

Chesed – Enduring Love

Hope Burns Eternal...

Speaking of the millennial celebration of Shelters in the afterglow of the Day of Reconciliations, Yahowah tells those who have just broken His heart: **“And in that day will I make a *beryth* – covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds of the sky, and creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the earth, making them to lie down safely.”** (Howsha' / He Saves / Hosea 2:18)

Redemption is about peace, about bringing harmony back into the relationship. The Prince of Peace, the Ma'aseyah, will end man's propensity for war. This will occur in the Millennium—the seventh day, the one thousand year Sabbath that follows the Tribulation and the restoration of Yisra'el. Therefore, this prophecy pertains to the Ma'aseyah, complementing the opening of Yasha'yahuw / Isaiah 11 where we are told that as the result of a Nazarene from Jesse's lineage with the Spirit of Yahowah resting on Him, all on earth will live in peace.

The word translated “beasts” is *chayah*. It actually means: “to revive and make alive again, to give the promise of renewed life, to nourish, preserve, repair, and restore.” Field is *sadeh*, more correctly rendered: “pasture, or cultivated land where things grow.” Birds are depicted as angels, *owph*, “creatures with wings that can fly.” And the sky is as you would expect, *shamaym*, or “heaven.” The “creeping things of the ground” are really *remes adamah*, which means “animals that move about on earth.” It is a picture of God's ultimate renewal.

With the intermission over, Yahowah confirms that He is remarrying Yisra'el. And the wedding is replete with all of the trimmings. **“And I will betroth you unto Me forever; yes, I will marry you to Me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in unfailing kindness and devotion (*chesed* – loyal love, enduring kindness, steadfast affection, glory and favor), and in compassion (*rachamin* – mercy, implying relationship). I will even betroth you unto Me in trustworthy security (*emunah* – faithfulness, steadfastness, and truth). And you**

shall understand (*yada'* – know as the result of information, wisdom and skill in judgment, with a focus on relationship) **Yahowah** (kzk|).” (Howsha' / He Saves / Hosea 2:19-20)

After all of this it's hard to believe that the clerics and scholars, the pastors and priests, could be so cold and heartless, so callous. The verse actually ends with, “And you shall know Yahowah,” and yet in most every translation I own scholars etched out God's name and replaced it with *Ba'al*'s. I can only assume they knew one but not the other.

During the wedding celebration great songs will be sung...“**Come I Am's** (*ehayah*) **day or age** (*yowm*), **I will hear a melody** (*lanwt*), **Yahowah** (kzk|) **declares prophetically** (*na'um*), **a melody of the heavens and a melody the earth. And the earth's melody sings to the grain, the new wine, and the oil. And they shall hear the melody of Jezreel.**” (Howsha' / He Saves / Hosea 2:21-22)

This is a peek into our eternity. When we are with Yahowah we will sing songs in heaven and on earth, we'll sing songs of thankfulness for the harvest of souls, for the saving mercy of the new wine shed for us, and to the oil, to His Spirit that envelops in light so that we can soar with the heavenly messengers. Our moans of anguish at Jezreel / Vietnam/Iraq will be forgotten in this new chorus of hope.

The etymological meaning of Jezreel is “God shall sow.” Yahowah is promising a day in which: **“I will plant her for Myself in the land; and I will have abiding love for Not-Pitied; and I will say to them who were Not-My-People, You are my people; and they shall say, You are my God.”** (Howsha' / He Saves / Hosea 2:23) Halleluyah!

Returning to the tangible metaphor of marriage, divorce and reconciliation, Howsha' gets personal again and reveals the nature of God's relationship with Yisra'el: **“Then Yahowah** (kzk|) **said to me, Go out again** (*owd* – repetitiously and without ceasing) **and love a woman who loves someone else** (*rea* – another person, an enemy), **who is an unfaithful adulteress, and love her unconditionally** (*ahabah*) **according to the love of Yahowah** (kzk|) **toward the children of Yisra'el, who approached other gods, and loved compressed raisin cakes.**” (Howsha' / He Saves / Hosea 3:1)

Yahowah is asking Howsha' to unconditionally love his unfaithful harlot of a wife, who is sleeping with his enemy, so that He can demonstrate the nature of His affection for the undeserving and idolatrous people of Yisra'el. The cakes of dried wine were used in the ritual rites of *Ba'al* worship.

Gomer, however, was now owned by the temple priests of *Ba'al*. **“So I**

bartered (*karah* – traded, exchanged money and bought) **her for me for fifteen pieces of silver and fifteen bushels of barley. I said unto her, ‘You shall live** (*yasab* – dwell, endure, stay) **with me many days** (*rab yowm* – an exceedingly long time). **You shall no longer be an unfaithful prostitute, and you shall have no other man; for I am indeed tying old and new together and expressing a relational agreement** (*gam*) **with regard to and concerning you** (*‘el*).” (Howsha’ / He Saves / Hosea 3:2-3)

According to historians, this bartered fee was the going rate at the time to buy someone out of slavery so as to offer them their freedom. It is a lovely picture of our salvation as we are “bought,” literally redeemed, from the marketplace of sin. And it’s interesting that the thirty cumulative units of silver and barley is equivalent to the thirty pieces of silver for which Judas betrayed Yahowsha’.

And while I’m not wise enough to properly convey the full import of the last sentence, I can tell you that preceding, “for I am indeed tying old and new together and expressing a relational agreement with you,” is *lo ehayah ish*. We know that *ehayah* means “I Am.” It’s the definition of Yahowah’s name, the name God gave to Moseh. And we know that *ish* can mean “one who exists,” and thus be a confirmation of His name. It can mean “human male,” as in Yahowah’s manifestation as the Ma’aseyah. And *ish* can mean “husband” a definition that would be consistent with this marriage metaphor and with the nature of the Covenant relationship. Since *lo’* serves as a form of negation, meaning “no or not,” Yahowah could be saying: “Have no other Gods, Ma’aseyahs, or Husbands because I am tying everything together—old and new shall be one.”

Whether *ish* designates God as Yahowah, Yahowsha’, Husband, or all of the above, the paragraph summarizes the magnanimous nature of His love as it painfully transitions from the covenant to its ultimate renewal. After creating us, and providing for us, we went our own way. We not only rejected God, but we aligned ourselves with evil. So Yahowah, by way of example, provided a way back home. He called it *Beryth*. He formed a Covenant with Abraham and set him apart as a paradigm for us to emulate. Failing at that, Yahowah reached out again and redeemed Abraham’s descendants from slavery.

Yet now, after centuries of revelation, prophecy and pleading, His people remained aloof. Righteous and just, God did the only thing He could do. He divorced Himself from us. Yet this didn’t stop Him from loving us, even in spite of what we had become—what we had done. So Yahowah manifest Himself as Yahowsha’ to tangibly demonstrate His love. The Ma’aseyah was and is the Groom. His wedding gift is salvation. He bought it Himself. Once again we had been purchased and paid for—redeemed. All would be forgiven if we would just forsake relations with Lord-*Ba’al* and return home. But alas, Yahowah knew that we would remain whores—slaves to our fleshy desires and pride. And yet He

stood, and still stands, at the door to our wedding festival, speaking loving words to our hearts, hoping that we will hear Him and return.

Yes, God knew what we would do. He told us so...**“For the children of Yisra’el shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim. Afterward shall the children of Yisra’el return, and seek the LORD their God, and Dowd their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.”** (Howsha’ / He Saves / Hosea 3:4-5)

Before we can seek Him we need to know His name. The problem lies in the translation. We have been seeking the LORD, making *Ba’al*/Satan/Halal our God. And in keeping with the LORD’s nature and desire, the translators want us to fear him. That way they can be assured that there will be no marriage—for no bride chooses to marry a tyrant.

So that the Groom might be known and so that the wedding might take place, let’s correct the record and return Yahowah’s prophetic announcement to its intended state. **“Children of Yisra’el, you will remain captive and in wait for a very, very long period of time (*yasab sidown rabah yowm*) without a king (*melek* – a social, spiritual, military, or governmental ruler), or Prince (*sarar* – the same word Isaiah uses in 9:6 to describe the Ma’aseyah), without sacrifice (*zebah* – without atonement because the Temple would soon be destroyed) and the memorial stone (*masebah* – representing the memorial of Yahowah’s name and the memorial etched in stone, the Ten Statements, both presented in Exodus), without linen vestment (*ephod* – the garment worn by the priests which in Judges 8:27 was corrupted when “all Yisra’el played the harlot” with *Ba’al* symbolized by “crescent moon ornaments”) and false gods (*terapim* – common household idols).**

Afterwards (*achar* – in another time), children of Yisra’el, you shall return and believe (*sub* - turn around, change, and be restored) and seek (*baqas* – learn about and diligently procure information regarding) Yahowah (*kzk|*), the Mighty One (*’elohym* – God) of King Dowd, and shall stand in awe before (*pachad* – tremble in respect) Yahowah’s (*kzk|*) goodness (*tub* - beneficial qualities, abundance, beauty, fairness, and joy) in the last days (*acharit yowm* – end times and final period).” (Howsha’ / He Saves / Hosea 3:4-5)

Now that we’ve analyzed every nuance, let’s refine Yahowah’s prophetic announcement back down to its core: **“Children of Yisra’el, you will remain captives for a very long time without king or Ma’aseyah, without atoning sacrifice or the memorial of My name or terms and conditions, without your corrupt religious symbols or false gods. Afterwards, children of Yisra’el, you shall return, change your attitude, and be restored, believing, seeking, and**

diligently learning about Yahowah, the God of King Dowd, and shall stand in awe before Yahowah’s goodness, abundance, beauty, fairness, and joy in the last days.” That’s the whole story; it’s what did happen and what will happen. It’s the what, why, and when of Yahowah’s plan.

In the opening stanza of the fourth chapter, Yahowah explains why He was required to file for divorce. **“Listen to (*shama*’ – hear and pay attention to) the word (*dabar* – message, communication, account, treatise, record, formal and systematic statement) of Yahowah (kzk|), children of Yisra’el (*beny Yisra’el* – children who choose to engage and endure with God), for Yahowah (kzk|) has a dispute (*rib* – quarrel, plea, accusation, legal case) against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no trustworthiness (*emeth* – truth, faithfulness, righteousness, or loyalty) no devotion (*chesed* – love, kindness, mercy, or steadfastness in relationship), no understanding (*da’at* – wisdom or knowledge) of God in the land.”** (Howsha’ / He Saves / Hosea 4:1) This accounting of accusations hits pretty close to home. Is America, the world at large, or the Christian Church any better?

By providing us with a copy of His case against Yisra’el, Yahowah is telling us what He finds objectionable. And by introducing the list with an admonition, God is telling us how to avoid prosecution.

There are three things listed among the annoyances: one is of the mind, one of the heart, and the third is a marriage of both. But ultimately, the grievances are derivatives of “not knowing or understanding God.” He is the source of wisdom. When we know Him, He helps us understand Him better. That is the purpose of His Spirit and His Word. When we know and understand Him we will exude His qualities: truth, faithfulness, righteousness, trustworthiness, loyalty, love, kindness, devotion, mercy, and steadfastness in relationships. It’s pretty simple, really.

But when the relationship with God is severed, when we are oblivious, willfully ignorant of His teachings, chaos results: **“By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood touches blood.”** (Howsha’ / He Saves / Hosea 4:2) This list of grievances is important as they formed the basis of the legal proceeding. It shouldn’t be a surprise then, that they are directly related to the Ten Statements.

’Alah, the Hebrew word translated “swearing,” is considerably more telling—especially in this context of Scriptural ignorance, religious deception, and preferring *Ba’al* to Yahowah. Beyond its obvious similarity to the Islamic god, *’alah* means “to utter a curse” and “to speak words harmful to God.” *’Alah* literally defines Satan, because the Hebrew word means “accursed—that which has been damned.” Further, *’Alah* “binds by way of an oath;” troublesome in this

setting because Gomer and Yisra'el tied themselves to Lord-Ba'al. In keeping with the terror that awaited the unfaithful Jews, 'alah means: "to mourn, to lament, to wail, howl, and shriek," for which there would be No-Pity. 'Alah is "a curse." The word is consistent with Lord-Hayal-Ba'al's inadequacies because it means: "unable and unfit." As a false god, no matter how loudly or often one swore, 'Alah was "not capable of properly performing any worthy task." To say 'alah was to "invoke spiritual harm by way of retribution." As such, the word was prophetic.

Kahash, the Hebrew word translated "lying," is also revealing, especially in a religious discussion. It means: "to deceive by telling lies rather than the truth and to act deceptively." To *kahash* is to: "distort reality, to create a delusion, to promote an errant opinion." Keeping within the religious context, *kahash* means: "to bow down in submission." It means "to cower in fear rather than out of respect," and "to having been beguiled into an unworthy relationship as a direct result of having been deceived." *Kahash* means: "to fail and to disown, to no longer be in association with someone so as to be unfaithful." A *kahash* person is: "deceitful, unreliable, and untruthful in rebellion and stubbornness."

Ratsach, the Hebrew word translated "killing," more correctly means "murdering." *Ganab*, the Hebrew word translated "stealing," means just that. To *ganab* is to be a thief, to take without permission by stealth or force." It can also mean "to kidnap and ransom." Sadly, to *ganab* also means "to enslave." The word is a perfect match for Muhammad's proclamation: "War is deception," for it means to "secretly sneak around so as to purposely mislead and surprise a foe." *Ganab* also means: "to steal the heart of a victim who has demonstrated a certain willingness to be deceived."

Naaph, means to "commit adultery." But it can also mean "to be unfaithful spiritually."

Parats is the Hebrew word translated "they break out" above. *Parats* is actually much more sinister. It means: "to violently break down and to destroy." A *parats* is a terrorist: "being hostile, operating in opposition, harming and killing others while destroying property." These terrorists "spread out and invade other regions." They "speak in a way that encourages destructive and harmful behavior from others." To *parats* is to "rebel against authority" as in to rebel against Yahowah.

The final phrase, translated "blood touches blood," is *dam naga dam*. *Dam* is "blood," but it also denotes the "violent shedding of blood." *Dam* is used to convey "killing and murder, the slaughter of innocents, and bloodguilt for having done something wrong." *Naga*, the Hebrew word connecting this bloodshed, means "to make contact in order to damage, to strike violently. *Nagas* means "to

inflict pain and to afflict with a disease.” It means “to be plagued so as to level and destroy.”

It’s interesting, although not comforting, that this list of horrific grievances directed at the attitudes and behaviors inspired by the religion of *Ba’al* is a perfect match for Islamic attitudes and behaviors today. That strongly suggests that the religions, gods, and prophets are the same. There is nothing new *under the sun*. Only the names have changed: Yahowah versus Lord-*Ba’al* is now Yahowah versus Allah-Halal.

The problem is, and always has been—religion. Religions are manmade constructs designed to elevate and enrich clerics at the expense of the masses. Yahowah hates them as much as he despises those who preach and promote such deceptions. In *Qara’ / Leviticus 19* we read: **“You shall be set-apart (*qodesh*), for I, Yahowah (יהוה), your God, am set apart (*qodesh*).”** To be set-apart is to be removed from the poison of false teachings – particularly political and religious mantras. **“Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves molten gods.”**

In *Qara’ / Called Out 20*, Yahowah continues with this theme: **“Say to the sons of Yisra’el, ‘Any Yisra’elite or Gentile sojourning in Yisra’el who gives any of his offspring to Moloch [another name for *Ba’al*-like sun god], shall surely be put to death.’ The people of the land shall stone him. I will also remove My presence from that man and will cut him off from among his people because he has given some of his offspring to Moloch, so as to defile My sanctuary and to profane My set apart name.”** This is what the world is doing everyday—turning children over to false teachings and false gods.

Yahowah is warning us against tolerance and appeasement: **“If the people of the land, however, should ever disregard that man when he gives any of his offspring to Molech, so as not to put him to death, then I Myself will set My face against that man and against his family. I will cut off from among their people both him and all those who follow him, by serving false gods, turning to mediums and to spiritualists. You should keep yourselves separate therefore.”**

Continuing to denounce the religion of *Ba’al* in Leviticus, and preach intolerance, Yahowah says: **“Moreover, you shall not follow the customs of the nation which I shall drive out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I have abhorred them.”** **“I am Yahowah, your God, who has separated you from these peoples.”** **“Thus you are to be set apart to Me, for I Am Yahowah, Set Apart, and I have set you apart from the people to be Mine. As for a man or a woman, if there is a medium or a spiritualist among them, they shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned because their blood guilt is upon them.”** It’s safe to say, it’s unsafe to be religious. The one

thing Yahowah can't tolerate is tolerance.

According to Yahowah, the congregation's fate and that of their priests is linked. This is what God had to say following his listing of *Ba'alism*/Islamic atrocities: **“Therefore as a result, the land shall dry up, and every one that dwells therein shall languish** (*amal* – be weak-willed, indecisive, pine away in sorrow, be faint and wither) **with their livestock...and harvest taken away. Yet do not blame other men, because the people are to blame just as much as the insulting priests** (*kahan* – cleric, one who dresses in religious garb and performs religious rites and rituals). **Therefore you shall fall** (*kashal* – stumble, falter, stagger, be brought down, be overthrown, and fail) **in the day, and the preacher** (*naby* – prophet, one who proclaims the message of a god or God) **shall also fall with you in the night, and I will destroy your mother.”** (Howsha' / He Saves / Hosea 4:3-5)

Since the people were as corrupt as their clerics, God told the Yisra'elites, and us through them, that no one was in a position to point fingers. The destiny of the deceived would be the same as that of those who deceived them.

This linkage between cleric and congregation is at the root of the church's problem today. The religious establishment knows better. Clerics realize that it is Yahowah not Lord, Yahowsha' not Jesus, Ma'aseyah not Christ, Tabernacles not Christmas, Passover not Easter, Reconciliations not Thanksgiving, Trumpets not Halloween, the Sabbath not Sunday, the Torah, Prophets, and Psalms not the Bible, a Covenant not Old and New Testaments, a calling out, not church, and a relationship not religion. But to say so would make their congregations uncomfortable, sparse, and stingy so they promote these deceptions as if they were true. They tell their flock what they want to hear because they know people flock toward those who do. So everyone is equally complicit, equally guilty, and equally damned.

Yahowah's next line summarizes Yisra'el's situation and the predicament of religious Jews, Christians, and Muslims...

“My people (*'am*) **are completely destroyed and they will perish** (*damah* – they are cut off and will cease to exist (niphil perfect – telling us that the people have actively participated in their own absolute demise)) **because of** (*min* – from) **a lack of understanding** (*bely* – corrupted information, inadequate knowledge, and deficient discernment).

Indeed because (*ky*) **you** (*'atah*) **have totally avoided and rejected** (*ma'as* – spurned and despised, literally refused and disdained (qal perfect – revealing that the avoidance was complete and the rejection was literal)) **knowledge and understanding** (*da'at* – information and discernment), **so then** (*wa*) **I will consistently reject you and avoid you** (*ma'as* – I will actually disassociate from

you and will rebuff you (qal imperfect)) **from serving as priests and ministers** (*kahan* – from acting as counselors and clerics) **on My behalf** (*la* – for Me). **Since** (*wa*) **you have continually ignored** (*shakah* – you have consistently overlooked and literally forgotten, you have lost sight of the significance of and responded improperly to (qal imperfect waw consecutive)) **the Towrah of your God** (*Towrah* ‘*elohym* – Your God’s Torah Instruction and Teaching, Your God’s Source of Guidance and Direction; derived from: *tow* – God’s signed, written, and enduring, *towrah* – way of treating people, *tuwr* – giving us the means to explore, to seek, to find, and to choose, *yarah* – the source of instruction, teaching, guidance, and direction that flows from God, which *tuwb* – provides answers to facilitate our restoration and return, even our response and reply to that which is *towb* – good, pleasing, beneficial, favorable, healing, and right, and that which causes us to be loved, to become acceptable, and to endure, *tahowr* and *tohorah* – purifying and cleansing us, thereby *towr* – providing us with the opportunity to change our attitude, thinking, and direction toward God), **I also** (‘*any gam*) **will consistently ignore your children** (*shakah ben* – I will overlook your sons, forget about your children, and view them as worthless).

So as (*ka*) **they grew and became more powerful** (*rabab* – they became more numerous and influential), **so much the more** (*ken*) **they missed the way** (*chata’* – they sinned, retreated, and went in the wrong direction). **They exchanged** (*muwr* – substituted) **their reputation and reward** (*kabowd* – their honor and respect, their glorious manifestation of power, status, and forthcoming abundance) **for** (*ba*) **shame** (*qalown* – dishonor and disgrace, ignominy and infamy).” (Howsha’ / He Saves / Hosea 4:6)

There are few passages as important as this one. “My people” refers primarily to Yisra’el and to the *Yahuwdym*, but perhaps also to the *Ekklesia*. Most religious people are ignorant and irrational relative to Yahowah’s Word, and in particular His Towrah – Teaching. They are no longer engaged in the mission of observing, responding to, exemplifying, capitalizing upon, or proclaiming the Word of God because they don’t know it. Having separated themselves from Yahowah, from the source of life, teaching, and truth, they have exchanged the shame of religion for the status of a relationship. People’s lack of knowledge has diminished their understanding, which in turn has destroyed any opportunity they would otherwise have to engage in the Covenant.

So here’s something to ponder: since God’s people are destroyed for lack of understanding His Towrah and a failure to participate in His Covenant relationship, the corollary must be true. God’s people are saved by coming to understand His *Towrah* and by engaging in the Covenant relationship. That being the case, your decision to study His *Towrah* will determine your fate. Moreover, your commitment to draw closer to Him through carefully observing His *Towrah*,

will prepare you to become an effective example and a truthful witness engaged in the mission of saving souls. Since those who are ignorant and independent cease to be worthy, those who are prepared and betrothed become Yahowah's instruments of enlightenment and salvation. That means we work directly with God.

The justification for and the net effect of this divine pronouncement is the same for the Jews as it is for anyone else, only the time of implementation differs. Abraham's descendants, the *Yahuwdym*, had served as Yahowah's official spokespeople for 1400 years. For Yisra'el, representing ten of the twelve tribes, that was almost over. Yisra'el would endure an unpleasant 2,700-year cessation of duties. *Yahuwdah* / Judea, however, would remain engaged another 700 years, delivering prophets and Ma'aseyah. But they too would falter for lack of knowledge, prompting an intermission Howsha' predicted would last two thousand years.

Continuing to focus on what is easily one of the most important passages in Scripture, Yahowah just told us that if people observed the *Towrah*, they would not be ignorant. If people knew Yahowah, they would not perish.

To understand, a person must first observe the evidence and then consider it, exercising good judgment to think about what they have learned. The reason that this process is important is because according to God, ignorance and destruction are related. Those who don't know cease to exist. Therefore, existence is predicated upon knowing Yahowah.

Also interesting here is that "*bely* – understanding" contemplates the contribution "inadequate knowledge," "corrupted information," and "deficient discernment" play in our "lack of understanding." Religion, which is corrupted information, is made possible because of a lack of knowledge. Those who know the *Towrah* are not fooled by these frauds.

The second clause of this verse is a *quid pro quo* directed at those who would claim to be God's ministers. It says that since they don't know Him, they won't be used by Him. God is thereby calling priests, pastors, and religious ministers "frauds." Those who claim to know Him and to serve Him, do not and are not. For someone to be useful to God, they must first know God.

Reading this out of context, Christians have seen this as their opportunity. But the possibility of the Christian Church replacing Yisra'el is dashed based upon what follows. More even than Jews, Gentiles, and especially Christians, have disavowed Yahowah's *Towrah* at Paul's urging.

I find it fascinating to note that all too few people have been willing to listen to Yahowah's prophets. While Yirmayahuw, Zakaryahuw ("Remember Yah"),

and Mala'ky ("Messenger") followed Howsha', Yahowah ultimately had to do the job Himself. Yahowsha' therefore entered our world as an expression of Yahowah's *Towrah*.

In this light the third stanza of Howsha' 4:6 becomes particularly revealing. The *Towrah*, like Yahowsha', was begotten by Yahowah. As the offspring of God, they represent Yahowah. Yahowsha' is the Word in the flesh – the corporeal manifestation of the *Towrah*. God came to express Himself directly because most everyone disqualified themselves through ignorance from serving Him appropriately in this way.

If a person chooses to avoid the *Towrah*, they will inevitably instruct their children to do the same. Therefore, the offspring of religious Jews, Christians, and Muslims will be unknown to God.

Honestly, the larger human institutions grow, the worse they become. It is the same with nations as it is with religions. They not only feed upon the people's wickedness, the leaders of such institutions are all too often motivated by little more than influence, sex, power, and money. And so it is with the cleric, so it is with those he has conned. That is why Yahowah said...

“So as (*ka*) they grew and became more powerful (*rabab* – they became more numerous and influential), so much the more (*ken*) they missed the way (*chata'* – they sinned, retreated, and went in the wrong direction). They exchanged (*muwr* – substituted) their reputation and reward (*kabowd* – their honor and respect, their glorious manifestation of power, status, and forthcoming abundance) for (*ba*) shame (*qalown* – dishonor and disgrace, ignominy and infamy).” (Howsha' / He Saves / Hosea 4:7)

By recognizing that *rabab* serves as the basis of *rabbi*, this becomes funny in a sad sort of way: “As they became rabbis, all the more they went astray.” But such is the case with every religion. People go along to get along. They assume that their religion is right because so many people believe it. But the truth has never been popular. And for all of human history deceptions have held sway.

This passage presents an ironic twist. As people grow in stature, they recede from God. The more people move in one direction, the more likely it is that they are all headed the wrong way. The more people strive to be influential, the more insignificant they become. They have substituted transitory wealth for an eternal reward, and have exchanged the illusion of power for its genuine manifestation.

Speaking of the Devil's advocates, the Lord's representatives, the disenfranchised ministers, Yahowah revealed: **“They feed upon (*'akal*) the wrongdoing and sin offerings (*chata't* – the iniquity and propitiations, the errant ways and misguided beliefs) of My people (*'am* – My family). And so (*wa*)**

therefore (*'el* – accordingly), **their perverse distortions** (*'awon / 'aown* – their errant perversions and corruptions, their tendency to twist and distort) **carry away and beguile** (*nasa'* – sweep away, deceive, and indebt) **their souls** (*nepesh*).” (Howsha' / He Saves / Hosea 4:8)

This is true both literally and symbolically. If not for people's individual and collective sense of guilt and implied hellish consequence, religions wouldn't exist. They prey on people's fear of the unknown, on their fear of punishment. And as a result, they devour believers' money by promising their victims that their donations will somehow illicit favor from God. But in the end, the very corruptions and distortions which enriched these clerics, consumed their souls.

Most religions prosper using this strategy. Islam, because it's so similar to *Ba'alism*, is the most overt. If a man becomes an animalistic jihadist, according to the cleric, the terrorist's injustice leads to the sexual indulgence of the flesh in Allah's brothel. Imams, placating fleshy desires, preach the Qur'anic perversion: lying, stealing, enslaving, raping, and killing are good. Communists promote and exalt men, lifting up man to the status of god. Taught Darwinism instead of the Scriptures, men become animals. And this new animal becomes wicked. Their ministers named Stalin, Hitler, and Mao, move their societies toward hell on earth. The Church has been more subtle, more hypocritical. The Roman Catholic Church fed upon man's animalistic nature, the desires of the masses, because they prospered as a result. The Church sold indulgences. They consumed the sins of the people because people paid to have their sins forgiven. And lest we forget, the Protestant Church was born in adultery. Today, pastors play to their congregation's emotions, hoping that they feel good enough about the watered down and ignorant sermon to come back again and fill their coffers.

“And so (*wa*) **it will come to be** (*hayah* – it was, is, and will be) **as with** (*ka*) **the people** (*ha 'am*) **so as with** (*ka*) **the priest** (*kohen* – the minister and cleric). **I will record and consider** (*wa paqad* – I will impute and reckon) **against them** (*'al*) **their ways** (*derek* – their conduct and way of life). **And** (*wa*) **their deeds and practices** (*ma'alal* – their actions and activities), **I will turn upon them** (*suwb la* – I will return to them, paying them back for what they have done).” (Howsha' / He Saves / Hosea 4:9)

From God's perspective, the “blame the pastor for misleading me” alibi will not work. Every religious person will be held accountable for what they have done. And that is because at the very least, believers have given priests the pretence of credibility by participating in their religion, and most have corrupted their children by encouraging them to follow their example. So in the end, a person's religious practices will be held against them. Rather than endearing a soul to God, such activities will convict them of infidelity. And while that isn't a crime in courtrooms established by men, it is a capital offence with God.

The *quid pro quo* of this message is a killer. Because Jews and Gentiles have disassociated themselves from Yahowah, either by ignoring Him or by replacing Him with a god conceived by men, they have been spurned by our Maker and have been crippled spiritually. Oblivious, they have been forgotten. Despicable, they have been rejected.

It is Divine justice, but it is also deadly. And people have no one to blame but themselves. The truth was available, but most chose to ignore it. Yahowah stood at the door and called us home, but too few have paid attention. Most have not even bothered to ask the suitor His name. They don't even know the name of the door (*Pesach*). They have spurned Him and ignored it, separating themselves from God. So, He left them to flounder about with our lords and their religions.

That means that the religious clerics draped in robes, the rabbis, the priests, and the pastors, the imams and monks, must be serving another spirit—the Lord's, perhaps. It is then little wonder that they revel in Satan's Sun-day, the Devil's conception and birthday, his rites and rituals. It is little wonder then that Lord has replaced Yahowah, Jesus has replaced Yahowsha', Christ has replaced Ma'aseyah, and Church has replaced the Calling Out based upon the *Miqra'ey* in the written and spoken word of the religions that have replaced relationships.

Here is the result: **“They shall commit prostitution, and shall not increase, because they have separated themselves, no longer heeding Yahowah. Unfaithful and intoxicated, the new wine is taken away from the soul.”** (Howsha' / He Saves / Hosea 4:10-11)

Relationship makes us more like God. Religion makes us more like men. Priests and pastors commit acts of pedophilia and prostitution and so do the people. The people promote ignorant deceptions and so do the priests and pastors. The priests and pastors preach in the Lord's name and so the people act as if Satan owned them.

Through amplification we discover that, “It shall be,” is *hayah*, the root and meaning of Yahowah's name. This introduction gives this passage added credibility and significance. It's like saying “I Am, but they are not.” It's a positioning thing: Yahowah is on one side of the colon, the people and their priests are on the other.

The Hebrew word used for “people” is *'am*, meaning “family, kin, and relatives” in addition to “nation, people, assembly, followers or congregation.” It is a very inclusive word and that's not good in this context. *Kohen*, the word translated “priest,” is an official cleric or minister. A *kohen* “performs religious rites and rituals.” *Kohen*, like *'am*, is agnostic. The people and their priests can serve Yahowah or *Ba'al*. They can be good or bad, in relationship or religious.

In this prophetic verse, God is making it clear that the fate of cleric and congregation are linked: “like people, like priest.” Yahowah says of us collectively that He will *paqad* – “count, inventory, take stock of, record, and summon” our *derek* – “ways, paths, routes, way of life, conduct, and habits” and *shub* – “repay them, reward them, turn us away based upon” or *maalil* – “that which we have done, or evil deeds and conduct.”

Yahowah explains that neither pastor nor people will ever be nourished—no matter how much garbage they consume. They will *'akal* – “eat and consume things, they will taste sensations and spend valuables” but they will never *saba* – “be satisfied, be content, have enough, or be confident.” *Saba* also infers “a state of disorientation and confusion over events past, present and future.” Then God says that His people and their priests will engage in *zanah* – “prostitution, exchanging sexual favors for money, be unfaithful, unprincipled, unreliable, and promiscuous, abandoning the covenant.” Yet in spite of this union and love fest with Satan, false gods, false partners, and false teachings, the people and their priests will *parats* – “break down, be destroyed, break away and be released in their hostility, opposition, and murder.”

Then Yahowah explains why: *Ken* – “Indeed, surely, truly, by way of emphasis to bring your attention to and thereby strengthen this statement, as a result of this case there is a causal link, because” they *'azab* – “abandoned, rejected, deserted, separated themselves from, forsook, neglected, departed from and stayed away from” *shamar* – “observing the instructions of” Yahowah.” It was all about *'azab*. The clerics and their congregations, the priests and their people abandoned God so therefore, and as a direct result, God forsook them.

Yahowah has but three potential responses to *'azab*—two of which run contrary to His nature. God can be aloof and unconcerned, but as such He could not be loving. God could be capricious, but that would make Him unjust. Or God could be as He has depicted Himself here: He could make us aware of what He is like and what He wants. He could know what we are doing and saying, and warn us about the consequences. He could give us what we deserve.

Zenut – ‘unfaithful, immoral, prostitutes” *yayn* – “intoxicated, drunk to the point of being poisoned and sick,” the *yaras tyros* – “new wine, the best and blessed wine,” the wine that is symbolically used in the Miqra’ey sacrifices to designate blood atonement, is *yaqah* – “taken away, grasped and seized, carrying away” *leb* – “the heart, soul, spirit, mind, source of life, feelings, thoughts, understanding, and hope.”

Still speaking to the Jewish environmentalists of the day, those who worshiped nature as if the created were the Creator, and who as libertines were promoting their perverted sexual preferences, Yahowah says: **“My people consult with the trees and their branches speak to them. The spirit of prostitution, idolatry and illegitimacy have caused them to err** (*ta’ah* – “to wanted, to go astray, to stagger and deceive oneself, to mislead, to hold an erroneous view and false belief which needs to be corrected, to be in rebellion, living in sin and engaged in deception, to exchange opinions for truth) **and they have gone into pimping, soliciting bribes and favors for their gods.”** (Howsha’ / He Saves / Hosea 4:12)

Three of my favorite Divine attributes are displayed in this sentence. God understands human nature. Nothing we do surprises Him. Unimpaired by time, He knows our past and sees how it relates to our present and future. And He is bold and blunt when it comes to exposing deceptions.

Satanic sun god cults worshiped nature the same way liberal, socialist, secular humanist environmentalists do today. They are in touch with nature, listening to and caring for the trees. The earth reveals its concerns to them as opposed to revealing God’s nature. Such idolatry is illegitimate, elevating the created over the Creator. These zealots err. And as secular professors, liberal pastors, politically correct media spokespeople, and compassionate politicians, they deceive themselves and mislead others. These humanists would have you believe that opinions are entitlements, that truth is relative, that perceptions are reality, that tolerance is a virtue, and that morality is situational. Having elevated themselves and their elitist ideals, having become religious in their fanaticism, they have become little more than pimps, soliciting on behalf of their rebellion. They want to establish the moral standards, they want control over life and death, and they want absolute power—the right to impose their will and judgment on others. They covet that which is God’s.

“They worship and make sacrifices on the summits of mountains and burn incense on the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because their shadow (*tsef* – their interposing blocks the source of light) **is deemed good.”** (Howsha’ / He Saves / Hosea 4:13) Those who promote evil and who are evil always hide from the light. No false prophet can endure scrutiny and no false religion can survive exposure. We can protect our children from these things by shining Yahowah’s Scriptural light on them.

“I will not visit or care for your daughters or wives when they are unfaithful and immoral for they are separated (*parad* – divided, severed, in a different relationship, broken, and dispersed) **with unfaithful, immoral, and**

unreliable prostitutes, offering sacrifices to temple priests. People (*'am* – families, kin, relatives, nations, groups, associations, congregations, and followers) **without comprehension** (*byn* – consideration and understanding; teaching, instruction, information, and discernment; knowledge and wisdom imparted; perception and realization of truth, thinking and distinguishing, pondering and processing evidence so as to respond appropriately) **come to ruin** (*labat* – live their personal lives in chaos and are destroyed).” (Howsha’ / He Saves / Hosea 4:14)

This verse is an explanation of Howsha’s message, and in truth, a summation of the Scriptural message. God does not associate Himself with those who separate themselves from Him. If you choose the company of immoral, unfaithful, and unreliable people and participate in their religious rites, you will spend your eternity with them and not with God. And “But I didn’t know any better” won’t work as an excuse. Ignorance is the cause of separation, not the remedy. As such, Howsha’s message needs to be nailed to every church door and to the entrance of every public building.

It bears repeating: **“People, families, nations, congregations, and followers without comprehension and consideration, without teaching, instruction, information, and discernment, without knowledge and wisdom being imparted to them, without perception and understanding, who do not think and distinguish between truth and deception, pondering and processing the evidence so as to respond appropriately, come to ruin, living their personal lives in chaos so that they are ultimately destroyed.”**

This is why God said: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge and understanding.” It is why He revealed: “And I will not love, show affection, have mercy on, demonstrate compassion or pity for her children; for they are the children of fornication, prostitution, adultery, idolatry, and illicit relationships with false deities.” Ignorance is a choice, not an excuse. Infidelity is the result. Eternal separation from God is the consequence.

The Hebrew word *qadesh*, translated “temple priests” in the first half of the passage above, contains the key to understanding Satan’s schemes. It is a slight variation of *qodesh*, meaning set apart—the word Yahowah uses to describe His Spirit, His people and His plan. A *qadesh* is “a quasi-sacred person, a male devotee to licentious idolatry, an unclean sodomite.” A *qadesh* man is often a false teacher, prophet, politician, or preacher, set apart working clandestinely for Satan. They present themselves as “holy” and their rituals “sacred,” but the object of their worship is as unworthy, as immoral, as unreliable, and as unfaithful as they are. Many were prostitutes and pimps pandering for their religious dogmas, political doctrines and lascivious agendas. Most were either homosexual or bisexual.

This is the way Satan battles Yahowah for men's souls. He focuses on the flesh as opposed to the spirit and corrupts through counterfeiting and sanctification. *Qadesh* is a corrupted counterfeit of *qodesh* that men "sanctified" for religious purposes. It's like the Roman Catholic Church sanctifying the Satanic sun god festivals of Sun-day, the winter solstice and the spring equinox, and calling them "Christian." It's like incorporating the Devil's night, "all hollow's eve," into a religious celebration in which children dress as witches and recite "trick or treat"—*bribe me with candy or I'll deceptively attack you.*

For a religion or doctrine to be believable, it has to incorporate a nugget of truth which can then be twisted to serve the deceiver. Hitler and Stalin called it "propaganda." It's the art of deceiving using half truths.

This twisting lies at the core of Islam. Muhammad began with biblical characters and bastardized their message to serve his agenda—one perfectly compatible with *Ba'al*. The Roman Catholic Church was conceived on the concepts of counterfeit and sanctification. The resulting religion became an ideal platform for clerics and kings to subject the masses to their indoctrination and tyranny. Secular humanists twist reality and truth using revisionist history and relativism. Each doctrine, coveting control, indoctrinates the ignorant with a whitewashing and plastering over of the truth.

"Though you, Yisra'el, are immoral, unfaithful, and unreliable, let not Judah (*Yahuwdah* – those who Relate to Yah and are Related to Yah) be declared guilty (*asham* – become liable for wrongdoing, offend, violate the standard, sin). Do not come to Gilgal, neither go up to Bethaven, nor make sworn promises to do something (*shaba* – swear oaths, take an oath, adjure, threaten penalties or sanctions, bind or command anyone). Yahowah lives." (Howsha' / He Saves / Hosea 4:15)

While the Northern Kingdom, called Yisra'el or Ephraim, is a lost cause, Judah isn't—at least not yet. So Yahowah is pleading with them not to violate the terms and conditions of the Covenant so as to become liable and declared guilty. He doesn't want *Yahuwdah* making the same kind of false promises their unfaithful brethren had made. He didn't want them to be religious. In fact the word "religion" means to "re-bind"—the very thing Yahowah didn't want done. Religions are the sworn oaths of men, commandments which bind men by threatening penalties and sanctions. That is why Yahowah ends His plea with such utter and profound simplicity: "Yahowah lives." Once we come to know this, understand this, respond appropriately to this, we are saved and religions are doomed.

By referencing the towns of Gilgal and Bethaven, Yahowah underscored His anti-religious message: "Gilgal" means "circle"—the word which shares the same

root as “church.” Both are derived from “Circe,” the daughter of the sun god Helios. Circles, like halos, represent the sun and sun worship. Gilgal had a circle of stones—a meager version of Stonehenge—where elitists engaged in cult worship not unlike America’s Skull and Bone crypt at Yale. A quarter of a mile from Jericho, it became the religious and political center of the tribe of Benjamin—the smallish clan associated with Judah. The Yisra’elites confirmed kingship on Saul there and it was at Gilgal that his authority was taken away as a result of his separation from Yahowah.

“Bethaven” is from *beth*, meaning house, and *aven*, meaning “trouble, sorrow, wickedness, affliction, distress, evil, falsehood, harm, idols, iniquity, misfortune, vanity, and sorrow.” It literally defines Satan’s agenda, his methods and nature.

“Indeed (*ky* – surely and truly) **Yisra’el is as stubborn** (*sarar* – defiant, obstinate, rebellious, unwilling to change) **as an obstinate bull. So, as a result,** (*atah* – at a point in time, so then, in the sequential relationship of the narrative, what comes next is the focus of and the logical consequence of the speaker) **Yahowah** (kzk|) **will be their companion** (*ra’ah* – be a friend, build a harmonious relationship based upon common interests, be an attendant of the groom at a wedding) **as a male lamb** (*kebes* – a ceremonially clean and perfect sacrificial lamb) **in limitless space, comfort, safety and freedom.”** (Howsha’ / He Saves / Hosea 4:16)

Yahowah had done everything imaginable for His people. He had formed a personal relationship with them, loved them, lavished gifts on them, freed them, given them their nation, their land, and their mission. Yet in rebellion they choose to offer his bounty to *Ba’al*. No quantity of prophets, no amount of warnings, no measure of pleadings were sufficient to change their thinking or their behavior. They did not respond to the soft touch of their Husband’s caress or the tough love of their Father’s correction. They weren’t just obstinate, they were as rebellious as Halal—represented by the bull.

So, in the ultimate contrast, Yahowah tells the bull that He will become a lamb. On one side of the equation you have rebellion; on the other side relationship. This is *‘azab* and *beryth*. It is good vs. evil. It is light triumphing over darkness, judgment turned to salvation, death redeemed to life. From God’s perspective it’s the perfect response. He is telling Yisra’el that as a result of them separating themselves from Him and linking their spirit to Satan, He is going to do the logical thing: save them. And so, in the relative sequence of events as outlined by His prophets, Yahowah became the perfect sacrificial lamb so as to rebuild a harmonious relationship, rescue, free and comfort His people. The Ma’aseyah would serve as the ultimate attendant of the Groom at the wedding ceremony.

“Ephraim [the Northern Kingdom] is allied (*hitchabrut* – joined to, in union with) **idols** (*atsab* – religious images, false gods, objects of worship). **Let him rest** (*munach* – have an intermission, a time out, a period to settle down at the edge of the ark). Their wine and spirits are unacceptable (*suwr* – rejected, turned away, cause them to be forsaken and cut off). **They have been continually unfaithful, immoral, and unreliable. Their rulers love** (*‘ahab* – have an affection for, like and desire, focus on and prefer) **shame** (*qalown* – insults, verbal scorn and slander, dishonor, scandals, infamy, personal notoriety, their own reputation and fame). **The Spirit/wind has wrapped/bound Ephraim up in His/his wings. And they shall feel ashamed** (*bowsh* – have a feeling of emotional distress over the loss of hope, despair as a result of having committed a serious sin), **because of their sacrifices.”** (Howsha’ / He Saves / Hosea 4:17-19)

The word for rulers, *magen*, carries some interesting baggage with it. The world means “puny shield”—a relatively worthless protector. A *magen* is “insolent (presumptuous, ill-mannered, rude, audacious, disrespectful), acting with hubris (excessive pride) and haughtiness.” This sounds like today’s politicians, especially when one connects *magen* with *qalown*—“the insulting, scornful slanderers who prefer scandals and personal notoriety.”

The reason that I have left “Spirit/wind,” “wrapped/bound” and “His/his” undetermined is because the Hebrew root of spirit and wind is the same—*ruwcha*. A wind, especially a circular whirlwind from the desert, is symbolic of Satan’s spirit. In this case, Halal would have bound Ephraim in his grasp trying to deceive and destroy him. But *ruwcha* is often used in reference to Yahowah, signifying His Spirit and the Breathe of Life. In this case His Spirit would have wrapped Ephraim in His wings trying to enlighten and save him. These concepts represent *‘azab* and *beryth*. This is *Ba’al* verses Yahowah. So the question is, in whose grasp are we?

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