

STANDING WHEN MANY ARE RETIRING

While we are rejoicing over many people in these last days who are searching for truth and taking hold of some of the forgotten building stones of the Word of Yahweh with everything in their power, it is most tragic that we should hear about believers who have come to taste and experience something of this truth, only, after a while, to turn their backs on it altogether and return to where they had been before. There may be various reasons why some believers change their minds and retire back to more comfortable and popular zones of belief, even with the knowledge that these zones of belief are not entirely true to the words and the message found in Scriptures. It is extremely important for those who have come to call on the Name of Yahweh and experience the joy of keeping the Shabbat and the Scriptural feasts and discover the unity and the combined importance of the Pre-messianic and Messianic Scriptures, to know exactly why they have chosen this path and what it is that makes their belief different from what they have believed before. It is important because there are many people on the outside, criticising, twisting and even making a mockery of the things that we believe and hold as precious. If we are not prepared for this and if we are not certain about the facts, the criticism and the objections from those on the outside may prove to be overwhelming and devastating - even to the point of forcing us to change our minds and return to a "milder" and more acceptable form of worship. Let us look at some of the criticisms that are thrown in against us (and against others with similar convictions) and let us determine whether these criticisms are valid, justified and truthful.

The primary concern of this movement is the written and oral use of the Names (of the Father and the Son).

Answer: Our primary concern is restoring the forgotten and neglected truths of the Word of Yahweh of which the omission and ignorance about the Name above all names, is extremely important.

There is a stubborn insistence among these people only to use the Hebrew Names (of the Father and the Son).

Answer: We call on people everywhere (not stubbornly insist) to take notice of the fact that Yahweh has revealed his Name throughout Scriptures, that this Name was called upon by our forerunners in the faith and that this Name (like every other name) does not change from one language to another, because it has a clear and definite meaning.

These people claim that there is no salvation for anyone who does not use the Hebrew Name of the Almighty.

Answer: We are not the judges of which ones will receive salvation, but we know this that Scriptures clearly reveal that those who call upon the Name of Yahweh will be saved (Yahuél / Joel 2:32; Zechariah / Zechariah 13:9; Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:13).

The adherents of this movement cannot agree among themselves about the correct Names for the Father and the Son.

Answer: While this is true, it is no reason to refrain from using the Names at all. The fact that some churches disagree about the correct practice of baptism does not permit or compel these churches to do away with the practice of baptism altogether.

They claim that the Bible is a corrupted document and that it needs to be corrected by those who have seen the truth.

Answer: As the Word of Yahweh there is nothing inherently corrupt about the Scriptures. There are, however, certain errors that had crept into modern day translations of these Scriptures, due to factors like scribal errors, multiple versions of the same original text and subtle changes to certain texts, introduced for doctrinal reasons. The single most important corruption of many modern day translations is the blatant omission of the Name of Yahweh in almost 7000 places in the Pre-messianic Scriptures and its being substituted with word "Lord" (or a similar translation, depending the language being used).

The adherents of this movement make the false claim that the New Testament was originally written in the Hebrew language.

Answer: Historical facts (like references in some of the writings of the early "church fathers" to the Hebrew gospel of Matthew and the relatively late origin of the Greek manuscripts available), the use of Greek words and expressions that are typically Hebrew, within the text of the "New Testament" and the Hebrew background of almost every single writer (and the original readers) of the books of the "New Testament" seem to indicate that there is at least a strong possibility that many, if not all, of these books had originally been written in Hebrew. It is, however, not possible to be certain about this - nor is it essential, in order to prove the point that the Name of Yahweh, the keeping of the Shabbat and other typical "Hebrew" customs, were still very much in use during the life and times of the Messiah, and even so, after his death and resurrection.

The people belonging to this movement are limiting the power and sovereignty of the Almighty and they are conveniently forgetting that (a) many people in the past have been saved without ever hearing about these things; (b) many people in the present choose not to join this "movement" but are nevertheless very serious about the Word and (c) many people will still be saved in future, based only upon their acceptance of a verse like Romans 10:13: "Whoever shall call on the L... shall be saved" (verse quoted directly from a video entitled "False teachings of the Sacred Name Movement", available on the internet).

Answer: Yahweh will remain the powerful and sovereign Creator and Provider of heaven and earth, no matter what we do or say. We, as his people, are called to follow his words as closely as possible, and we are not to look for reasons why we do not have to obey his words. Look at the subtle lies or half truths in each one of the three arguments used above: (a) Quite true, but Scriptures also teach: Now that you know the truth, do not turn your back on it; (b) How can one be serious about the Word and, simultaneously, unwilling to become more obedient to the Word? (c) Romans 10:13 does not say "Whoever shall call on the L... shall be saved" - it says (in the King James Version): "Whoever shall call on the Name of the L... shall be saved" and without a doubt this is a quote from Yahuél (Joel) 2:32 which reads: "Whoever shall call on the Name of Yahweh shall be saved."

Let us not be deceived by the subtle half-truths and superficial arguments used by the opponents of what we have come to know as the truth of Yahweh's Word. They will do everything in their power to ridicule and stigmatise anything that is foreign to their own beliefs and understand very little about the very real change that these truths can bring about in the life of an ordinary human being.