

*DID YAHSHUA  
DIE ON A  
CROSS?*





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*Compliments of*

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*"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price,"* Isa. 55:1.

*"...freely ye have received, freely give,"* Mat. 10:8.

# DID YAHSHUA DIE ON A CROSS?

*The cross is an instrument and tool of modern day Christianity, yet do they fully understand its true meaning? Do we, in the assemblies, who look on with a mixed bag of humor and disgust at their use and adoration of the cross, truly understand the meaning of the cross? Most of us have been led to deny the cross as Yahshua's death instrument. Did Yahshua die on a cross? Did you know that our own bodies will testify the truth to us? Let's trace it out to see what the truth of the matter is.*

*By Jerry Healan*

I came in contact with the Worldwide Church of God around the age of twenty six (1969-1970) and continued with that group until early 1988. They taught that the Savior didn't really die on a cross, but on an upright pole with His hands nailed directly over His head, not out on a crossbeam. When I came into the truth about the Sacred Names, many of their beliefs had been heavily influenced by the teachings of the Worldwide Church of God and the understanding about the cross remained the same. We always referred to Yahshua's death instrument as the pole, the stake, the tree, but not the cross.

The primary reasoning for this teaching is three-fold. Number one, Christianity was in so much error in almost everything that they believed. They taught that the law was done away, but never considered that sin is the transgression of the law (1 Jn. 3:4). If the law is done away, then there would be no sin. If there was or is no sin, then there is no need for a Savior. Primarily, the commandments declare what sin is, so once forgiven of our sins, then we must walk in the commandments, no longer living in sin.

Number two, the second commandment forbids us to make images of anything in heaven above, in the earth

beneath, or in the waters below the earth. We are not to bow before nor worship them as seen in classic Christianity (Ex. 20:4-6). Christianity flaunts this commandment grievously, especially when it comes to the cross. They display it everywhere outside and inside their churches, high in the air on top of steeples, at their doors, on their altars, in many windows, wear it around their necks on their bracelets, etc., etc.

Number three, the cross was utilized in paganism and could be found in many of their ancient temples. It also was one of the identifying factors of the pagan god Tammuz. Thus, it was easy to justify leaving the cross behind.

The teaching in Worldwide and also in most of the assemblies was that the Greek word for cross is *stauros*, which means a stake or upright pole (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*). To us, it became almost a shame to mention the word cross. We were led to utilize tree, pole, stake, etc., in lieu of cross.

The problem that we had in Worldwide was that they had three colleges where the ministry was trained. Their information was supposedly airtight since the Herbert W. Armstrong was such an in-depth student of the Scriptures and he and the professors and teachers at Ambassador College had studied these things out. We were not to question their teachings or authority. To question meant to be disfellowshipped. We were to sit there and receive their instructions because they had already done the groundwork for us.

Of course, we have that same problem with the Biblical scholars of Christianity, the Rabbis of Judaism, the Imams of Islam, etc. We, or rather their students and followers, don't dare question those things that they have studied out and teach.

I had purchased a set of *Encyclopedia Britannica* somewhere around 1996-1997. It was the Fourteenth edition published in 1938. I spent a good deal of time perusing through as many of the volumes as possible. One day, much to my surprise I came across a mineral

that occurs naturally in the creation called staurolite. Staurolite receives its name from the Greek words *stauros* and *lithos* which means “stone cross”! Take a look at the two representations. *Stauros* does mean cross.



*Images of Staurolite*

What does this mean? It means that neither WWCG nor the assemblies have continued to progress to the second part of the definition that *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* presented; “a pole or **cross** (as an instrument of capital punishment); figuratively, exposure to death, i.e. self-denial; by implication, the atonement of Christ.”

Now either this is the blind leading the blind (it certainly was true in my case until the truth shined forth), or a purposeful cover-up in order to deny the truth of the matter. You see, even though Christianity is in great error, the fact of the matter is that they do have some truths, otherwise they wouldn't be able to deceive a good number of people.

The problem is that we have a tendency to believe what we have grown up being taught (traditions), and also what our schools, colleges and universities teach us, and in many cases we will purposefully and blindly hang on to them even when the truth comes simply because we either love the traditional lies (as in December

25<sup>th</sup> being the Savior's birthday, or evolution rather than supernatural creation), or we just don't want to be different from everyone else. We go with the flow, so to speak.

As is revealed in the Scriptures, "Then came to Yahshua scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of Yahweh by your tradition? For Yahweh commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of Yahweh of none effect by your tradition," Mt. 15:1-6.

Those who love the truth, when faced with the truth, need to embrace it and walk in it even if it causes conflict with others close to them or far from them.

### **THE WORD**

The Apostle John writes, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Yahweh, and the Word was Yahweh. The same was in the beginning with Yahweh. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made....He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of Elohim, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of Yahweh. 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," Jn. 1:1-3, 10-14.

We realize that there are those, even in the assemblies, the body of the Messiah, who are not able to be-

lieve these verses. That is to their detriment. We must receive the truth as it reveals the power and glory of Yahshua our Messiah. If we can't, then we don't have the power to become the sons of Elohim through Him.

Yahshua is the Word. All things were made by and through Him. He came to His own creation and His creation didn't know Him. He came to His own people, specifically and especially Judah and they received Him not. It just isn't possible for them, the overall preponderance of His people, both Judah and Israel to receive Him at this time.

Again, it is revealed in the book of Hebrews that Yahshua upholds everything, the heavens and the earth by the power of His word, "Elohim, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds**; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and **upholding all things by the word of his power**, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they....But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O Elohim, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore Elohim, even thy Elohim, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. **And, Thou, Sovereign, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands**: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. **But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?** Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Heb. 1:1-4, 9-14.

Verse 13 is a direct quote from Psalm 110:1, “Yahweh said unto my Sovereign (Heb. = Adonai), Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. Yahweh shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion (Who is coming back to rule from Zion? Isn’t that Yahshua?): rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. Yahweh hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek (Is not Yahshua the High Priest after the order of Melchizedek?). **Yahweh at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath,**” vv. 1-5.

Look at verse 5! Who is at the right hand? Isn’t it Adonai? (verse 1) Here in verse five He is called Yahweh! The scribes who were utilized to preserve the Scriptures (called the Sopherim) admit that they changed verse 5 from its original word Yahweh and introduced the word Adonai as in verse one, because they couldn’t make sense of this otherwise. They simply couldn’t understand that the one being spoken of here (Yahshua) could also be Yahweh.

But in John and in Hebrews, and elsewhere we find that Yahshua is the word (Heb. = *Dabar*) through Whom all things were made. That He was with (beside) the Father in the beginning and that through Him all things were made that are made. Here in Hebrews we find that He upholds all things by the word of His power (verse 3).

The Apostle Paul, writing about Yahshua, said, “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible Elohim, the firstborn of every creature: For by **him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:** And he is before all things, and **by him all things consist.** And he is the head of the body, the assembly: who is the be-



ginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence,” Col. 1:14-18.

By Him all things consist! The Greek word for “consist” is *sunistao*. It is defined as; **to set together**, i.e. (by implication) to introduce (favorably), or (figuratively) to exhibit; intransitively, to stand near, or (figuratively) to constitute. By and through Him all things are set together, are introduced, are constituted, or are held together.

### **LAMININ**

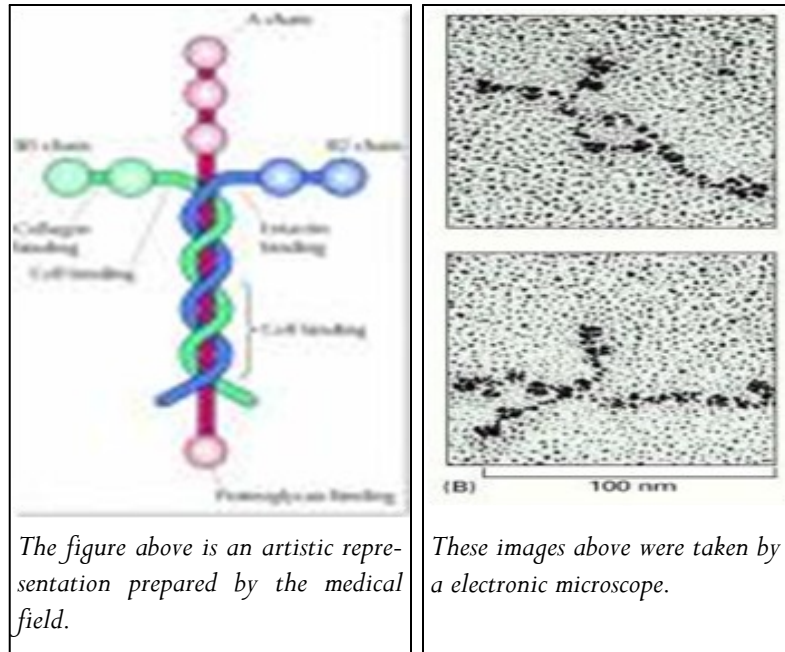
There is a molecular protein called Laminin that I desire to now introduce to you. Here is what *Wikipedia* (the internet dictionary/encyclopedia) says about Laminin, “**Laminin** is a protein found in the extracellular matrix, the sheets of protein that form the substrate of all internal organs also called the basement membrane. It is the major non-collagenous component of the basal lamina, such as those on which cells of an epithelium sit. **It has four arms that can bind to four other molecules**. The three shorter arms are particularly good at binding to other laminin molecules, which is what makes it so great at forming sheets. The long arm is capable of binding to cells, which helps anchor the actual organs to the membrane.

The laminin protein is made up of three separate parts, called the A, B1, and B2 chains. That gives it a total of six "ends", which accounts for a lot of its flexibility in connecting up various kinds of molecules. Because of this, scientists who create biomaterials are extremely interested in the whole family of laminins. **They are a family of glycoproteins that are an integral part of the structural scaffolding in almost every animal tissue**. Laminins are secreted and incorporated into cell-associated extracellular matrices.

**Laminin is vital to making sure overall body structures hold together**. Improper production of laminin can cause muscles to form improperly, leading to a

form of muscular dystrophy. It can also cause progeria.” (end of excerpt)

Now, let’s see what laminin looks like:



*The figure above is an artistic representation prepared by the medical field.*

*These images above were taken by a electronic microscope.*

IS THIS NOT ONE OF THE MOST AWESOME THINGS YOU HAVE EVER SEEN!

We are held together by Yahshua the Word of Yahweh. We, our bodies, are literally held together by a substance called laminin that is in the form of a cross!

### **RECONCILIATION**

Yahshua had to be lifted up on the cross in order to bring us together with the Father. No one can come to the Father except He goes to Him through the Son, “Yahshua saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me,**” Jn. 14:6. “I am the door: **by me if any man enter in,** he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture,” Jn. 10:9.

We must be reconciled to the Heavenly Father Yah-

weh. The only way we can be reconciled is through Him and His cross, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But Yahweh, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, **hath quickened us together with the Messiah**, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, **and made us sit together in heavenly places in the Messiah Yahshua**: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through the Messiah Yahshua. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of Yahweh: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For **we are his workmanship, created in the Messiah Yahshua unto good works**, which Yahweh hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without the Messiah, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without Yahweh in the world: But now in the Messiah Yahshua ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of the Messiah. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And **that he might reconcile both unto Yahweh in one body by the cross**, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh," Eph. 2:1-17.

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having **made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself**; by him, I say, **whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven,**” Col. 1:18-20.

To reconcile comes from the word atonement. Atonement can be broken down into three syllables At – one – ment. We are covered by the blood of the Lamb. His blood atones for us to bring us into unity with the Father.

### **THE MEDIATOR**

Yahshua is the Mediator between us and the Father, “But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises,” Heb. 8:6.

“But the Messiah being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of the Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to Elohim, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living Elohim? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new covenant, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, they which are called might receive **the promise of eternal inheritance**. For where a covenant is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a covenant is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth,” Heb. 9:11-17.

The first covenant, mediated by Moses, was for a temporary physical life. In order to bring in a better covenant, an eternal covenant that has the power to purge the conscience, the spirit, Yahshua had to suffer and die on the cross. His body and blood is far better than the blood of bulls and goats. His sacrifice brings in eternal redemption and an internal inheritance.

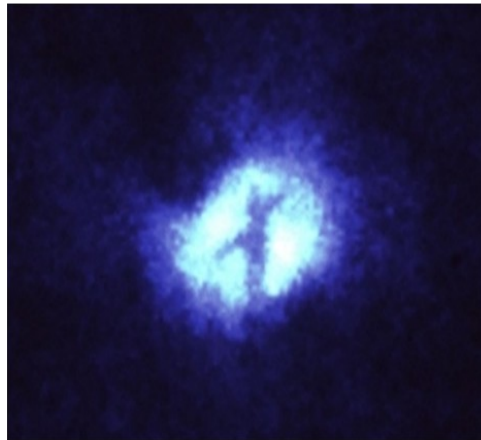
“For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living Elohim, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to Yahweh the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Yahshua the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel,” Heb. 12:18-24.

Our inheritance is no longer just the earth, our inheritance is in the heavens. It is through Yahshua that the heavens and the earth are able to be brought together in one, “Blessed be the Elohim and Father of our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Messiah: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Yahshua the Messiah to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath

abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: **That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in the Messiah, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth;** even in him,” Eph. 1:3-10.

There is a formation in the southern hemisphere called the “southern cross.” Old-time mariners utilized this formation to guide themselves through the seas, but the Hubble telescope has captured an amazing picture in the whirlpool galaxy. It is a picture of a cross in the heavens. If the names of His firstborn are written in the heavens, then the symbol of the instrument through which He brings it all together, the cross of the Messiah would also be there.

#### **THE ALEPH AND TAU**



*The image in the Whirlpool Galaxy taken by the Hubble Telescope.*

Yahshua declared that He is the Aleph and Tau, “I am Alpha and Omega, *the beginning and the ending*, saith the Sovereign, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty,” Rev. 1:8. (Note: I have italicized “the beginning and ending” because it doesn’t appear in any of the manuscripts. It was evi-

dently added as a note on the side and eventually crept into our modern day versions.) Also, Alpha, and Omega are Greek letters, which should be changed to Hebrew.

Again, He says, “I am Aleph and Tau, the beginning and completion: to him who thirsts I will give of the fountain of living water freely,” Rev. 21:6.

Once more He proclaims, “I am Aleph and Tau, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the Completion,” Rev. 22:13.

Most of us are somewhat familiar with modern Hebrew wherein the Aleph looks like this (א), and the Tau looks like this (ט) while the more ancient Paleo Hebrew Aleph is presented thusly (𐤀) and consequently the tau (𐤁). But in the even more ancient Pictorial Hebrew, the Aleph looks like the head of an ox (𐤀), while the tau appears like a cross (𐤁).

But Yahshua said He was the Aleph (𐤀) **and** Tau (𐤁). The Hebrew letter for “and” is the waw (ו). Since Yahshua said that He is the “**Aleph And Tau**”, it would be translated into the Hebrew word *owth* or sign (וּתְּ). The ox or ram’s head symbolizes the one who is the chief leader. The waw (ו) symbolizes a nail or tent peg, while the Tau symbolizes not only the cross, but the name, a mark, a sign, a covenant, etc. Thus, Yahshua is the chief leader who was to be nailed to the cross. His being nailed to the cross was a **sign** (*owth*) that the Old Covenant had been finished, brought to an end, and a New Covenant (*owth*) was to begin.

Was Yahshua nailed to a cross? Yes! Absolutely! Yahweh has caused the sign of the cross to appear naturally in earthly minerals, is utilizing it to hold our own earthly bodies together, and has emblazoned it in the heavens to show that He is Yahweh, He does not change (Mal. 3:6). He is and will utilize the cross of His Son to unite us all together in one, all things in heaven and in earth! How marvelous is our Elohim!

# DID YAHSHUA DIE ON A CROSS?

## PART II

We published an article entitled “*Did Yahshua Die on a Cross?*” (See our May-June 2009 *Yahshua’s Witness Magazine*.), we knew that this article would cause some to be upset because of the tendency of not only Christianity, but almost all of the pagan cultures of old to reverence the cross and utilize it in their pagan rituals. This author received a great deal of persecution at the annual Unity Conference in Rocheport, Missouri because of this article, and the attempts to rebut and refute this article continues. One Sacred Name Magazine has published an article in its Sept.-Oct. 2009 issue seeking to refute this fact. The article is written by a man in prison and I received an email from an elder who stated, “Did you get a chance to read the article in (our magazine) that was written by an inmate? Heaven knows what he could have come up with if he had the same amount of resources that you had. But I think he did an excellent job with what he had to work with.”

Here is the problem dear Brother Elder, you have posted an article by a young man who seems to have given some deep thought concerning his refutation, but the problem is that he simply took verses out of context without truly thinking deeply enough on them. The problem also is that you, yourself didn’t think deeply enough on what was said because you were so hasty to refute what I have written. Therefore, I want to give an answer to you, your inmate and your magazine according to the faith and spirit that is in me.

The young man speaks of the TRUTH, but does he truly understand the depths of the word TRUTH in the Hebrew language? You see, the Hebrew language is the language of revelation, therefore, if we simply look at the English and Greek words, we simply don’t get the impact that the Hebrew conveys. The letters of the Hebrew alphabet not only serve to make up words, but also serve as numbers as well as hieroglyphics (pictures). Generally, when the pictures are put together in a word, then the true understanding of the meaning of the word is brought forth.

The Hebrew word for truth is *emet* (*aleph* [א], *mem* [מ] and *tau* [ט]). It would appear thusly, אמת, because the Hebrew reads from right to left. The *aleph* (א), of course, is the very first letter of



the Hebrew alphabet, being a picture of the head of an ox, meaning one who is first, a chief, a head, etc. The *tau* (†) is the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, which has to do with a covenant, a signature, a sign, a seal, etc. The *mem* (מ) is a picture of water. Water is a type of the spirit (Jn. 7:37-39), thus, in accordance with the Hebrew word, truth is the spirit of the *aleph* and *tau*. It means that truth is the same from beginning to end. It never changes.

No other word for truth conveys this meaning as the Hebrew does. The English begins with a “t” and ends with an “h”. The Greek word for truth is *alethia*. It begins and ends with an *alpha*. When Yahshua appeared to John as written in the book of Revelation, He declared that He is the *Aleph* and *tau*, not *alpha* and *omega* (Rev. 1:8, 11). John, after all, was a Hebrew. There is no reason to believe that Yahshua spoke any other language to him than Hebrew. The Apostle Paul admitted that when Yahshua appeared to him on the road to Damascus, Yahshua spoke in the Hebrew tongue (Acts 26:14).

Don’t you find it interesting that the very last letter of the original Hebrew alphabet is a *tau* (†) which is in the form of a cross, of all things? Being the very last letter, it also represents the end. It is obvious to this author that Yahshua was hung on a cross to not only end His life, but He also brought an end to the covenant that Moses made with the children of Israel. His very last words were, “It is finished,” Jn. 19:30. Here was Yahshua, the *aleph* (א) and the *tau* (†) (Rev. 1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13), hanging on a cross (a form of the tau) proclaiming that something was finished, ended. Why is this so difficult to understand?

Being the aleph (א), Yahshua was resurrected from the grave in order to mediate a new covenant based upon better promises (Heb. 8:6). This is an eternal covenant of which there shall be no end.

### SCRIPTURES OUT OF CONTEXT

The man’s article, entitled “Did Messiah Yahshua (יהושע) Die on a Cross?” took several scriptures out of context, i.e., Mt. 10:38; Mt. 16:24; Mk. 8:34; Mk. 10:21; Lk. 9:23; Lk. 14:27. Each scripture, in the KJV, speaks of taking one’s cross and following Yahshua. Then he states that all of these verses occurred *before* Messiah died! He asks what significance would “taking up the cross” have had *before* He was martyred? Then he says that this is just weird.

I ask, “How is it weird?” Don’t the scriptures say that Yahshua is

the Lamb slain *before* the foundation of the world? (Rev. 13:8) Is that weird?

The article first quoted Mt. 10:38 which says, “And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.” Taken out of context, this can be made to say something else, but the context begins in verse 37 and ends in verse 39, “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.”

Isn't Yahshua speaking of losing one's life here? We can't see that reality when we take verse 38 out of context, which was done (purposely?) in the article.

The next scripture quoted is Mat. 16:24, “Then said Yahshua unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

Again, this verse is taken out of context in order to continue the denial. The full context would be verses 21-26, “From that time forth began Yahshua to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Master: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for **thou savourest not the things that be of Elohim, but those that be of men.** Then said Yahshua unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Mk. 8:34 is quoted, “And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

The full context is verses 31-37, “And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. But when he had turned about and

looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for **thou savourest not the things that be of Elohim, but the things that be of men.** And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Again, this young man, after taking the above mentioned scriptures out of context (along with a couple of others), purposely withholding the full context, says, "All of these verses occurred before Messiah died! What significance would "taking up the cross" have had before He was martyred? Isn't that just weird?" (p. 10)

Isn't Yahshua here in these verses explaining that He is going to be killed? Isn't He conveying the message that those who follow His steps will have to suffer the same things, even to the point of denying this life and being willing to lose it for His sake?

What is weird is this young man's inability to gather the true intent of the full context, and what is even more weird is the fact that the publishers of the magazine in question, certain elders in the body of the Messiah are complicit with him! It seems that the mind of Peter is being exhibited when he rebuked Yahshua, for Yahshua is speaking of His upcoming death on the cross, which is being denied by them.

### **WORD MEANING**

Furthermore, the young man states, "Then I was surprised to learn that the word translated "cross" 28 times in the KJV can actually mean a stake, pole, staff, etc. (See *Young's*, *Strong's*, and *Thayer's*)." He goes on to say that it makes more sense to him that Yahshua meant that they should take their staff or walking stick in order to follow Him.

Again, information is withheld (purposely?) Here is what *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* says about the Greek word *stauros*, which has been translated in these verses as "cross," "*stauros*; a stake or post (as set upright), i.e. (specially), a pole or **cross (as an instrument of capital punishment)**; figuratively, **exposure to death, i.e. self-denial**; by implication, the atonement of Christ." Hmmmm..., the word cross here certainly fits with the context that was conveniently left out of article, doesn't it?

Here is what *The New Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon* says about this Greek word *stauros*, “**1.** *An upright stake, esp. a pointed one,* (Hom., Hdt., Thuc., Xen.), **2.** *A cross; a.* the well-known instrument of most cruel and ignominious punishment, borrowed by the Greeks and Romans from the Phoenicians; to it were affixed among the Romans, down to the time of Constantine the Great, the guiltiest criminals, particularly the basest slaves, robbers, the authors and abettors of insurrections, and occasionally in the provinces, at the arbitrary pleasure of the governors, upright and peaceable men also, and even Roman citizens themselves;...This horrible punishment the innocent [Yahshua] also suffered...blood shed on the cross, Col. i. 20. **b.** i. q. the crucifixion which [Messiah] underwent...to encounter persecution on account of one's avowed belief in the saving efficacy of [Messiah's] crucifixion, etc.

The young man was correct in declaring that *stauros* means a pole or stake, but nowhere does it say that it is a staff or walking stick, so I guess he has introduced a new definition for this word, and the publishers of the magazine agree with him, while he (conveniently?) leaves out the fact that it also means “cross.” But then, to admit that it also means a “cross” as a means of punishment, would overthrow the gist of his article.

### **A CAREFUL STUDY**

The young man then says, “But what about the many verses talking about a cross? Study these carefully:”

[Messiah] hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree (Gal. 3:13).

And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree...(Dt. 21:22).

His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of Elohim;) that thy land be not defiled, which Yahweh thy Elohim giveth thee for an inheritance (Dt. 21:23).

The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon **the cross** on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away (Jn. 19:31).

Then he says, “Notice this: There’s not a single verse prophesying that Messiah would be put on a cross.” (end of excerpt) [Notice that he leaves the word “cross” in Jn. 19:31.]

My friend, again, you have conveniently overlooked some things, or you simply haven’t studied or thought deep enough. Proverbs 25:2 says, “It is the glory of Elohim to conceal a **thing**: but the honour of kings is to search out a **matter**.” I have highlighted the words “thing” and “matter” because they are both translated from the same Hebrew word, i.e. *dabar*. *Dabar* is the Hebrew word that is generally translated as “word” in the English. What this is saying is that it is the glory of Elohim to conceal His word, and it is the glory or honor of kings to search out that word.

With this in mind, Yahweh has concealed the truth about the cross in His word in Dt. 21:22-23. You can believe this, or you can disbelieve, that is your choice.

The Hebrew word for tree is ‘*ets* (עץ). But this is also the word for “**wood**” Gen. 6:14; 22:3, 6-7, 9; Ex. 7:19; 25:5, 10, 13, 23, 28, etc. etc.....; “**timber**” Ex. 31:5; Lev. 14:45; “**Sticks**” Num. 15:33; 1 Ki. 17:10, 12; 2 Ki. 6:6; “**helve**” Dt. 19:5; “**stalks**” Josh. 2:6; “**staff**” (of a spear) 1 Sam. 17:7; **2 Sam. 21:19**; 2 Sam. 23:7; “**timber**” 1 Ki. 5:6, 8, 18; 6:10; 15:22; “**branches**” Neh. 8:15; “**gallows**” Est. 5:14; 6:4; 7:9, 10; 8:7; 9:13, 25; “**stock**” Jer. 2:27; 3:9; 10:8; “**planks**” Ez. 41:25.

I have emboldened 2 Sam. 21:19 because the young man did mention this scriptures where “staff” is translated from the word ‘*ets*, but he didn’t include the fact that it was the staff of a spear. As he attempted to prove that Yahshua was saying for those who follow Him to take his staff or walking stick, is it possible that he was again conveniently withholding information in order to prove his point? I only imply this because the true fact is that there was *no place* in the scriptures where walking stick or staff (for the hand) is translated from the Hebrew word ‘*ets*, even though they would be made from wood.

But let’s get back to that which is hidden from view, that which we must study out carefully. Dt. 21:22-23 spoke of one who sinned and would be accursed because he was **hanged** on a tree. “Hang” comes from the Hebrew word *talah* (תלה). This word is composed from the Hebrew letters *hei* (ה), *lamed* (ל), and *tau* (ט). The *hei* (ה) is an hieroglyphic for a window, to behold, lo, reveal, etc. The *lamed* (ל) is an hieroglyphic for a rod of authority, a shepherd’s rod, etc. *Lamed* comes from the word *lamad*, which means to teach. Lamed can also give the idea of “to go toward, or forward”. We have already

addressed the meaning of the *tau* (†), but remember that it has to do with a sign, and also the end of something.

What do the scriptures teach us about our sins? Doesn't sin bring, lead to, death? Isn't death a curse? Didn't Yahshua bear our sins, become a curse for us? Wasn't He hanged (𐤀𐤃𐤕) on a tree ('*ets*)? Was that tree ('*ets*) actually made of wood ('*ets*), timber ('*ets*)? Was it made in the form of the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet symbolizing the end, death? Does the word *talah* (𐤀𐤃𐤕) teach you something? Is this the hidden prophecy, the hidden word (*dabar*), the concealed word (*dabar*) that we are supposed to search out? (Prov. 25:2)

Let's go back and introduce some of these Hebrew words into the scriptures that were quoted, "[Messiah] hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth (𐤀𐤃𐤕) on a tree ['*ets*] (Gal. 3:13)."

"And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang (𐤀𐤃𐤕) him on a tree ('*ets* = wood, timber, gallows, etc.)...(Dt. 21:22)."

"His body shall not remain all night upon the tree ('*ets*), but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged (𐤀𐤃𐤕) is accursed of Elohim;) that thy land be not defiled, which Yahweh thy Elohim giveth thee for an inheritance (Dt. 21:23)."

The warning here is that "behold, lo, revelation, teaching (𐤀)" sin leads us to; it causes us to go toward, forward (𐤀) to death, the end (†).

### THE SERPENT ON A POLE

What about the serpent on a pole? Here is what Yahshua said, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life," Jn. 3:14-15.

Yahshua is referring to Numbers chapter 21. The children of Israel began to complain against Yahweh and Moses accusing them of bringing them out into the wilderness to die of thirst and hunger. Yahweh, in turn, sent fiery serpents (seraphim) among them to bite them. Many Israelites died of their poison, so they came to Moses confessing that they had sinned. Yahweh told Moses, "Make thee a fiery serpent, and **set it upon a pole**: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And **Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole**, and it came

to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived,” Num. 21:8-9.

Now the question would be, what did that pole look like? Was it just a straight pole, similar to the one that the Greeks had? You see, whether it is a serpent on a cross or just a pole, the fiery dragon, that old serpent called the devil and Satan has deceived the whole world to make idolatrous images of everything imaginable and to worship them. Read about it in the book of Romans chapter one.

The Greek God of healing, Aesculapius, was represented with a staff or pole and with a serpent on that pole (see the accompanying image). This symbol, as well as the caduceus, is still utilized by the



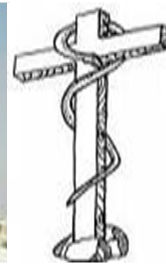
*Aesculapius*



*Caduceus*



*Serpents on poles*



*Roman Soldier  
with flag*



*Ancient Banner*



*Ancient Sailboats*



*Utility Poles*

medical field in today's world. Whether anyone realizes it or not, the medical field has put itself in the place of the priests, because the people always went to the priests in ancient times to seek healing from their Elohim, when they were afflicted with illnesses. Various images of serpents on poles can be found, some are on poles and others on crosses. (see images)

But let's look into the Hebrew word for "pole" to see what we can extract from its various meanings. The Hebrew word for pole is *nec*. *Nec* is defined in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* as; **a flag**; also **a sail**; by implication, a flagstaff; generally a signal; figuratively, a token.

Do you notice that? It has to do with a flag, or a sail, even a flagstaff. We know how we exhibit flags in our modern era, but how were they exhibited anciently? And what about sails? Look at the images that we have provided here. One is of a Roman soldier on a horse with a flag. The others are ancient sailboats, and one is a banner (coat of arms) depicting an ancient sailboat. Isn't it interesting that we don't call a sail a cross?

By the way, while we are addressing this issue, what about a utility pole? Don't we always call them poles whether they are just upright poles, or have crossbeams on them? Do we ever call them a cross? Don't we just call them poles? (see images)

What is the cross beam for? Concerning the sail of a sailboat, it is for the purpose to stretch the sail out so it can catch the wind and propel the vessel. It is what gives the vessel its power to move. What about the crossbeam on a utility pole. If there is only an upright pole, it can only carry a few lines, but add crossbeams and much more power can be delivered. The purpose for a crossbeam on a flagstaff would be to display the flag at all times. It wouldn't need the wind, nor movement in order to cause it to unfurl and be displayed.

## **ISAIAH CHAPTER 22**

But something else has been overlooked by our beloved brothers and sisters who seek to refute this notion that Yahshua died on a cross; that is the book of Isaiah the Prophet, chapter twenty two. "Thus saith Yahweh Elohim of hosts, Go, get thee unto this treasurer, even unto Shebna, which is over the house, and say, What hast thou here? and whom hast thou here, that thou hast hewed thee out a sepulchre here, as he that heweth him out a sepulchre on



high, and that graveth an habitation for himself in a rock? Behold, Yahweh will carry thee away with a mighty captivity, and will surely cover thee. He will surely violently turn and toss thee like a ball into a large country: there shalt thou die, and there the chariots of thy glory shall be the shame of thy master's house. And I will drive thee from thy station, and from thy state shall he pull thee down. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah: And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house. And they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flagons. In that day, saith Yahweh of hosts, shall the nail that is fastened in the sure place be removed, and be cut down, and fall; and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off: for Yahweh hath spoken it," Isa. 22:15-25.

What does this mean? This is speaking of one who is a minister or treasurer of the temple. He is called Shebna, which means to grow, growth. Notice that he has hewn out a sepulcher **on high** and graves a habitation in a rock. "On high" is translated from the Hebrew word *marown* (מַרְוֵם), and can be translated as "FROM ROME!" Few people understand this, but Rome is a name that means "high place."

All of the treasure, the glory of the temple of Yahweh has been hung on this Shebna. Yahweh says that he is a nail driven in a sure place, but he will be pulled down from his estate (v. 25).

Do you remember when Yahshua was carrying his crossbeam (*patibulum*), that the Romans took it off of Him (because He stumbled under its weight due to exhaustion) and placed it on Simon of Cyrene? You must understand that Scripture is written in types, and parables. This was a type of the Romans replacing Yahshua with someone else. Who? You might ask? Yahshua has been replaced with one named Yesus/Iesous/Jesus. This one named Jesus has all of the treasures of Yahweh's house hung upon him (along with all paganism). His grave, his sepulcher is like one hewn out of a rock. He is like a **NAIL DRIVEN IN A SURE PLACE**. The people look to him trusting that they have eternal life in him. He is the one

who has been lifted up on high from Rome (the high place).

Yahweh says that He is going to pull this one who has been lifted up on high down from his estate and violently toss him into a into a large country where he shall die and his glory will become shame. Then He will call His servant Eliakim son of Hilkiyah. Elikim means to lift up or raise up El. Hilkiyah means the portion (inheritance) of Yahweh. So Yahweh is going to restore Yahshua to His rightful place by driving Him as a nail into a sure place and He will raise the true El (Eliakim) back through His Son by Whom we are able to receive the inheritance, portion of Yahweh (Hilkiyah).

Notice that He says He will commit this Shebna's government into Eliakim son of Hilkiyah's hand. He will be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Furthermore, He will lay the key of the house of David upon His shoulder and He shall open and none can shut, and He shall shut and none can open. This Eliakim son of Hilkiyah is none other than Yahshua the Messiah Who declares to the Philadelphian Assembly that He has the key of David and is able to open and none can shut, and shuts and none can open (Rev. 3:7).

Who is driven as a nail in a sure place in today's world, who has the treasures of the house of El (God)? Isn't it Jesus Christ? Haven't all of his treasures become soiled and corrupted with paganism, fraud and deceit? What does that nail look like? Isn't it a cross?

### THE SIGN

The Hebrew word for "sign" is owth (אֹת). It consists of and aleph (א), waw (ו) and tau (ט).

Yahshua revealed Himself as the Aleph and Tau, the First and Last, "I was in the Spirit on the day of Yahweh, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am \*Aleph and Tau, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one **like unto the Son of man**, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a fur-

nace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; **I am the first and the last:** I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death,” Rev. 1:11-18.

He declared to the Smyrna Assembly, “And unto the angel of the assembly in Smyrna write; These things saith **the first and the last**, which was dead, and is alive,” Rev. 2:8.

Later He said, “And he said unto me, It is done. **I am Aleph (א) and (ו) Tau (ט), the beginning and the end.** I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely,” Rev. 21:6.

Finally, He again states, “**I am Aleph and Tau, the beginning and the end, the first and the last,**” Rev. 22:13.

The first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet are the aleph and the tau. Yahshua was speaking in the Hebrew language to the Apostle John, a Hebrew. Aleph and Tau in Hebrew would appear as **אט**. In the more ancient Pictorial-Hebrew it would have been represented as **אט**. Again, the aleph (א) is the head of an ox or a head or chief leader. The waw (ו) is a conjunction, such as the word “and”, but it also symbolizes a nail or tent peg. Finally, the tau (ט) is in the form of a cross, which also stands for **a sign**, name, covenant, etc.

Yahweh gave us the sign that our Chief Leader, our Head, our Chief Shepherd, our Savior, His Son was to be nailed to the cross!

## **JOSEPHUS' ACCOUNT**

Josephus wrote of the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus. “So now Titus's banks were advanced a great way, notwithstanding his soldiers had been very much distressed from the wall. He then sent a party of horsemen, and ordered they should lay ambushes for those that went out into the valleys to gather food. Some of these were indeed fighting men, who were not contented with what they got by rapine; but the greater part of them were poor people, who were deterred from deserting by the concern they were under for their own relations; for they could not hope to escape away, together with their wives and children, without the knowledge of the seditious; nor could they think of leaving these relations to be slain by the rob-

bers on their account; nay, the severity of the famine made them bold in thus going out; so nothing remained but that, when they were concealed from the robbers, they should be taken by the enemy; and when they were going to be taken, they were forced to defend themselves for fear of being punished; as after they had fought, they thought it too late to make any supplications for mercy; so they were first whipped, and then tormented with all sorts of tortures, before they died, and were then **crucified** before the wall of the city. This miserable procedure made Titus greatly to pity them, while they **caught every day five hundred Jews; nay, some days they caught more:** yet it did not appear to be safe for him to let those that were taken by force go their way, and to set a guard over so many he saw would be to make such as great deal them useless to him. The main reason why he did not forbid that cruelty was this, that he hoped the Jews might perhaps yield at that sight, out of fear lest they might themselves afterwards be liable to the same cruel treatment. So the soldiers, out of the wrath and hatred they bore the Jews, **nailed those they caught, one after one way, and another after another, to the crosses,** by way of jest, when their multitude was so great, that **room was wanting for the crosses, and crosses wanting for the bodies.**” (Book V. Chapter 11, Verses 1)

This was only about 40 or so years after the death of Yahshua. What had the people of His day decreed to Pilate? “Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would. And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas. Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Yahshua which is called the Messiah?

18 For he knew that for envy they had delivered him. When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Yahshua. The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Yahshua which is called the Messiah? **They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.** And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. **Then answered all the peo-**

ple, and said, **His blood be on us, and on our children,**” Mat. 27:15-15.

The people of Yahshua’s day cried saying, “His blood be on us, and on our children.” Josephus’ account verifies that many of those same people and their children suffered the same death.

### DESPISING THE SHAME

We are encouraged in the book of Hebrews, “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with **so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, **and the sin which doth so easily beset us**, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto **Yahshua the author and finisher of our faith; who** for the joy that was set before him **endured the cross, despising the shame**, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of Yahweh. For consider **him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself**, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds,” Heb. 12:1-3.

I have presented some of the great cloud of witnesses in this treatise and also in the previous treatise in our May-June 2009 issue of *Yahshua’s Witness Magazine*. As I stated then, that witness is in the earth, in our own bodies, in the heavens, in the Hebrew alphabet, in the word of Yahweh, etc.

But look at what it says about Yahshua here. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith. The Greek word for Author is *archegos*. It has to do with one who is a chief leader, a captain, a prince. The Hebrew equivalent would be *sar*, which means essentially the same thing. However, the key word to look at here is the word faith.

The Prophet Habakkuk was inspired to write, “I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. And Yahweh answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For **the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie**: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his **faith**,” Hab. 2:1-4.

Habakkuk has made such a powerful statement that it is repeated three times in the New Testament; **(1)** Rom. 1:17, “For therein is the righteousness of Yahweh revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” **(2)** Gal. 3:5-14, esp. v. 11, “He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you,

doeth he it by the works of the law, or by **the hearing of faith**? Even as **Abraham believed Yahweh**, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that **they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham**. And the scripture, foreseeing that **Yahweh would justify the heathen through faith**, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then **they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham**. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of Yahweh, it is evident: for, **The just shall live by faith**. And **the law is not of faith**: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. The Messiah hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Yahshua the Messiah; **that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith**.” (3) Heb. 10:36-38, esp. v. 38, “For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of Yahweh, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now **the just shall live by faith**: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”

The primary Hebrew for believe and faith is *amen* (אָמֵן), but the completed Hebrew word for faith is *amunat* (אֱמוּנָה). The more complete form is the Hebrew word that Habakkuk utilized! Look at it! It begins with an aleph (א) and ends with a tau (ת)! As a matter of fact, the Hebrew word for truth (אֱמוּנָה) is incorporated into the more complete Hebrew word for faith (אֱמוּנָה)! Do you understand what this means? It means that Yahshua is the aleph (א) and (י) tau (ת) [Remember that the aleph and tau or אַתָּה is the Hebrew word for sign (*owth*). Yes, He is the Author and Finisher of our faith (אֱמוּנָה)!]

The more complete Hebrew word for faith is almost always utilized for Yahweh’s faithfulness, not man’s. Check it out for yourself. Here is the list where the more complete form appears; Hab. 2:4; 1 Sam 26:23; 1 Chron. 9:22; 2 Chron. 31:18; Psa. 36:5; Psa. 40:10; Psa. 88:11; Psa. 89:1, 2, 5, 8, 24, 33, 49; Psa. 92:2; 98:3; Psa. 100:5; Psa. 119:90; Psa. 143:1; Prov. 28:20; Isa. 33:6; Lam. 3:23. Notice that I said “almost always.”

Yahshua was made a curse for us, but because the sum total of all of

our sins, the dreadful sins of mankind, he had to be made a curse for us by being hanged (☩) on a tree. Yes, He despised the shame that He had to bear for us, but He also did it with joy because of the end result of sons and daughters eventually being born into the family of Yahweh.

Yahshua died on a cross. The serpent has influenced mankind to make the image of the cross into a thing of worship. We are to refrain from doing such. We are commanded to not make an image of anything in heaven above, in the earth below, or in the sea beneath the earth. We are not to fall down to images and worship them, yet man never listens to Yahweh's word. But according to Yahweh's own word, the one who is hung on the cross in today's world and has been given so much attention and adoration will be pulled down from his estate and the One Who really did suffer will be driven as a nail in a sure place. That day is soon to come. When it does, the whole earth will look to the true Savior as Israel did to the serpent on a pole in the wilderness, and be healed of the serpent's deadly poison.

May Yahweh speed that day. *Jerry Healan*



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