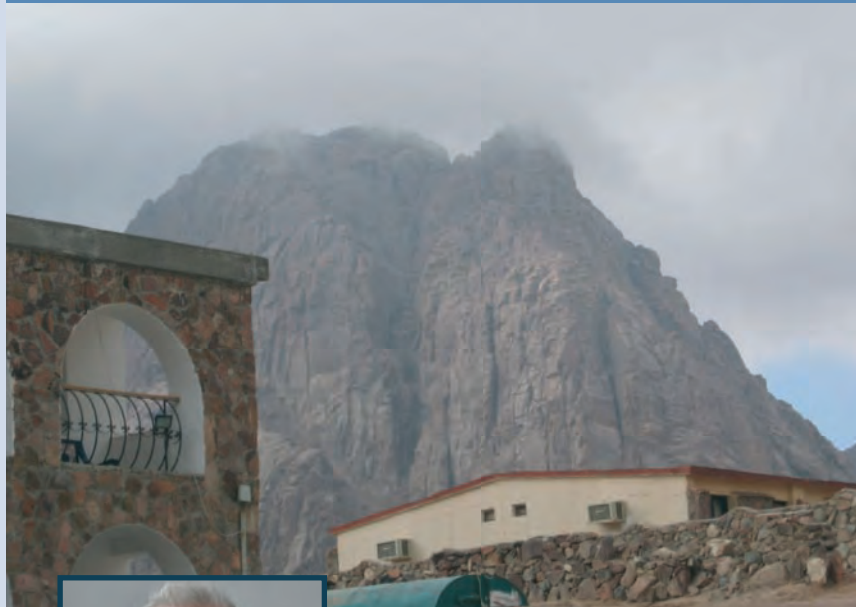




# The Torah

## 4 2day

by David Hayes



Torah 4 2day is based on *"The Character of Yahweh"* by Peter Warsop and *"Who Gave the Law"* by Chris Koster – articles written for *Ha'Shem* magazine over 20 years ago.

'Torah' is a Hebrew word usually translated 'law' or 'teaching'. The word from which it is derived is also translated as 'teach', 'shoot' or 'cast'. The purpose of Yahweh's law is to guide us to 'hit the mark' of righteous living and not miss the mark by sinning.

The Torah is often divided into three parts: the Moral law, the Ceremonial law and the Judicial law, and by considering the extent of that law we will see how Yahshua became its fulfilment.

### The Character of Yahweh

*"In the beginning Elohim...."*

Elohim, the almighty creator, is the source of all authority and government. We are all familiar with the Ten Commandments given by Yahweh on Mt. Sinai but even before that time these laws applied. From the beginning we find Yahweh ruling and judging according to **His own law.**

Isaiah 14:12-14 seems to give us a glimpse of the reason for Satan's fall. By wanting to make himself like the Most High he was breaking the commandment, "you shall not covet". Consequently he was judged by Yahweh and punished. This would suggest that there was always a law that covered both heavenly and earthly realms without which sin could not be defined (1 John 3:4).

*"For if [Elohim] did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others. . ." (2 Peter 2:4-5)*

We only read of one law being given to **Adam** and that was the command not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. However, when Cain killed his brother Abel he was considered to have sinned and was consequently judged and punished for this act of murder (Genesis 4:11-12). Obviously, murder was not acceptable and clearly broke a 'Moral Law' that was already in existence.

**Abraham**, who also lived before the Sinai Law was given, was commended because he *"...obeyed me and, kept my requirements, my commands, my decrees, and my laws."* (Genesis 26:4-5)

## Feature

### The Torah 4 2day

► So, when the Law was given at **Sinai** (Exodus 20), Yahweh was presenting a standard whereby He would judge the whole human race, a standard that had governed both Heaven and Earth from the beginning. If, in reading the Ten Commandments, we are conscious only of legalistic words, we completely miss the beauty of what was really taking place. Our Father Yahweh was introducing a nation to Himself. What was Yahweh like? Exodus 20 shows us His character forever and His desire was that Israel lived like He lives. Is that too much for a Father to ask of His son? That desire has not changed as the law has not changed.

When the words were spoken by Yahweh on Sinai the people fell back under conviction of sin (Exodus 20:18-19). Yahshua was a manifestation of the Word that was from the beginning (1 John 1:1) and the character of the Father was manifest in His Son. Because of this, when tempted to sin, He was able to say, "Get thee behind me, Satan..." He had Yahweh's character just as we see it in Exodus 20 and said, *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them"*

(Matthew 5:17). He not only fulfilled the 'Moral law' but He was the 'Moral law'. When He saw humanity struggling He said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10 NASB). **Abundant life is having the character of Yahweh.**

High Priest, who offered Himself as that ultimate sacrifice and, in so doing, fulfilled that 'Ceremonial law' (Colossians 2:14).

One day Yahshua will divide the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:32-46). Now the Son of Man has



Along with the 'Moral law' Yahweh also gave a 'Ceremonial law' involving priests and sacrifice. Every part of the book of Leviticus, with all its Ceremonial law, points to one supreme sacrifice: Yahshua, our

become the 'Judicial law'. He is the Judge who says either "...inherit the Kingdom..." or "...Depart from Me..." Yahshua fulfils the judicial law by judging all the earth in righteousness.

**If, in reading the Ten Commandments, we are conscious only of legalistic words, we completely miss the beauty of what was really taking place**



## The law reflects the nature and character of [Yahweh] just as surely as does the Gospel

Douglas Macmillan

### The Origin of the Torah

*"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."* (John 14:15 NASB)

This scripture would seem to confirm a common belief that the Old Testament Law (Torah), given to Moses in the wilderness, is now dead, having been superseded by the words

(commandments) that Yahshua spoke. But when we examine Yahshua's words we often find that, rather than destroying the commandments, He reinforces them.

When Yahshua was asked, *"Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"* His answer was, *"What is written in the Law? How do you read it?"* It would seem that He was directing the lawyer to consider the Torah as if it were still relevant. In answer the lawyer quoted Deuteronomy 6:5 saying, *"You shall love [Yahweh] your [Elohim] with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself."* (NASB) Yahshua accepted this answer and said, *"Do this, and you will live"* (Luke 10:25-29).

Far from being dead and superseded, Yahshua saw the Torah as relevant and a source of

**Yahshua saw the Torah as relevant and a source of life**

life directing the lawyer to put the Torah (that he already knew) into practice. This understanding is further enhanced when Yahshua said, in Matthew 5:18, *"I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished"*.

It is not surprising that Yahshua accepted the Torah as still relevant when we consider its origins.

1 Corinthians 10:3-4 states, *"They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that*

*accompanied them, and that rock was [Messiah]."*

The literal food and drink were, of course, the Manna and the water that came out of the rock when Moses struck it, but what Spiritual food was given to Israel in the wilderness?

Paul calls the law "Spiritual" (Romans 7:14) and it would seem that the only Spiritual food given to Israel was, indeed, the Torah.

This is confirmed in Nehemiah 9:20: *"You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst."* The Spiritual food was the Torah, given by

the Holy Spirit, and the Spiritual rock is the Messiah, also called the "Angel of Elohim" (Exodus 14:19). It is not surprising, therefore, that the words Yahshua spoke were in line with the Torah since they had the same source (John 14:24).

Acts 7:38 also gives an insight into the origin of the Torah: *"He was in the assembly in the desert, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers; and he received living words to pass on to us"*. Based on Yahshua's words in John 1:18 and 6:46, I believe this same angel is called the **"Elohim of Israel"** (Exodus 24:10-11). So, the same one who gave the Torah came in the authority of His Father, as His Spokesman or the 'Word of Yahweh'.

Yahshua, the Shepherd of Israel, is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He said, and is still saying, *"If you love me, keep my commandments"*. The Torah is not a dead list of rules but a manifestation of the Character of Yahweh, lived out by His Son Yahshua and delivered to us by His Holy Spirit.

The man who does not set himself under the law of Yahweh sets himself above it  
**John Blanchard**



**The Torah is not a dead list of rules but a manifestation of the Character of Yahweh**





# Revival Fires

What is revival? Martin Lloyd-Jones said, *"We can define it as a period of unusual blessing and activity in the life of the Christian Church. Revival means awakening, stimulating the life, bringing it to the surface again. The essence of a revival is that the Holy Spirit comes down upon a number of people together, upon a whole church, upon a number of churches, districts, or perhaps a whole country"*. Paul suggested, in Romans 11:15, that it is like 'life from the dead' or 'resurrection life'.



## Fires of the 19th and 20th Centuries

Throughout the history of the world revival fire has burned into the hearts of millions of people. Robert I. Bradshaw, writing in 'Bending the Church to Save the World'

wrote, *"Wales has seen the hand of [Yahweh] move powerfully in Revival many times. The last widespread revival in 1859 had brought 100,000 into the Kingdom."* During the mid- and late-twentieth Century Billy Graham spearheaded many world crusades where millions of people experienced Yahshua as Saviour. History has recorded many men and women who did mighty things for Yahweh. Men such as Smith Wigglesworth (1859–

1947), who is known as the apostle of faith, moved in mighty signs and wonders and even raised people from the dead! Amy Carmichael (1867–1951) rescued many lost children in India and gave them hope, and the list goes on. They were men and women denying themselves the pleasures of this world, choosing to die so that others could live. In the early '60s I was involved in a fellowship where revival fire was burning. I witnessed a revival of divine truth, as revelations concerning the personal Name of the Almighty, the relevance of keeping the Sabbath day and the Biblical Festivals were being unfolded. Through these times of refreshment many people came to know Yahshua as Saviour. These were times of revival fire, although on a small scale. But that was then, what about today?

**Men and women are still in need of a Saviour.**

If there was ever a time we need Revival Fire it is now. It is wonderful to read about great men in bygone days doing 'great things' for Yahweh. Today we are living in a 'fearless and Godless society'. Men and women are turning away from the principles and laws of Yahweh; principles that once formed the bedrock of our society. Is our society today any different now than in the days when revival storms hit the hills and valleys of Wales, creating a hurricane that affected the world? I say, "No". Sin is still the cancer that is eating away the values in our world. Men and women are still in need of a Saviour.

If Revival is 'life from the dead' or 'resurrection life', is the church sleeping or even dead – can the community of believers recapture the spirit of Pentecost? (Acts 2) We notice that, after much prayer and soul-searching, the disciples stood up as a united body and ministered a life-changing message; as a result thousands were added to the assembly. What followed was amazing – they lived out the message in their daily lives which then impacted others.

### Ingredients of Revival

I believe that, in order to experience such a move of the Spirit, we have to firstly acknowledge that Yahweh is the giver of revival. In Genesis 1:2 we read that "...the Spirit of [Elohim] was hovering over the waters." It is the Spirit of Yahweh who quickens the heart and mind of mankind. It would appear that revival is always preceded by 'heart-searching prayer and intercession'. Unity and obedience are key aspects of revival. The early Revivalists were obedient to the voice of Yahweh. Some fasted for days prior to the move of the Spirit, others denied themselves worldly pleasures. I, personally, do not think that the sacrifice is any less for us today if we sincerely want to see revival fire in our areas. Yahweh said, *"turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto [Yahweh] your [Elohim]: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth Him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him...?"* (Joel 2:12–14 KJV)

**Therefore, let us pray:**

**"Give me the Love  
that leads the way**

**The faith that nothing  
can dismay**

**The hope no  
disappointments tire**

**The passion that'll  
burn like fire**

**Let me not sink to be  
a clod**

**Make me Thy fuel,  
Flame of God"**

Amy Carmichael

Revival is always preceded by 'heart-searching  
prayer and intercession' >







# Gen-X Praise

Why do some people find it easy to voice their praise during worship while others dare not open their mouths for fear of...well...probably a number of reasons? (What would the results be if you conducted a survey in your local church, asking this very question?)



Is there such a thing as the 'Gift of Praise'; is it a divine gift given only to some people? There's an English saying, which refers to a person who

talks a lot: s/he has 'the *gift* of the gab'. Is the *gift* to do with voice and the ability to talk? If so, then most of us are blessed with this *gift*, to a lesser or greater degree.

I remember the story of the ten lepers whom Yahshua healed. He was amazed that only one returned to offer thanks. "Were not all ten cleansed?" He asked, "Where are the

other nine?" (Luke 17:11-19) It's likely that 'the nine' were also thankful but for some unknown reason didn't return to give thanks to the One who'd given them back their lives, and much more. Yahshua asked the crowd, "Was no one found to... give praise to [Elohim] except this foreigner?" (The one who returned was a Samaritan, suggesting the others, being Jewish, should've

known better.) Sometimes, giving praise or saying thanks is an act of the will. It takes effort. It's something the heavenly Father loves to hear from His children.

I've had the privilege of visiting Rwanda over a number of years. One of the things I love about the culture of this beautiful little country is the freedom Christians seem to have in their worship. They sing with open abandonment and aren't afraid to vocalise their praise...LOUDLY. I love it!

There is an assortment of words in Scripture denoting praise; one source has identified fifty-eight. I'm interested in seven ancient, Hebrew words which give a comprehensive view of biblical praise; words and definitions relevant to the believer then as now. Several years ago the late Lester B Anderson (LBA) wrote a series of articles entitled 'Principles of Praise' for HA'SHEM Magazine (Issues 15-20), in which he outlined the meanings of seven Hebrew 'praise' words, supporting his study with practical application and personal testimony. In my consideration of the same words I will be quoting from him as well as other sources. At the end I will share my view on a particular word I consider a challenge for our generation in the quest to experience 'highest praise'.

The Hebrew definitions for each word have been taken from Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (SEC).

**Barak** – “To kneel or to bow; to give reverence to [Elohim] as an act of adoration” (SEC 1288). It involves continually, consciously giving *place* to Yahweh, blessing Him, extolling His virtues; acknowledging Him as King and Mighty One. Psalm 103 tells us how to bless Yahweh, then goes on to list those blessings: loving-kindness, satisfaction, redemption, honour, renewal. We bless Yahweh by remembering all these. LBA wrote, “[Barak] implies an expectancy to receive; it does not mean we are to bow and to whine. It is just the opposite.

We are to rejoice in expectancy when we ask Him. In Philippians 4:6 we read, ‘Let your requests be made known unto [Yahweh] with thanksgiving.’ If we’re going to request with thanksgiving, we’ll simply be expressing the faith that He is going to do something about it. He WILL answer!

Our attitude is: ‘Thank you...no matter WHICH way You answer! If You say Yes! No! Later! I am thankful!’ “O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel (‘barak’) before [Yahweh] our maker.” (Psalm 95:6 KJV)

**Yadah** – A verb with a root meaning: “the extended hand, to throw out the hand, therefore to worship/revere with extended hand” (SEC 3034). This word suggests giving oneself in worship and adoration; lifting up your hands. It carries the meaning of absolute surrender. LBA wrote, “[Yadah] indicates something of power – the power of a person. For instance, when you throw something, you extend your hand in power. We don’t often think about that as a means of praise, but actually it can be. The opposite of this action is to bemoan and wring our hands. There is quite a difference in extending our hands in praise and worship, and wringing our hands in an attitude of bemoaning! Praise Him with your hands; throw out your hands; let your power be in



## Feature

your hands, in blessing and praising Him.” “Oh that men would praise (‘yadah’) [Yahweh] for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men.” (Psalm 107:15 KJV)

### Todah (or Towdah)

– From the same principle root word as ‘yadah’, it is more specific. It literally means: “an extension of the hand and, by implication, an avowal,



or (usually) adoration; in particular it means a choir of worshippers; making concession or giving a sacrifice of praise, or a thanksgiving offering” (SEC 8426). It is used for

**Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could shout loud enough to keep His praise ringing around the world, until the next generation will hear it, and they will be inspired to carry it on to the following**

thanking Yahweh for ‘things not yet received’ as well as things already in possession. LBA stated, “...in other words, there would have to be some

faith involved. If we give thanks for something that we don't see yet we are exercising faith! Hebrews 13:15 exhorts us to ‘...offer the sacrifice of praise to Yahweh continually...’ which doesn't leave us much choice! It's no sacrifice if we feel like it – is it? Yet when we don't feel like it and still praise Him, then it is a sacrifice...a very acceptable one.” “He who sacrifices thank-offerings (‘todah’) honours me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of [Elohim].” (Psalm 50:23)

**Hallel (or Halal)** – The expression ‘*halleluyah*’ comes from this. It means: “to be clear, to shine, to make a show, to glory in or boast upon, to rave about, to celebrate; be clamorously foolish” (SEC 1984).

When Israel took the ark back to Jerusalem, they did it with a lot of praising, shouting, singing and dancing. King David danced with passion. He was being *clamorously foolish*. His wife, Michal, despised him for it. Read his response to her in 2 Samuel 6:21-22. Every time we say ‘*halleluyah*’ in worship we are making a show, raving and celebrating with good cause:

Yahweh, through Yahshua, has saved us and made us whole. C S Lewis said: “Praise almost seems to be inner health made audible.” But

beware! Fears of looking foolish and of disapproval are serious hindrances to praise. “Let them praise (‘hallel’) his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.” (Psalm 149:3 KJV)

**Shabach** – This means to address “in a loud tone, a loud adoration, a shout, proclaiming with a loud voice (unashamed), to glory, triumph; power, a testimony of praise” (SEC 7623). It implies that testimony is praise. The phrase ‘shout unto the Lord’ can be understood as the action of ‘shabach’. It's not just being loud. You should have the attitude of putting your whole being into it, of being totally uninhibited. This has been my experience of worshippers in Rwanda. “One generation shall praise (‘shabach’) thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.” (Psalm 145:4 KJV) LBA wrote, “Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could shout loud enough to keep His praise ringing around the world, until the next generation will hear it, and they will be inspired to carry it on to the following generation.”

**Zamar** – “To pluck the strings of an instrument, to sing, to praise; a musical word which is largely involved with joyful expressions of music with musical instruments” (SEC 2167).

It carries the idea of making music in praise to Yahweh. “My heart is





fixed, O [Elohim], my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise ('zamar'). Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. I will praise thee, O [Elohim], among the ...nations. For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth to the clouds. Be thou exalted, O [Elohim], above the heavens: let thy glory be above all the earth." (Psalm 57:7-11 KJV) LBA explained, "When David said, 'My heart is fixed,' he meant that he had set his heart to praise Yahweh, and the statement indicates steadfastness. It is a challenge to us to set our hearts to praise Yahweh until the answer comes."



If we learn to praise Him with 'tehillah',  
it will bring us into His courts

**Tehillah** – “To sing hallel, a new song, a hymn of spontaneous praise glorifying Yahweh; to laud” (SEC 8416). ‘Tehillah’ indicates a spontaneous, new song; singing a melody in your heart and adding words to it. This refers to a special kind of singing – unprepared, unrehearsed. It’s the praise Yahweh inhabits. LBA wrote, “One example of this word is found in Psalm 100 and it occurs in the 4th and 5th verses: ‘Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For [Yahweh] is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endures to all generations.’ Enter into His gates with ‘tehillah’. This is the highest type of praise. It’s the kind of praise that is referred to as ‘the place where Yahweh dwells’. If we learn to praise Him with ‘tehillah’, it will bring us into His courts... Psalm 149 is a very interesting ‘tehillah’. Here the praises they utter make the saints strong to attack, to bind, to fetter and to execute judgement. It seems strange that praise can bring us into action...we can overcome the enemy!”

### Highest Praise

In 2 Chronicles 5:11-14 we find a beautiful scene demonstrating ‘highest praise’. When everything had been prepared, including the priests, who’d sanctified themselves, dressed in white, linen garments (symbolising righteousness), and when the Levites began to play and sing holy praise, the result was that Yahweh came down in all His glory, “...so that the priests could not stand to minister... for the glory of [Yahweh] had filled the house...” (KJV)

I once had a vision of Yahweh’s glory appearing and then seeming to ‘linger’ over the congregation where I was worshipping. This wasn’t some fantasy of my mind; my eyes were wide open.

As I sang and worshipped I kept my eyes on the divine imagery. I was fascinated that the ‘Glory’ didn’t appear at the front of the church, where it is habitually believed that this is where you feel the Holy Spirit the most, but Yahweh’s glory appeared at the back of the room! The thought came to me: those who think that sitting on the back row in church

will shield them from the intensity and impact of Yahweh’s presence were in for a surprise! Yahweh is omnipresent. Even in our church meeting halls, there’s no corner His presence doesn’t fill!

This is how I understand ‘tehillah’. It’s singing that is ‘unprepared, unrehearsed; singing from a melody in [my] heart and adding words to it.’ This kind of melodic praise meets a very deep need in me – the desire to get really close to my Father, to the exclusion of everything and everyone around me. I don’t need a dictionary of ‘praise’ terms from which to carefully choose the right words because when I’m in that Holy Spirit realm only language that extols my King will flood my mind; I just have to open my mouth and let it be expressed through my voice.

**I don’t need a dictionary of ‘praise’ terms from which to carefully choose the right words because when I’m in that Holy Spirit realm only language that extols my King will flood my mind**



When you sing 'tehillah' you cannot be afraid of your own voice! At the beginning I said some people dare not open their mouths in praise because of...? One reason could be a fear of hearing your own voice above everybody else's, feeling you're on your own expressing praise.

It takes courage to engage in this level of worship. 'Singing in the Spirit' (see 1 Corinthians 14:15) scares some people; mostly they're afraid of losing control. Yet, to experience 'highest praise' you have to forget about those around you, surrender your heart and voice to the Holy Spirit and let Him lead you. With both heart and brain engaged you will not 'lose control'. You are worshipping a divine Being of order (1 Corinthians 14:33).

*"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise ('tehillah'); give thanks to him and praise his name. For [Yahweh] is good and his*

*love endures for ever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."* (Psalm 100:4-5)

The words 'gates' and 'courts' indicate entering into a structure. When we 'enter' the Presence of the Holy One of Israel to worship, we cross the threshold of the 'gates' and 'courts': these can be an enclosure limited by four walls and a roof, or a wide open field. Wherever and whenever we worship we're **commanded** to 'enter' with praise and thankfulness, because He is good, His mercy is eternal and His truth is forever! The action of entering means I leave something outside; I consciously move into spheres of spiritual adulation. At any time, in any place, with open heart and *mouth*, I sing 'tehillah'. It's a wonderfully free and stimulating experience.

Finally, let me share with you LBA's experience of 'tehillah', while attending a worship service in Illinois, USA. He wrote in his article, "The people began to sing in other tongues and there were no accompanying instruments. The praises in tongues just seemed to lift us into higher and higher realms. Rarely have we experienced anything like it and an amazing thing happened to us. The whole congregation was probably singing for about half an hour and all at once, with one accord, everybody stopped. It really was a precious experience, we felt that we had been in that area of high praises."



To experience 'highest praise' you have to forget about those around you, surrender your heart and voice to the Holy Spirit and let Him lead you

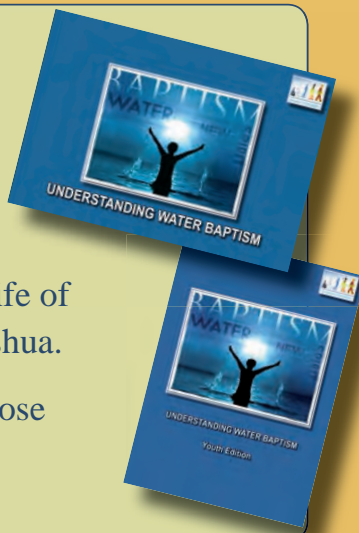


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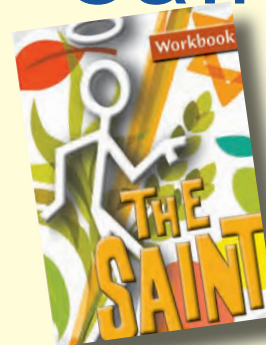
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