

the perfectibility of men

Perfectibility of men is the foundation of truly good doctrine, teaching and literature. Sadly, I do not see humanity heading toward that goal. A Great Calamity, one overflowing with Righteousness, will happen on a collective scale. Armageddon, that culmination of great wars, will arrive at its appointed time as part of the calamity. It is part of *history future* because our CREATOR has already said **It is done.**¹ We have not yet seen it with our eyes, but GOD made sure we were warned. The revealed calamity is the culmination of all mankind's free choices to nourish some developments and obstruct others. GOD gave HIS creatures free will. GOD gave men HIS commandments. GOD gave men HIS Testimony and that of HIS SON YESU (JESUS). GOD warned us of Judgment and exalted YESU to be Judge of heaven and earth. Diligent Christians have witnessed about this to all of the earth with few exceptions, and those we are working on. The Great Day shall arrive at the appointed time, burning like a furnace² and who shall be able to stand? Not many according to HIS Word; but, then, the unit of Judgment is the individual. About any honest and sane individual, I remain staunchly optimistic.



Therefore become perfect, just as your FATHER in heaven is Perfect.³

Perfection in this life is one reason GOD gave HIS Word to men. I know people with good hearts who already keep perfectly the commandments that pertain to them. They say they're still growing toward the goal, but are already there. Many scoff at the notion that men can become and remain perfect, and do not see perfection in this life as a possibility, let alone as a worthy goal. How did we become so slack with ourselves? Early Christian elders taught that our duty to seek perfection was clear but the view of Saint Augustine, tempered by that of the Vatican, eventually prevailed – perfectibility was declared to be beyond the reach of laymen without the guidance of clergymen.⁴ And then? Ah, the inevitable consequence of false doctrine! The clergy excused themselves and kept others away from the path.

But woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the Kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.⁵

No, there is no valid reason for being so slack about perfection. We are made in the Image of GOD, by HIS Design.⁶ GOD did not Design within us a sinful nature, as HE has no sinful Nature. Human doctrines that blame *the flesh* or HIS Design for what goes wrong down here are part of our own bad choices and intentionally bad cultures that bear bad fruit. Infants are born into our world perfect in their nature, if not also their health, every night and day. At varying but still young ages, we start to become acculturated to what is seen and heard around us. Man, as infant, is perfect. It is the manner of families and societies to encourage or corrupt that perfection to varying degrees when a child is still young. Only by making conscious decisions to reject the corruptions we find in a critical review of our upbringing can we grow to conform with the perfection we were born with. We do not blame our parents nor society nor ourselves; instead we recognise corruption and its long history for what it is – a long process that will result once again in worldwide calamity. When that comes, will you be able to stand?

Perfection is measured against GOD's standards, not against shifting and shadowy words of human councils. YESU spoke to the children of Israel who must keep the Torah as covenant but there are

¹ see Revelation 16:17; Note that extended capitalization is for DIVINE PERSONS, not for 'loudness'

² see Malachi 4:1; also Malachi 3:2, Isaiah 13:2 and similar references

³ see Matthew 5:48; the Lamsa translates the Aramaic as *become perfect*, denoting a journey while most English-language Bibles use the words *be perfect*.

⁴ about 1600 years ago, the Council of Carthage condemned all opposing views. To learn more, seek the article on *Pelagianism* in Hasting's *Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics*. My personal library includes a full set from 1926.

⁵ see Matthew 23:13

⁶ see Genesis 1:26-28

simpler commandments for believers among the nations. In an earlier writing called *a Legal primer*⁷ are some details of the simplicity YHVH gave to all generations of Noah, to other descendants of Avraham and to all among the nations who believe in YESU. Men of Israel must examine themselves in relation to the Torah, the books of Moses, which is discussed only briefly in the *primer* but Torah is the more comprehensive Legal context for understanding the commandments given to Gentile believers. The pitfalls and snares among Christian denominations and non-Christian spiritual movements are many. They can be easily avoided. Keeping those few commandments, we are able to live at perfect liberty in everything else about life down here. This can be done with the assurance of following the Divine Light of the HOLY SPIRIT as we grow toward full maturity. We are invited by GOD to walk ever more closely with HIM,⁸ to keep HIS Shabbats and more of the Torah, as we serve HIM gladly. But we must first get our lives ordered according to the minimum standards explained in *a Legal primer*.

**I rebuke and chastise all those whom I love;
be zealous, therefore, and repent.⁹**

What is this word repent? We have heard it before and formed some notion of a meaning. The Hebrew word *teshuvah* is usually translated *repent* but also *to return* as in "**Return to ME, for I redeem you.**"¹⁰ The underlying meaning of the root *shuv* is *again*, so repentance is a return - a return to the Ways of GOD; to go the right way again. Are Christians taught to seek perfection as our goal? Are we guided on priorities to attain it and warnings of the most serious departures? When we decided to seek GOD with all our heart, many of us found we had fallen away from HIM in significant ways that take time to correct. A typical personal appraisal will find...

- we have been enticed by some of the things that GOD hates. In practice, we do find some degree of repentance needed.
- we have spent of our energy developing skills and assets that are of no use to GOD, even investing years in that. In practice, we find some degree of housecleaning needed.
- we have not been taught HIS commandments as they apply to us in a consistently correct and comprehensive manner. In practice, we have some things to learn.
- we find some things we were taught and once believed are false. False doctrines, false science and other forms of error. In practice, we have some things to unlearn.

Each of us must honestly appraise our inner selves and the environments we've chosen for our work and our rest. We must do that alone. If, on reflection, it looks overwhelming to go from where you are today to the perfection MESSIAH set as our goal, consider that Divine Legislation may prove easier than you ever expected at the outset. The process that the HOLY SPIRIT uses will be different and uniquely appropriate for each of us so expect only general guidance to be of value. I have found several analogies useful when discussing this with other Christians and present them here - walking down a road; housecleaning & housekeeping; growing like a tree; learning & unlearning.

WALKING DOWN A ROAD

If you have an earnest desire to please GOD above all, that is already an excellent start. You turned your heart in the right direction and have probably taken many steps already. If you know you have been heading in the wrong direction, simply turn around with a change of heart. *Teshuvah*. Return to YHVH. Did you know that the real meaning of *born again* is simply to *turn the heart back* to GOD?¹¹ The HOLY SPIRIT makes our problems known to us in ways unique to each person. When you have considered *a Legal primer*, you may find places you have erred and must head back toward the perfection you were born with. In the Sermon on the Mount our MESSIAH said:

⁷ find at www.primeconcord.info

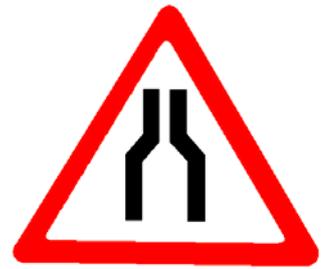
⁸ see Isaiah 56:6-8 and seek out all of the Shabbat rest days GOD has ordained. Keeping them becomes a joy. This leads to a deeper understanding of what GOD wants for us. In war, do remember that the army marched around Jericho for seven days, thus it is permitted by GOD to make war on Shabbat. YESU spoke of other exceptions.

⁹ see Revelation 3:19

¹⁰ see Isaiah 44:22b

¹¹ see John 3:2-7; a footnote in Lamsa's translation from Aramaic explains that Nicodemus did not understand Northern Aramaic idioms since he spoke Southern Aramaic. The meaning is simply to turn the heart the right way.

"Enter in through the narrow door; for wide is the door and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many are those who travel on it. Oh, how narrow is the gate and how difficult the road that leads to life, and few are those who are found on it."¹²

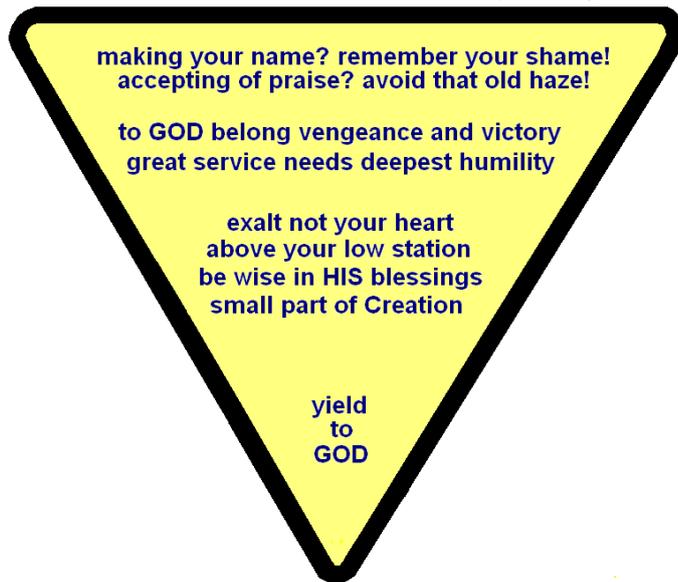


The WAY is narrow. Beware of false advertising. Be wary of side trips that stunt your spiritual growth. Be wary about what is popular today, even in religion, for **'few are those who are found'** on the road that leads to Life.

I once drove for more than an hour along a country road in Southern Thailand before I realized that I was going the wrong way. In my ignorance, I could not read the road signs. When I recognise that I have been going the wrong way in life, even for many years, ignorance has played a part. To get back to where I made a wrong turn might only take a few minutes, but only after the facts are made clear.

Only with repentance of sin do we give the HOLY SPIRIT the room HE needs to develop the fullness of Life that YESU wants us to find. Without repentance, we will be busy yet frustrated by our lack of progress. Or worse still, we will be deluded by a comfortable feeling about some other condition that has not required our turning back to GOD to attain.

It is important that we be willing for GOD to lead us in HIS Ways. We walk in the right direction. We leave behind us the blind alleys. We pass by signposts saying *this road leads to heaven*. There is a lot of false advertising - some in neon signs; others in hypocrisy wrapped in tradition. In early steps toward perfection, many of us take wrong turns, stall out and hit pot holes. Eventually more consistent progress is made. False advertising is easily passed by; lures are noted, not taken. Eventually these fade into the darkness behind us. A yield sign comes into view...



Hmmm. Sounds like something a soldier would write for others coming along the road. There are apparently more traps and snares ahead. A mental note is made and we walk on. While we always have free will, we become more wary of temptations to sin that will cause our progress to suffer. We naturally enough reduce social engagements with those whose lives are most contrary to the Way. We seek fellowship with those who help us walk toward eternal Life in gladness. Those are our eternal family.

The HOLY SPIRIT leads us in accordance with GOD's Plan for our individual lives. We do not have to go far before we learn many of the danger signals. But we have always learned slowly, like

infants do. Some learn faster than others to walk without stumbling, but we all kept trying and now hardly give it a thought. We can learn to remove stumbling blocks and set out helpful signposts for others who will travel this road as we mature.

YESU told us to lose the life that we built in our ignorance to find the Life GOD wants to give us.¹³ In the Northern hemisphere many of us know how to find the North Star in the sky; in the Southern hemisphere, the Southern Cross helps us to navigate. As I spent more time on the right road, the one question I asked myself was *Would our FATHER approve of this?* For the road we walk, that is rather like the North Star or the Southern Cross. A constant compass needle that keeps us pointed the right way. The number of changes you need to make depends on how far you went astray, but follow your compass needle and do make progress.¹⁴

¹² see Matt 7:13-14

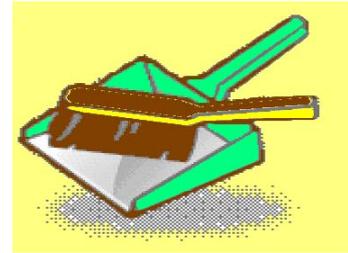
¹³ see Matthew 10:39 and 16:25

¹⁴ see Ezekiel 18 for assurances of compassion and forgiveness for those who return to walk the right road

HOUSE-CLEANING & HOUSE-KEEPING



When clearing a long-overgrown building, you may need an axe and a small bonfire, a shovel and a wheelbarrow. Later, you will need only a small hand-broom and a dustpan. The first thorough housecleaning was a tough experience for me. On a physical level, I had accumulated so many things that were useless or counterproductive to good growth



that I simply threw much away. It was, however, on a *spiritual level* that I found more than I ever expected. By *spiritual level*, I mean all manner of thinking because it is our hearts and thoughts that are searched by YESU, our MASTER, not only what we say and do in the open. Yes, I found my thinking patterns were not conducive to becoming perfect.

We grow up as part of one or more groups. Our family, our district or province or state, our nationality, our religious congregations, the alumni of schools we graduated from, military units we served with, sports and social clubs and so forth. In heading for perfection, we must answer the question *Who am I in the universe and eternity?* YESU once said ...

Again I tell you, it is easier for a rope to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of GOD. ¹⁵

We have to move from the many fibers of a *rope* - with fancy clothing, social position and status symbols - to the one fiber we really are within the midst of all that. Nothing among our possessions defines who we are. No group we associate ourselves with does either. Only what is inside of us defines who we are in eternity. Do you consider yourself...

...a member of a religious congregation? - While I do enjoy fellowship with many good people, I do not identify myself according to any set of *articles of faith* because I am not in complete agreement with any such set. I cannot use a congregation to answer the question *Who am I?* even though our common love for GOD and fellowship in good faith should bring us closer in eternity.

...a citizen of...? The *nations* of today are not *peoples* of common ancestral lineage as they were long ago. What we refer to as the nations today are only areas of land with mixed peoples and semi-permanent borders that GOD did not ordain.¹⁶ Let us simply acknowledge that whatever nation we identify with is, like every other, a larger or smaller piece of land and peoples who call themselves by that name. For my convenience, I do have a passport, but in eternity I am not of such a "nation".

...an employee of ...? We should all admit that GOD owns everything. This life includes temporary stewardship of more or less resources. Those who manage the affairs of companies that have provided us with paychecks have a severely limited claim to agreed outcomes during certain hours of our week. They and their products and slogans do not define who we are.

...an active member of a social network? I move too frequently to claim such a role now, but those I chose in my youth reflected how I spent my free time, and not who I am.

I found that my own thinking included several false notions of *self* that I had to let-go and to out-grow. It took time for my mind to get completely used to the fact that I am alone with GOD when answering the question *Who am I?* In doing so, I also looked further at who I had really been following in my behaviour, and what 'extra fibres' of a rope I had entwined around the one fibre that is really me, the one that needs to go through the eye of a needle. I will touch upon two areas further here ... role models and personal possessions. Both of those got a lot of early attention from me in house-cleaning.

Role Models ... were important as we grew up. Parents, elder siblings, neighbourhood children, and fellow students were all watched and reacted to. Some of their sayings and doings were adopted as

¹⁵ see Matthew 19:24; Mark 10:25; Luke 18:25. Most Bibles translating from the Greek say *camel* instead of *rope*. The Aramaic word *gamla* actually allows both meanings. The translators to the Greek language chose *camel* when *rope* was the better meaning for this passage.

¹⁶ the current borders of *nations* are not in the Bible. The borders that were ordained by GOD for Israel are to a large extent ignored by all who seek 'peace' in the Middle East. The modern nation of Israel does not recognise most of the patrilineal descendants of Yakov today, a heritage debased by many centuries of *Rabbanite* whims.

our own chosen behavior when we were quite young. Some were good behavior models, some were bad models, most fell somewhere in between. If we were fortunate enough to go to a Sunday school, we learned about GOD and some of the best men and women in history as loftier role models. But even if we learned of them, we may have found that Sunday came too seldom for them to sink in. Movie houses, television and radio paraded too many others for my generation to focus easily on the best. Even if told of good role models in Sunday school, what role models did we ultimately choose to follow? Are the currently acclaimed musicians, movie stars and athletes the ones you spend time watching, listening to and talking about? How about those who are merely a few years ahead of you in school or on a corporate ladder? What about the writers of faddish blogs or self-help books? What of all that *connecting* on the internet? Who has been influencing your heartfelt desires? Who has been influencing your vocabulary?

I looked hard at my own habits of language and gestures, the overly-polite ones as well as the overly-rude ones. Do you sense an eclectic mixture of influences over many years in your own? If you find that some were poor choices in this retrospective view, you probably just carried them forward as you grew up. It is common enough, well worth a critical review, and worth a conscious decision to let some behaviours and language die out. Want a new role model now that you are older? Try Kefa, also called Simon and Peter. YESU, our MASTER said of HIS true followers...

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in ME, the works that I do he shall do also; and greater than these he shall do; because I go to the FATHER. And whatever you ask in MY Name, that I will do, that the FATHER may be glorified in the SON. ¹⁷

In the first few chapters of the book of Acts, Kefa is raising the dead, being busted out of jails by Holy Angels, and anointing people with the HOLY SPIRIT. Yet, in his letters, he addresses himself as a fellow elder, and exhorts other elders to humility before GOD and in service to the Flock (humility before GOD is not a weakness before men). Kefa is a most excellent role model. Recognise that deep humility before GOD is not only desirable, but needed if we are to be of any real service to HIM.

Personal Effects? If you think you are poor, try moving house. Yes, many find they accumulated more than they first remembered. We can develop a more critical eye for what is worth purchasing and keeping around. In my early housecleaning, many things moved to the garbage; others were kept in a box marked *review later*. On later reviews, I restored very few things to their former places, threw out much more, and condensed yet fewer questionable things for review some other day. In practice, there was a time when -excluding my textbooks- my worldly personal effects weighed less than I do. I have since added a bit of weight, but have stored my books at the homes of relatives and friends in several countries that I visit regularly. I find that I do not need much.

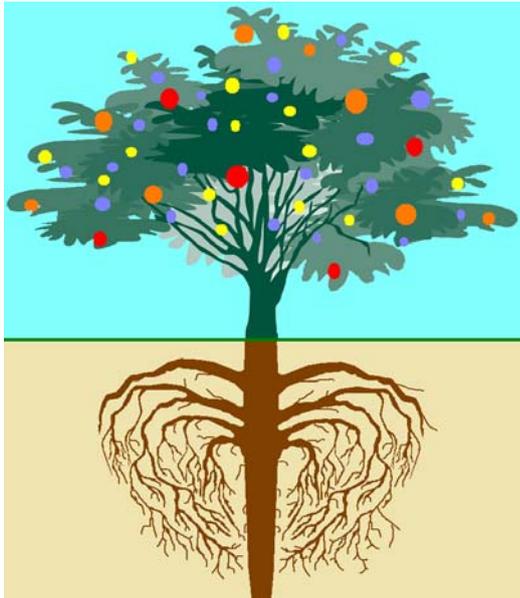
Speaking for myself and several others who I know, once we got through basic housecleaning, the term housekeeping was more accurate; we only need to occasionally look around our places mindfully. If we have youngsters, we keep an eye on what they bring home. One man of GOD found, at his home in Sumatra, a book for palm reading sitting on the kitchen counter. Instinctively, he deposited the book in the garbage. Nothing was ever heard of the book again. There were no lectures or questions - simply some enlightened housekeeping. We have grown to be comfortable with much or with little but find greater satisfaction with surroundings of simplicity and high purity. We know that YESU told us **the Son of Man has no place to lay HIS Head.** ¹⁸ We grow less attached to places and things, and have learned to live light and to travel light.

GROWING LIKE A TREE

Trees are about half roots. Consider your study of GOD's Word to be *working on your roots*. Fellowship with Godly brethren is like *working on your branches*. Good works are the fruits, and healthy heartwood vital. If you try to be all fruits early in your walk with GOD, then your tree will fall over in the first strong gust of wind. If you only study HIS Word and end up primarily roots you'll probably be of less use to GOD. Seek a healthy balance between your roots and branches and the fruits will come naturally of themselves. If you find you've stunted your growth in some way, get back into healthy balance, and bear good fruit with less effort.

¹⁷ see John 14:12-13

¹⁸ see Matthew 8:18-22



**“Blessed is the man who trusts in YHVH
whose confidence is in HIM.
he will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
it does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green;
it has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.”¹⁹**

Perfection starts with tending your roots. You know the answer to “two plus two?” without conscious thought and likewise the answer to “three times five?” You no longer question how you know the answers are right, as they became part of *previously solved questions* and the right answers are there every time. It is much the same with knowing the fullness of GOD’s commandments for ourselves. Although the subjects are more difficult, the

process is the same. We dig deep to learn the correct foundations for right and wrong choices – the commandments. If we listen to what this man and that man say about what GOD wants, we will hear many opinions and not reach a conclusion. If we accept only one group of men, we may also be accepting errors long handed down. When we dig deep and nourish our roots with what GOD actually said, then we can grow with the deep foundation MESSIAH spoke of.

Everyone who comes to ME, and hears MY Words, and acts upon them, I will show you who he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation upon the rock; and when a flood rose, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ²⁰

To act upon the words of MESSIAH, dig deep and grow up strong. It does take time, but eventually the answers are the right answers every time. It then gets easier as time passes. But if we allow our foundation to rest upon doctrines of men we may find they led us away from the deep foundation. You are building your foundation for eternity with GOD - be zealous in this first season of your journey. The passage of time makes simple many things that we might desire to get over and done with quickly. It takes about three years for all cells in the human body to replace themselves, some portions regenerating more often than others. Thinking patterns change slowly. Don’t hurt yourself by rushing a natural process, and don’t be overly slack. Balance yourself like a good tree does every day for good health.

LEARNING & UNLEARNING



We’ve learned in many ways from our youth. We’ve developed patterns of behaviour and found ways to defend those in our own minds. As we walk and grow toward perfection, we find that there are not only new things to learn, but plenty that we need to unlearn also.



The latter may prove more important for our progress, and I mention examples of both of these here.

Control of the Tongue 1 - *Bridling the tongue*. Kefa (St. Peter) said “let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile.”²¹ The Epistle of James 3:2-10 has much to say as well. The acts of *counting-to-10* when upset or otherwise *bridling the tongue* are indeed things we can learn

¹⁹ see Jeremiah 17:7-8

²⁰ see Luke 6:47-48

²¹ see 1 Peter 3:10-11

only by self-discipline. They take time, but due diligence is amply rewarded. Consider that the Judge of the heavens and the earth, our MASTER, has warned us as follows:-

But I tell you that men will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned. ²²

Control of the Tongue 2 - 'Love thy neighbour as thyself' requires us to rebuke and chastise! The Epistle of James (in 3:9-10) calls into question a tongue that might both bless and curse. But the source of the number two commandment calls upon us to rebuke and chastise for sin (see Lev19:17-18, the very source of "love your neighbour"). The meaning in most Christian circles today is far from the original, more a live-and-let-live approach which is not the deep Biblical root. As quoted earlier, our MASTER rebukes and disciplines those HE loves. Let us ensure that we do not shrink back from what is proper for us to say, and not be found guilty of an improper silence.

Control of the Tongue 3 - *General Vocabulary*. Popular jargon is full of vanities, stupidities and errors that we should refrain from repeating. To some degree, all languages of earth have been debased from their simple and correct meanings. Common speech is marred by largely unresisted cycles of degradation, sloppiness and laziness that have been at work for centuries. Many words are mis-used in our languages; many concepts are ill-conceived. Consider the phrase *high technology* and the *technology* of an apple seed. The seed knows everything it needs to know in order to grow under a variety of soil and climatic conditions, and to produce fruit after a span of years. Inside each piece of fruit are apple seeds that can repeat this process and multiply the original goodness many-fold. We do not understand how the apple seed knows how to do this. We cannot manufacture one. We might call this *old technology* as it is more than 6000 years old. If a new gadget makes our lives *easier* or *softer* in some way, that might not be as good a fortune as we initially thought. We can choose to be more insightful about the simplicity that many poorer people still enjoy. With improved discrimination, we can enjoy life more with fewer gadgets in hand and no silly buzz-words marring our speech.

Control of the Tongue 4 - *A perspective on Holy Angels*. A Holy Angel stopped St. John from worshipping Him saying "**don't do that, I am a fellow servant of you and your brothers, the Prophets**".²³ The quickness, humility and succinctness are instructive about what we can expect from Holy Ones who have great powers to work on behalf of GOD. One Angel defeated 185,000 armed men on behalf of Israel before they arrived for the fight.²⁴ Respect Them! Do not try to speak to Them, lest They be forced to rebuke you! Let us, in Their presence, speak to potential converts using phrases like *go to JESUS* rather than *come to JESUS* as if we were so sure to be along the path to HIM. What might be called "Angel-mania" in modern media is corrosive to right thinking. Take care for your words!

A moment in history. In January of 313 CE, the heathen emperors Constantine and Licinius met at Milan and issued an edict that made Christianity a legal religion in their parts of the old Roman empire (Maximin was still persecuting Christians in his area). During the fourth century CE, the church changed into a political force, eventually led by those of political ambition. They deviated sharply from YESU's Word with little restraint, their council proclamations condemning others. Lukewarm and cold brethren were counted as faithful. Men paganised Christianity with major elements of old mystery religions, feasts and traditions. Errors from that day affect the brethren in every Christian congregation down to this day, albeit in varying degrees. Some modern denominations invented new errors as if the Flock needed some. Collectively they now extol the Name of YESU without HIS hard message. How else could they "ordain as priests" men who practice sodomy, a death penalty? Depraved-with-lawyers are re-shaping what is called *Christian* beyond all recognition. Nothing new. Just a continuation of what began in 313 CE.

The Torah is not Far Away "For this commandment which I command you this day is not hidden from you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who shall go up for us to heaven and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' [...] See, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and misfortunes..."²⁵ The Torah is completely available to those who care. It is a matter

²² see Matthew 12:36-37

²³ see Revelation 22:8-10

²⁴ see 2 King 19:34-36

²⁵ see Deut 30:11-15

of life and death for Israel. Although Gentiles have a shorter version to deal with (Acts 15:28-29), it is again a matter of life and death to grow in a way that leads to perfection as YESU wanted.

Guilt and Punishment. When Moses twice asked that GOD pardon the Israelites,²⁶ GOD made it clear HE would by no means leave the guilty unpunished. This means that although HE may forgive a sin, HE does punish the guilty. HE says in Numbers 15:24 that a man will bear his own guilt when he learns that he has transgressed commandments. That is Torah. Understand where you have erred, and apologise to GOD. If you suffer, then know another place that says “do not gloat over me, my enemy, for GOD can punish me in HIS Righteousness but HE will redeem me.”²⁷ YESU has atoned already. Know also Ezekiel 18 where those who return to HIM are granted peace in the end. Be remorseful because sin is wrong, not because you were punished for it. Repent. Return to your original innocence. Everything will be better for you in eternity because you chose Life.

Evolution –vs- Creation. Some say that science should be a *non-religious* subject, but our approach to topics like geology actually do depend upon our point of view. Evolution’s doctrines, without foundation, have undermined the faith of many Christians. It has by degrees become a religion in its own right.²⁸ During the late 1990s I spent some of my time in India. There was a widely acclaimed PhD in Physics who told tribal Christians he could prove the Bible was false and, along with militant hindu men, forced some Christians through a ritual of “re-conversion” to hindu beliefs. Friends of mine translated, printed and circulated thousands of Hindi leaflets with the matter in better perspective, but it was a small thing in the midst of one billion people. Know that there are substantial resources showing evolution is a lie, and the Book of Genesis a reliable early history.²⁹ Learning honest science facts helped many young people in India, Russia and China to remain steadfast in the face of governments who insist otherwise. In the West, information is freely available, and should be made use of while access remains unfettered.

Discernment. Ask the HOLY SPIRIT to help you understand the narrow path. If you are keeping the small number of commandments for Gentiles, you can live at liberty in all other things down here, but some lifestyle choices fit better than others. The HOLY SPIRIT develops discernment in us as we mature. Will it seem to you flavourless and plain? You need not cultivate the Way – just don’t pollute it!

A Needful Wariness – On the plains of Africa, life and death are often separated by no more than a keen sense of crisis - a hungry antelope intent on extra bites of green grass may not sense predators and become their next meal. Many sober Christians believe the Day of calamity is approaching. As with the Christians of the early centuries, we can’t assume any lull in the persecution of true believers is going to last. Formerly “Christian nations” are no longer so, and leaning in the direction of violence toward believers as fast as their courts give way. The current lull of persecutions in large communist countries will not last. Grow wary and remain soberly defensive for the sake of your own lives.

Our lives unfold between the sickle and the sword.
Our lives are intertwined with spears and grain.
Behold how we have been woven of such warp and woof:
Blushing flowers and white-hot steel.³⁰

We can learn such wariness, but must actively unlearn any old habits that hinder our becoming fully reconciled to GOD. Judgment and correction starts with those who are called to be faithful.³¹ “**Start at MY Sanctuary**”, HE said.³² You must move beyond the worldly haze, make the pilgrimage in your heart, and unlearn those things that remain in your way while it is easier to do so.³³

Do you run from the worship of God
and yearn to serve only men?

²⁶ see Exodus 32 and Numbers 14

²⁷ see Micah 7:8

²⁸ see ICR’s Impact Article #332 *Evolution is Religion - Not Science* © 2001, by Dr. Henry Morris

²⁹ try these www.PathLights.Com; www.ICR.Org; www.Halos.Com; www.OrionFdn.Org

³⁰ this is the first stanza of Yehiel Mohar’s poem *Between Sickle and Sword* as translated by Esther Raize in No Rattling of Sabers – An Anthology of Israeli War Poetry © 1995

³¹ see 1-Peter 4:17

³² see Ezekiel 9:1-6

³³ see Isaiah 55 for such an invitation to seek HIM

Do you seek the crowd's company and leave
 the One whom all that will may seek?
 Are you slow to prepare for your journey?
 Will you sell your portion for a lentil stew?
 Your desire continually conceives new pleasures,
 but does not your soul say to you, '**Enough!**'? ³⁴

DO YOU BELIEVE IN PERFECTIBILITY?

Perfectibility of men is very old in worldly philosophies, and a quest older than philosophy itself. It is the wise men and women who seek perfection, great inner purity, for their own eternal sake. They know enough to prepare for eternity, to lay up treasures in heaven instead of down here on the earth.³⁵ The wise must still seek among the imperfect words of imperfect languages for ones that best express or defend this process, and many are those who have tried. Early Christian writings took it for granted that men are capable of fulfilling this command from YESU. While some worldly authors dream about perfected societies, it often falls to politicians to capture where humanity is really headed on a collective scale. President Sukarno of Indonesia once spoke of mankind's achievements but asked "...has man's political skill marched hand-in-hand with his technical and scientific skill? Man can chain lightning to his command - can he control the society in which he lives? The answer is No! The political skill of man has been far outstripped by technical skill, and what he has made he cannot be sure of controlling. The result of this is fear. And man gasps for safety and morality."³⁶ In the decades after the founding of the Non-Aligned Movement at Bandung, the old East-West Cold War ended and the fortunes of Asia rose. That in turn has given way to an age of madmen terrorists with multinational networks and terror state treasuries to call upon. We are heading into a somewhat quieter interlude simply due to the forces of economic self-interest with its treasury- and position-building, not due to any increase in men's political skills. So things are bound to break down again on a collective scale, and more violently than ever next time. How we, as individuals, prepare for and cope with that calamitous period is really up to us one by one.

On the scale of individuals, we do not have to be *of this world* even while remaining vibrantly alive in it.³⁷ We can unburden ourselves considerably and learn what the Psalm means when it says "And I will walk at liberty, for I seek YOUR precepts."³⁸ However, if we are still eating food with blood, are ignorant about idols and do not know how the Torah defines *fornication*, are we really any better than a kind-hearted non-Christian?³⁹ Can we walk the right road, grow like a tree, and get the commandments right in our lives? Without doing that, are we even Christians?

CONCLUSION

In late summer, the first rays of the sun touch the north face of Tel Megiddo a little after five in the morning. Lone birds of prey⁴⁰ can be seen circling on the breeze, far from their breeding colony. The plains below, known as Armageddon to Westerners, stretch more than 20 kilometers from their Western end toward the East before the land drops away toward the Jordan River. With ponds and reservoirs dotted among fields sown and reaped for millennia, it is almost as green as the Hula Valley. Megiddo has long had a small place in human history for those of us who already know the Torah and Prophets as GOD's Truthful Witness. The archeologists, who begin to stir a bit after seven here, continue to dig and sift the dusts of Megiddo as if confirming the Biblical record before the world's heathen held real value. What a filthy waste of time it seems to me - molesting that old grave mound!

³⁴ taken from the first stanza of a poem by Judah ben-Samuel ha-Levi (1070-1141) titled *Self-Exhortation to Make the Journey to Israel*, as translated by David Goldstein in [The Jewish Poets of Spain](#) © 1965

³⁵ see Matthew 6:19-21

³⁶ Bung Karno's Opening Speech for the Bandung Conference, 18th April, 1955

³⁷ see John 17:13-15

³⁸ see Psalm 119:45

³⁹ see a *Legal primer* on www.primeconcord.info for further information

⁴⁰ griffon vultures are mentioned more than 20 times as birds of prey in the Bible. They grow to more than one metre in height with a wingspan of 2.7 metres. Ancient Gamla is on the far side of Lake Kinneret, also called the Sea of Galilee. The lake can be seen from the breeding colony the vultures, buzzards and eagles have long maintained in Gamla gorge, just below the most ancient of dolmen fields.

Those of us who had already accepted Megiddo's *history past* likewise know that the gathering of yet more kings and armies to the valley floor below Tel Megiddo is already part of *history future*. That the Day approaches, burning like a furnace, is already sensed by some of us. While scintillating books do abound, we do better to heed the warning not to add to –or- remove from the book of Revelation, and refrain from saying more than we can possibly know. While many people dread the onset of this coming time, Kefa, our MASTER's Chief Apostle, tells us to rejoice.⁴¹ Keep your focus on eternal life!

Each man must answer for himself *Who is he in the universe and eternity?* Did he return to GOD? Did he walk toward perfection? Did he avoid the mark of eternal destruction? Or did he go so far away from GOD that a night fell when no man can work? And a door was closed on him that none would open? I made my decision as a teenager to reject the mark of eternal destruction we learn about in chapter 14 of Revelation - no matter what earthly consequences arise. In the decades since that decision I have not avoided marriage or children or other big obligations. None of those led me to value this earthly life above its worth. YESU, my MASTER, shall return to earth toward the end of a worldwide calamity, one overflowing with HIS Righteousness. Have you made your decision? Are you walking in strength upon the road to eternal life?

When you know that YESU sees you walking the path HE called you to, then you can likewise be sure of the great peace from GOD that goes with walking the right path. We no longer have to read from GOD's Word every day but we do learn from it every day – our inner contemplation gives daily opportunities to improve our roots, our foundations, sharpening the critical eye and discriminating thought. The cross of our past gets lighter all the time; the Righteous yoke of bearing good fruit becomes amazingly light upon our shoulders, then a source of great joy. We learn to take a wider view of the brethren, of the flock, the folds. We critically view the shepherds. Some shepherds are in need of helpful friends; some are in need of serious house-cleaning of their own; some should be shot or retired without fanfare. This view we develop because we love the flock, our brethren, and are more zealous for their sake. We develop a more critical approach to fellowship for our own good growth. We become perfectly free by degrees, and guard and use that freedom wisely. As in our youth we exult in physical strength and robustness, we approach something similar in our spiritual lives. We know the shames associated with being side-tracked into wasteful vanity, and are more zealous for our own walk. If ever moved to feel proud of our progress, we remember our shames; we give all glory to HIM Who Made Us and continue to walk humbly with our GOD. The journey does not end here – this life is only the first season of eternity. Walk away from the second death and eternal fire toward the Light and the Living Waters. Only GOD can tell you where, if ever, the homeward journey ends. Are you on your way?

learn what is worthy; discard what is wrong
 add zeal for your health; use time to grow strong
 walk the right road; grow sturdy like trees
 worthy good fruits do come then with ease
 return to your roots; find the real you
 then help to freedom some other folks too

it sounded so hard?
 so simple to learn!
 the way of perfection?
 is the way of return!

a migrant labourer

Tel Megiddo, Israel

August, 2010

*** this posting is part of the book ...Delta... updated slightly for issue in 2015 with ... Three Briefs ...



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⁴¹ see 1 Peter 4:12-14