

“Choose Ye This Day Whom You Will Serve...”

YHVH’s Plan for Your Life

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A Question Each Person Has to Answer

EVERY PERSON ALIVE HAS TO MAKE A CHOICE. What will be the most important thing in his or her life? Your life is like a house. You must decide upon which spiritual foundation you will build your spiritual house.

Yeshua, the One sent from heaven, spoke of two types of people: wise men and fools. All humans are either one or the other. Of course, no one wants to be a fool. No one would admit to being a fool unless he was crazy. No man thinks he is a fool. But you and I have no say in determining who is a fool or a wise man; YHVH, the Creator of the universe will decide this at his end-time judgment seat. All humans will eventually stand before Judge Elohim in his Supreme Court of the Universe. There he will judge whether you and I were fools or wise men during our physical lives. According to Scripture, fools will burn in the lake of fire while the wise will live forever in the New Jerusalem.

How do we know who is a fool and who is not? Yeshua told us so in Matthew 7:24–27.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

One who hears and practices the teachings of Yeshua is a wise man. He said that those who love him will keep or obey his commands (John 14:15), and those who follow the commands or instructions of Scripture (or the Torah) would have the greatest rewards in his spiritual kingdom (Matt 5:19). Are you a wise person or a fool?

“But my religion doesn’t teach about the Torah,” you might say. “That was for the Jews, I’m a Christian, a New Covenant believer—I don’t need any of God’s laws.” Or maybe you don’t even believe in the God of the Bible or the religion of the Bible. Well, let’s see if your religion lines up with truth or not.

What Is Religion?

When you think of religion what comes to your mind? The word religion comes from two Latin words (*re* and *ligio*) meaning “to tie or bind again.” We are all tied to something. Whatever is that which is the most important thing in our life is that which binds or ties us. It may be money, having fun, gaining knowledge, seeking power, seeking human recognition or fame, false religion, an addiction of one kind or another, sensual pleasure, or love of self. The Bible summarizes all these things under three categories: the world, the flesh and the devil. These are the things that bind or control what we do, say and think.

But some people have rejected fleshly and worldly pursuits and have already turned toward religion. They have become bound again, but to something else. This can be a good or bad thing. If people bind themselves to a Christian religious system, church, denomination or a religious leader, this is bad. If they bind themselves to follow and obey the God of the Bible and determine to follow his instructions in righteousness, this is good. To do so is to follow a path that leads to love, joy, peace and eternal life in his spiritual kingdom as members of his spiritual family.

But Which Religion???

But what if you're a seeker of some deeper meaning in life, but you're not sure if the religion of the Bible is for you or not? What do you do then?

When talking about religion, there are many choices. How do we know which religion is the correct one? To the Western mindset religion is something involving

- a system of ethics—do's and don'ts
- a code of conduct
- an ideology or creed
- rituals and ceremonies
- somewhere you go, something you do

From the biblical perspective, however, religion is defined

- more by what and who you are, rather than by what you do,
- as a daily journey or pilgrimage toward YHVH Elohim, the Creator—the God of the Bible,
- as a way to think, live and walk,
- as a having a loving, friendship relationship with YHVH and with those who love and follow him,
- and as code of conduct that helps man to orient every thought, word, and action toward YHVH so that he will learn to love YHVH with his whole heart, mind and strength, and his neighbor as himself.

How Do We Know That the Religion of the Bible Is the Right One?

There are many religions in the world. Many do not follow the Bible. Maybe one of them is the correct one. They all promise to connect you to a god of some sort or the other. All promise immortal life. Here are some fundamental differences between the religion of the Bible and all other world religions:

- All non-biblical religions are works-based; that is, one earns one's salvation by being good—at the end of one's life one's good deeds will hopefully outweigh one's bad deeds and one will then gain God's acceptance into the next world. The Bible teaches, on the other hand, that man's good works cannot ever be good enough for him to earn his way into favor with God (YHVH). To gain entrance into "the next world," one must first accept the fact that God exists, and that he has righteous standards or a code of moral and spiritual conduct, that we have broken his code or law making us guilty as sinners before YHVH and are therefore worthy of death. Each man must then acknowledge his sin (which is breaking the laws of Elohim, see 1 John 3:4) and repent or turn away from that sin. In faith, one must then trust in and obey YHVH. Therefore, the Bible teaches that to gain God's acceptance we must have faith in him. The results of that faith are works of righteousness, but our works cannot gain us salvation.
- Only the Bible reveals a God who does not change. He has an absolute set of laws and standards of conduct.
- Only the Bible reveals a God who is personal and knowable.
- Only the Bible reveals a God whose prime attribute is love.
- Only in the Bible do we see a God who reveals himself to humans. At times, he even talked to them face-to-face.
- Only the Bible deals with the sinfulness or corruptness of the human heart—the sin nature or evil inclination and the penalty of that sin, which is death.
- Only the Bible proposes a solution and offers salvation from the consequences of sin.
- Only the God of the Bible sent a Redeemer (who would pay the death penalty for man's sins), and who was the Son of Elohim. He showed man how to be redeemed.
- Only in the Bible did the main "hero" claim to be deity, predict his death and his resurrection from the grave thus proving his claim to have power over sin, death and the grave.
- Only in the Bible do we find prophecies that predict future events thousands of years in advance.

All Must Make a Choice

All humans must choose a path of life to follow. There are many possible choices and many different paths. All these different paths DO NOT lead to the same place! The path you choose to follow will determine the foundation upon which you will build the house of your life. The choice you make will also determine whether you are a fool or wise man. The way of the fool leads to spiritual and eternal death, while the way of the wise man leads to spiritual and eternal life. The Bible and common sense reveal that there are only two paths for man to choose—one that leads upward, and one that leads downward. They are:

- YHVH or the devil
- right or wrong
- light or darkness
- straight and narrow or the crooked and wide path
- heaven or hell
- a YHVH-centered or a man-centered (humanism) life
- life or death

Each person must choose which path he or she will follow. To defer choice or to not choose is to choose death!! YHVH instructs us to choose life!

Spiritual Delusion Complicates the Choice

We live in a time of great spiritual delusion. Scripture prophesies that in the end times the truth of the Bible would be in direct conflict with other “truths” (Matt 24:4–5,11; 2 Thess 2:8–12; 1 Tim 4:1–2; 2 Pet 2:1–22; Jude 4–24). As there are 360 degrees on a compass, yet only one that points to true north, there are many spiritual directions, but there is only one truth that points to the Creator, and that truth is revealed in the Bible. There are “other gospels” out there and deceiving demonic spirits that would lead men to follow those false “truths” (2 Cor 11:4). Satan, the god of this world, comes as an angel of light masquerading in religious form (2 Cor 11:13–15) seeking whom he may devour spiritually (1 Pet 5:8).

Afoot on the earth today, there is a religious movement to blend the religions of the world together in the belief that all religious paths lead to the same God. It is true that they all lead to the same god, but it is not to the God of the Bible!

Where Are YOU in All of This?

Will you choose to obey the God (whose name is YHVH Elohim) of the Bible and endure, overcome, stay the course, stay faithful through all that the world, the flesh and the devil has to throw at you? Will you build the foundation of your spiritual house on the truth of the Bible—a solid foundation, or on the following weak foundations:

- money (It’s here today, gone tomorrow; it won’t buy happiness, and it won’t get you into the next world.)
- sex and sensual pleasure (The pleasures of sin are short-lived and transitory, promiscuity and perversion brings misery, disease and death.)
- the pursuit of knowledge through education (The gaining of knowledge through educational pursuits will swell your head, but it will never satisfy the longings of your heart and bring you closer to the truth of YHVH.)
- materialism (The acquisition of material possessions never satisfies the longing of the heart to be loved and to know truth, for man always wants more—the more we have the more we will want.)
- drugs and alcohol (This is a bottomless pit that leads to death; it’s the devil’s way of knocking you off at a young age.)
- false religions and false religious leaders such as Buddha, Krishna, Mohammed, Confucius, Lucifer, Satan, Mother Earth, Gaia, Sophia, some religious cult leader (Beware of false prophets and religious deceivers!)
- trust in self (Most people make themselves—what they think and feel—into their own god. Man has been looking to himself for the answers to his problems for 6000 years and look where it has gotten him! The world is no better a place for it!)

Build Your Spiritual House on the Foundation of Truth

If you want to be certain that you're building your house on a solid spiritual foundation, then build it on the very words that came from the mouth of YHVH Elohim. Build it on the TORAH! These are the instructions, teachings and precepts of YHVH as found in the first five books of YHVH's Word, the Bible.

Are you going to build the foundation of your spiritual house on the words of men, or Elohim? If men, then which men will you choose? Who has the truth? Who will become your "god"? Around whom will you center your life? To whom will you look for the answers? Who will guide you through life when the going gets rough?

Everyone has a "god"—either a god made of their own mind and hands or the "God" of the universe who created you and made you in his image.

The Bible says that at the beginning Elohim made man in his own image (Gen 1:27), not in the image of another man or an ape. He gave man a purpose for living and gave him some basic instructions on how to live (Gen 2:15–24).

At the beginning, the devil or serpent, the enemy of Elohim and man, was there to deceive man into rebelling against Elohim (Gen 3:1–5). Man's struggle to choose between following good or evil had just begun.

A few men chose to obey Elohim's instructions and to walk with him. Some of these men were Enoch (Gen 5:22), Noah (Gen 6:9) who was a preacher of righteousness (2 Pet 2:5), and Abraham who followed YHVH's instructions in righteousness or the Torah (Gen 26:5).

Later on, YHVH Elohim gave his Torah (instructions on how to live a righteous life) to a whole group of people called the Children of Israel. How did he convey his instructions to them? The Bible records that he literally spoke them out with an audible voice for all to hear (Exod 20:1–21). He later wrote them down with his very own finger on two tablets of stone (Exod 24:12). These words become the guiding light and truth that the people of the Bible were to follow. Of YHVH's Torah, the Bible says the following,

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Ps 119:105)

For the commandment is a lamp; and the Torah is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life. (Prov 6:23)

Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy Torah is the truth. (Ps 119:142)

Thou art near, O YHVH; and all thy commandments are truth. (Ps 119:151)

What Is Truth?

Yeshua, the One sent to this earth from Elohim in heaven, says in John 17:17, "Thy [Elohim's] Word is truth." In Matthew 4:4 Yeshua said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Elohim."

Again, what is truth? The word in Hebrew for truth is *emet* (spelled *aleph, mem, tav*), which is comprised of the first, middle and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Truth embodies everything from the beginning to the very end of YHVH's Word (literally, his Torah or the first five books of the Bible, and secondarily, the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation).

Interestingly, Scripture calls Yeshua the beginning and the end of our faith (Heb 12:2), and likens him metaphorically to *alpha* and *omega* (Rev 1:8,11; 21:6; 22:13), which are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. These letters corresponds in symbolic meaning to the *aleph* and *tav*, which are the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

In Hebrew thought, truth consists of all of the Word of Elohim from the first letter in the Hebrew alphabet to the last letter. This same idea is picked up by the Jewish writers of the Apostolic Scriptures or New Testament and applied to Yeshua who was the Word of Elohim sent to humanity in human form. As the human embodiment of the divine Word of Elohim he was referred to as the *alpha* and *omega*, or in Hebrew thought, the *aleph* and the *tav*. We see this idea expressed in John 1:1–5 and 14 where it says of Yeshua,

In the beginning was the Word [Torah], and the Word was with Elohim, and the Word was Elohim.

The same was in the beginning with Elohim. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.... And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.

Yeshua Is Truth

Scripture reveals that Yeshua the Messiah sent from heaven was the physical embodiment of spiritual truth. He said that he was the way, the truth and the life, and that no one comes to the Father in heaven except through him (John 14:6). We also learn that the Word of Elohim was made flesh and dwelt among men, and that he was the spiritual light of truth shining into the spiritual darkness of this world, and that those who would follow him would not walk in darkness or confusion (John 1:7; 8:12).

In Genesis 1:3, we read that the earth in its pre-created state was in total darkness. Elohim's first creative act was to introduce light into that physical darkness. When we compare Genesis 1:1–3 and John 1:1–14, we see a parallel between the physical creation and the spiritual creation. This is a deep study and we have expounded on this elsewhere, but suffice it to say, at the beginning as the light was the first thing Elohim created and with it he pierced the darkness covering this planet, so Yeshua was the first born Son of Elohim whom he sent to this earth to be spiritual light to men who were lost in spiritual darkness (John 3:16).

For Elohim so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ... And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in Elohim. (John 3:16,19–21)

It's Time to Make the Right Choice

There are only two spiritual paths or two choices. All men are on one path or the other:

1. The spiritual path that leads toward YHVH/Truth/Light/Torah/Yeshua/life/eternal life/relationship with YHVH.
2. The spiritual path away from YHVH that leads to darkness/sin/death/hell/separation from YHVH Elohim.

Which path will you choose? Upon which foundation will you build your spiritual house? Everyone has to choose. To not choose is to choose darkness and death. To defer choosing is like playing the game of Russian roulette—one is gambling with one's life. You may not live until tomorrow. Today is the day to make the choice to follow Elohim. You might not live to see tomorrow. You're only guaranteed this moment NOW! Do not delay.

The choice men have to make between following YHVH/light/truth/relationship with your Heavenly Father or choosing death/darkness/separation from Elohim is symbolized by the two trees in the Garden of Eden. Man had to choose to love and serve Elohim and live forever, or love and serve the world, the flesh and the devil and then die forever. To make the world, the flesh and the devil number one in your life is to choose the path of rebellion, sin, darkness, curses, and separation from Elohim.

Few men choose one hundred percent darkness or evil. Satan usually offers man a little of each—a little good with the evil. There is just enough good to make man feel better about doing evil and this helps man to salve his guilty conscience.

Man has only two choices. He can play by YHVH's rules or make up his own rules as he goes along. He can choose to live by YHVH's instructions and guidelines (the Torah) and be blessed, or disobey them and be cursed.

But no matter what, all men have to choose whom they will follow, and who and what they follow will either lead them to eternal life or eternal death. So **CHOOSE YE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL FOLLOW!!** Be like Joshua, a righteous servant of YHVH, who proclaimed long ago,

“Now therefore fear YHVH, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye YHVH. And if it seem evil unto you to serve YHVH, **choose you this day whom ye will serve**; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve YHVH.” (Josh 24:14–15)

Choose to have faith and believe in Yeshua, the Living Torah-Word of Elohim made flesh, who is the spiritual Light of the world and the way that leads to the Father in heaven and eternal life. He said that all those who love

him would keep his commands or his instructions in righteousness, which is the Written Torah (John 14:15). Great blessings and rewards await those who make the correct choice!

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matt 5:19)

But as it is written, “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which Elohim hath prepared for them that love him.” (1 Cor 2:9)

How Do We Live the Torah of Elohim?

There is only one way that we can follow YHVH's instructions in righteousness—the Torah, and that is by the supernatural help of Yeshua, the Living Torah, living inside of our hearts and minds by the power of the Holy or Set-Apart Spirit of Elohim. Through a spiritual loving relationship with the Living Torah/Yeshua the Messiah, the force and power of YHVH's Torah-Truth, Torah-Light, Torah-righteousness and divine enablement (grace), Yeshua will live in us and guide us in the paths of righteousness that lead to blessings.

How does this occur?

- First, we have to believe that YHVH Elohim is the Creator of the universe, that he has laws and standards by which he expects men to live, and that those who do not follow his instructions will be punished—they will die forever.
- Second, we have to repent (be sorry for) of our sins, which is the violation of Elohim's Torah or instructions in righteousness, and then be willing to turn away from darkness and an anti-Torah life-style and heart attitude.
- Third, we must put our faith in Yeshua the Messiah who died to pay the price for our sins. We must confess him with our mouth as our Master and Savior.
- Finally, we then show that he is the Lord of our lives by loving him and keeping his Torah-commandments as he instructed us to.

Yeshua, the One sent from heaven to show man the way to eternal life, said,

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. [Yeshua is referring to false religious systems that will damn a person, instead of blessing them!] Ye shall know them by their fruits. [Do men love Elohim and keep his Torah commands, which are the fruits or evidence of righteous living?] Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. [On the day of judgment, many will think that they were following Elohim, but because they were not obeying his Torah commands, YHVH will dismiss them as wicked and unrighteous.] Many will say to me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?” And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity [literally, Torahlessness]. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. (Matt 7:15–24)

So build your house on the Rock that is the Torah-Word of YHVH Elohim (both the written Torah-teachings and instructions in righteousness of YHVH Elohim—the first five books of Moses in the Bible, and Yeshua the Living Torah-Word of YHVH Elohim that was made flesh). Do this and you will inherit eternal life and a place of honor in YHVH's heavenly kingdom. Remember what Yeshua said in Matthew 5:19,

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

