

*Foundations of Faith:
Believer's Handbook*



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Foreword

Yahshua the Messiah is the foundation and chief cornerstone of our faith (1 Corinthians 3:10-11, Ephesians 2:20), which is embodied in the entirety of the Old and New Testament Scriptures. This handbook is only provided as a reference and study guide. **We do not claim to know all of the Truth and are open at all times to fresh revelation from the Father.** We've included a number of Scripture references for each topic, and we encourage you to prove all things, holding fast that which is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Audio sermons on many of these subjects are available through our website.

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1. Yahweh

Yahweh is the supreme Ruler of the universe. He is the Almighty, the Creator, and the Sustainer of the heavens, the earth, and all things. Although many think of Elohim (Eh-low-HEEM = “God”) as a singular entity, the Scriptures actually indicate that Elohim is a unity (*echád* in the Hebrew language) consisting of the Father and the Son. Because of His incredible love for us, the Father sent His Son to earth to redeem mankind and provide the opportunity for eternal life.

- Gen. 1:1** Elohim created heaven and earth.
Gen. 1:26-27 “Let Us make man in Our image.” More than one individual is referred to as Elohim.
Acts 14:15 Yahweh made the heaven, earth, the sea, and all things therein (*see also Acts 17:24-25; Neh. 9:6*).
Isa. 40:26, 28 Yahweh created the heavenly bodies and called them by name.
Isa. 44:24 Yahweh created all things.
Prov. 30:4 Both the Father and Son were involved in the Creation.
Psa. 2:7 The Son was begotten of the Father and will receive the nations as His inheritance.
John 14:28 The Father is greater than the Son.
1 Jo. 4:8, 16 Yahweh is love
John 3:16 Yahweh so loved the world that He gave His only Son.
1 Jo. 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of Elohim

2. Yahshua

Yahshua is the only begotten Son of Yahweh the Father. He pre-existed with the Father, was preeminent in the Creation, and shared His Father’s glory before taking on the form of a man. He appeared to and interacted with individuals in the Old Testament as Yahweh, the Messenger of Yahweh, and the Arm of Yahweh. He was conceived of Holy Spirit and born in the flesh to the virgin Miriam (Mary). He is also the promised Messiah, sent from the Father to be our Savior and Redeemer. Following His completed redemptive work, He ascended to heaven and returned to His former abode at the right hand of Yahweh.

- John 1:18** Yahshua is the only begotten Son of Yahweh (*and 1 John 4:9*).

John 8:42	Yahshua was sent by Yahweh, the Father.
Matt. 14:13	Yahshua's disciples recognized that He was the Son of Yahweh.
Matt. 16:16	Peter declared that Yahshua was the Messiah.
Luke 1:26-35	Miriam (Mary), the virgin, was told that she would bear a Son, conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Acts 4:12	Salvation is in no other person or name.
John 20:28	He was recognized as Yahweh after His resurrection (<i>and Hebr. 1:8</i>).
Hebr. 1:6	He received worship of men and angels (<i>and Matt. 2:2, 8; 8:2; 9:18</i>).
1 Cor. 10:1-4	He was referred to as Yahweh in the Old Testament (<i>and Exod. 14:21-25</i>).
Micah 5:2	The promised Ruler, whose origins are "from of old, from everlasting" (i.e., an Eternal Being).
Isa. 9:6	The promised Child-Ruler is referred to as Mighty El and Everlasting Father.
Gen. 18:1-33	Yahweh (Yahshua) and two messengers appeared as men to Abraham.
Gen. 19:24-25	Yahweh (Yahshua) rained fire and brimstone upon Sodom and Gomorrah from (Yah) Yahweh out of heaven.
Gen. 32:24-30	Jacob wrestled with a Man (Elohim) and prevailed, and said he had "seen Elohim face to face."
Josh. 5:13-15	Joshua worshipped the "prince of the host of Yahweh" (Yahshua).
Judg. 6:11-24	The "Angel" (Messenger) of Yahweh appeared to Gideon – and was called Yahweh.
John 1:1	Yahshua pre-existed with Yahweh and as Yahweh.
John 1:3	Yahshua shared in the Creation (<i>and Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16</i>).
Gen. 1:26	"Let <u>Us</u> make man in <u>Our</u> image" (plural pronouns, denoting the plurality of Yahweh Elohim).
Rev. 3:14	He was the beginning (origin, source) of the Creation.
John 17:5, 24	Yahshua had glory before the world was.
John 8:58	He existed before Abraham was born.
Phil. 2:5-11	He voluntarily divested Himself of His divinity in order to come to earth and take on the form of a servant in human flesh (<i>and John 1:1-14</i>).
John 1:41	He is the Messiah & Redeemer (<i>and Eph. 1:7; Tit. 2:14</i>).
Hebr. 10:10	We've been sanctified through the offering of His Body
Isa. 44:6	Yahweh, the King of Israel; and His Redeemer, Yahweh of hosts.
Isa. 52:10-15	Yahweh's righteous Arm – His Servant – would sprinkle many nations.

Isa. 53:6	He would bear the iniquity of us all.
v10	He would be bruised, and His soul would be an offering for sin.
v12	He would justify many, bearing their iniquities, and would pour out His soul to death, making intercession for the transgressors.
Isa. 59:15-17	Yahweh's own Arm brought salvation to Him.
Col. 1:15, 17	Yahshua is the firstborn of every creature.
John 3:31	Yahshua came from above.
John 3:13	Yahshua came from and has returned to heaven (<i>and John 16:27-28</i>).
John 6:62	He returned to where He had been before.

3. Sacred Names of the Father and Son

The true Name of the Father is revealed in the Old Testament as four Hebrew characters, is rendered in English as 'YHWH', and is spelled phonetically as 'Yahweh'. His Son, the Messiah, was born of Hebrews and has a Hebrew name, Yahshua, not the Greek "Ieosis" nor the Anglo-Latinized "Jesus." Yahshua means "Yah is Salvation," which is in complete agreement with the stated purpose of His birth (Matt. 1:21-25). Our heavenly Father desires that we use these Names, in reverence, in order to form a closer relationship with Him and His Son.

Exod. 3:15	"And Elohim said moreover to Moses, In this manner shall you say to the children of Israel, <u>Yahweh</u> , the Elohim of your fathers, the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Isaac, and the Elohim of Jacob, has sent me to you: <u>this is My Name forever</u> , and this is <u>My memorial to all generations</u> ."
Exod. 20:7	"You shall not make wrong use of the Name of Yahweh your Elohim; for Yahweh will not leave unpunished the man who misuses His Name."
Isa. 42:8	"I am Yahweh – that is My Name; and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to carved images."
Mal. 1:11	Yahweh's Name shall be great among the Gentiles
Psa. 68:4	"Sing to Elohim, sing praises to His Name: cast up a highway for Him that rides through the deserts; His Name is Yah ..."
Matt. 1:21	"And she shall bring forth a Son; and you shall call His Name Yahshua, for He shall save His people from their sins."

Yahshua came in His Father's Name and with His Father's authority.

- John 5:43** "I have come in My Father's Name, and you receive Me not: if another shall come in his own name, him you will receive."
- Matt. 28:18** All authority in heaven and on earth was given to Yahshua
- Phil. 2:9-10** "Therefore also Yahweh highly exalted Him, and gave to Him the Name which is above every name; that in the Name of Yahshua every knee should bow ..."
- Acts 4:10-12** "Be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that in the Name of Yahshua the Messiah of Nazareth, Whom you impaled (crucified), Whom Yahweh raised from the dead, [even] in this Name does this man stand here before you whole. He is the Stone which was rejected of you the builders, which was made the head of the corner. And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, in which we must be saved."
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4. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit (*Ruach ha Kodesh*) is the Comforter that Messiah promised to send. It is not a person but an extension of the living, invisible creative power – the manifestation – the essence of Yahweh. Yahweh and Yahshua give the Spirit to those who ask in faith and obedience. By the Spirit, Yahweh reveals Scriptural truth to the minds of men and gives power to witness for Him. Believers manifest the evidence of the Spirit in their lives by words spoken, by the fruit of the Spirit, and by keeping the commandments of Yahweh.

- Gen. 1:1-2** The Spirit of Elohim moved upon the face of the waters at Creation.
- Matt. 3:16** The Spirit of Yahweh descended upon Yahshua in the form of a dove.
- Luke 24:49** Yahshua said He would send forth the promise of the Father (the Holy Spirit) upon them.
- Acts 2:1-4** The Spirit fell upon believers at Pentecost, appearing as tongues of fire and with the sound of a rushing, mighty wind.
- Matt. 10:20** Yahshua told His disciples that the Spirit of the Father in them would speak.

1 Cor. 2:10-16	Spiritual truth is revealed through the Spirit.
John 3:34	Yahshua received the full measure of the Spirit.
2 Cor. 1:21-22	True believers are sealed by Yahweh and are given by Him the “earnest” or down payment of the Spirit.
Acts 2:33	Yahweh’s Spirit is imparted to His believers through His Son.
Acts 8:14-18	The Spirit is imparted to believers by the laying on of hands by the Elders, after repentance and baptism into the saving Name of Yahshua (<i>and Acts 2:38; 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6; Titus 3:6</i>).
John 14:16-17	Holy Spirit is known as the “Spirit of Truth” ...
John 15:26	... the “Comforter”
Rom. 8:15	... and the “Spirit of Adoption”
1 Cor. 12:13	All those who accept the Hebrew Messiah and repent – whether Jew or Gentile – are baptized into one Body by one and the same Spirit.
John 14:15	It is through His Spirit in us that we are able to show our love for Yahshua the Son and Yahweh the Father through obedience, by keeping His commandments (<i>and Acts 1:8; 1 John 2:5</i>).
John 3:8	The Spirit is compared to wind.
John 20:22	The Spirit is compared to breath.

Note: the doctrine of the “trinity” was not codified by the Catholic Church until the Council of Constantinople in 381 CE, over 350 years after the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Yahshua Messiah.

5. The Scriptures

The Scriptures – both Old and New Testament – are the inspired Word of Yahweh. They are infallible in their teaching, are the ultimate authority on all doctrinal issues, were given for our good, and are to be the guide for our lives. Scripture CANNOT contradict Scripture – rather, plain and unambiguous Scriptures must be used to interpret those Scriptures which do appear vague or contradictory. Yahweh’s Word is eternal. Yahshua is the Word.

John 17:17	Yahweh’s Word is truth.
1 Jo. 2:21	No lie is of the truth.
Num. 23:19	Yahweh is not a man, that He can lie.

Psa. 119:89	Yahweh's Word is settled forever in heaven.
Psa. 119:105	Yahweh's Word is lamp to our feet, a light to our path.
2 Tim. 3:16	All Scripture is Yahweh-breathed and is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.
2 Pet. 3:15-16	Paul wrote some things which are hard to understand, which the ignorant & unlearned twist to their own destruction.
2 Pet. 1:20-21	No prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation; men of Yahweh spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
Prov. 30:6	Neither add to nor diminish from Yahweh's Word (<i>and Deut. 12:32; Rom. 3:4</i>)
John 5:39	The Scriptures (Old Testament) testify of Yahshua, the means by which salvation comes to mankind.
Matt. 24:35	Yahweh's Word will never pass away.
John 1:1	The Word (Yahshua) was with Yahweh in the beginning and is Elohim.

6. Sin & Repentance

Man was created in the image and likeness of Yahweh, but through disobedience (sin), he brought upon all mankind the curse of sorrow, hardship, and death. In order to be reconciled to Yahweh, we must repent.

Gen. 1:26-27	Man was created in the image of Yahweh (to have dominion).
Gen. 3:1-6 v6-19	Adam & Eve transgressed Yahweh's commandment ... and were cursed for their disobedience.
1 John 3:4	Sin is the transgression of Yahweh's eternal law.
Rom. 3:23	ALL have sinned and fallen short of Yahweh's mark.
Isa. 59:2	Sin separates us from Elohim.
Rom. 6:23	the penalty of sin is death.
1 Cor. 15:22	Because of sin, death came upon all men (<i>and Rom. 5:12</i>).
Josh. 24:15	Man has free will to choose good or evil, to serve Yahweh or false Elohim (<i>and Prov. 1:29; Isa. 7:15; Deut. 30:19</i>).
2 Pet. 3:9	Yahweh doesn't desire that any should perish.

7. Salvation

Yahweh has provided the plan of salvation as the means by which man may escape the penalty of death pronounced upon him. Yahshua was sent to earth to redeem man from the curse of sin. This was accomplished by His sinless life and sacrificial death, in which He shed His Blood on the stake at Golgotha (Calvary) and was resurrected in triumph over death. Yahshua took our place in death and offered His perfect life as a substitution for our sinful ones. Eternal life is available to all through the atonement of Yahshua of Nazareth – and through Him only. Salvation and eternal life are Yahweh’s free gift to all who are willing to accept it and its covenant terms.

- 2 Pet. 3:9** Yahweh is not willing that any should perish.
- Isa. 53:5-6** The promised Deliverer (Messiah) of Israel would be wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, and would bear the iniquity of us all.
- v10** His soul (*nephesh* – being, body) would be an offering for sin.
- v11-12** He would be a righteous Servant and would justify many, bearing their iniquities, and would pour out His soul to death, making intercession for the transgressors.
- John 3:16** Yahweh gave His Son – whosoever believes on Him will not perish.
- John. 10:1,7,9** Yahshua is the only door to salvation (*and Acts 4:10-12*).
- Rom. 5:10-11** We receive atonement and are saved by Yahshua’s life.
- Hebr. 4:15** Yahshua was sinless and became the propitiation for our sins through faith in His Blood (*and 1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 John 2:2*).
- Rom. 10:13** Whoever will call on the Name of Yahweh shall be saved.
- Rom. 6:23** Though the penalty of sin is death, we have redemption through Yahshua Messiah.
- Acts 20:28** Yahshua purchased the assembly with His Blood.
- 1 Cor. 15:13-23** Yahshua’s resurrection gives assurance that the plan of salvation will be completed.
- 1 Pet. 1:18-19** We are redeemed with the Blood of Yahshua.
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8. Faith Towards Yahweh

Conversion is the process by which one is changed from his old, carnal, sinful nature into a new creature in Yahshua Messiah. An individual accepts Yahshua by exercising faith in Yahweh and His plan

of salvation through Yahshua; confessing and repenting of his sins; and in committing wholeheartedly to a life of obedience to Yahweh, patterning this life after the example set by Yahshua. True conversion will show the fruits of the Spirit.

- John 3:3-8** One must be born again to enter the Kingdom of Yahweh (The new birth has two phases, one present and one yet future) (*and Rom. 8:4-11, 15, 23*).
- 2 Cor. 5:17** Any man in Messiah is a new creature.
- Hebr. 11:6** Whoever comes to Yahweh must have faith.
- 1 Jo. 1:9** If we confess our sins, they will be forgiven.
- Lk. 24:47** Repentance is to be preached.
- Acts 2:38** Repentance and baptism prepare us to receive the Holy Spirit.
- Phil. 2:5-8** We should have the mind of Messiah, Who was obedient unto death.
- 1 Jo. 2:6** Yahshua left us an example of how to live – we should walk in it (*and 1 Pet. 2:21*).
- Rom. 10:9** Confess the Messiah, Yahshua.
- 2 Cor. 1:21-22** True believers are sealed by Yahweh and are given by Him the “earnest” or down-payment of the Spirit.

9. Baptism of Repentance

Baptism is by complete immersion in water. This is known as the baptism of repentance and symbolizes the burial of our sinful nature and the rising up of a new creature in Yahshua Messiah, to walk in service and obedience to Yahweh. It represents the answer of a good conscience toward Yahweh.

- Matt. 3:16** Yahshua was baptized to “fulfill all righteousness”. After His baptism, He walked up out of the water.
- Acts 8:38-39** Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water.
- Acts 2:37-41** Baptism is a part of the conversion process and should be done in the Name of Yahshua the Messiah.
- 1 Pet. 3:21** Baptism is the answer (response) to a good conscience toward Yahweh.
- Rom. 6:4-5** Baptism is a type or symbol of burial and rising up to walk in newness of life.

10. Baptism of the Spirit

There is a required baptism by water to repentance, but in addition there is a baptism of Holy Spirit that is given by Yahweh. This special gift is available to all believers but is not required for salvation. It is a deeper revelation and communication with the Father.

- Matt. 3:11** John the Baptist spoke of the baptism of repentance and the baptism of Holy Spirit (*and Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16*).
- Acts 1:5** “For John truly baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence.”
- Acts 2:2-4** (on the day of Pentecost) “And suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of the rushing of a mighty wind ... there appeared to them tongues dividing apart, like as of fire; and it sat upon each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
- Acts 2:38** “And Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Yahshua the Messiah to the remission of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- Acts 8:17-18** Baptism of the Spirit is typically accomplished through the laying on of hands by the elders (*and 9:17, 19:4-6*).
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11. Faith

The believer’s walk is a walk of faith. We recognize that without faith it is impossible to please Yahweh. We further recognize that we demonstrate our faith by our actions. In no way are we “saved” by our works; rather, our works are the witness of our faith in Yahshua Messiah.

- Hebr. 11:1** Faith is the substance of things hoped for, evidence of things not seen.
- Rom. 10:17** Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the Word of Yahweh.
- Hebr. 11:6** It is impossible to please Yahweh without faith.
- Jam. 2:18-26** Faith without corresponding works is dead (not real faith).
- Hebr. 11** All of the patriarchs and righteous men & women in Scripture showed their faith by their works.
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12. The Law & Grace

Yahweh has given us His law for our good. It is eternal and perfect, converting the soul by convicting us of our own sinful nature. Yahshua did not come to destroy or “do away” with the law, but to FULFILL it (fill to the full, to overflowing). We demonstrate our love for Yahweh through our obedience to His laws and precepts. The two greatest commandments are to love Yahweh with all of our heart, soul, and might, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

- Deut. 6:24** Yahweh has given us His laws for our good (*and Rom. 7:12, 16, 21-22; 1 Tim. 1:8*).
- Deut. 6:4-5** Love Yahweh with all of your heart, soul, and might (*and Matt. 22:34-38, Mark 12:28-30, Luke 10:27*).
- Deut. 7:9** Yahweh keeps covenant with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to 1000 generations.
- Lev. 19:18** Love your neighbor as yourself (*and Matt. 19:19, 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27; Rom. 13:8-9*).
- Matt. 5:17-18** Yahshua did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it. It will stand as long as the heavens and the earth (*and Rev. 12:17, 14:12*).
- Deut. 10:12** We demonstrate our love for Yahweh through our obedience to His laws and precepts (*and Deut. 6:4-9; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 1 John 2:3*).
- Psa. 19:7** Yahweh’s law is perfect, converting the soul.
- Rom. 3:20** By the law is the knowledge of sin.
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13. Sabbaths & Festivals

Yahweh has ordained specific, special appointed times in His Word for His people. The first of these – the weekly Sabbath – was established at Creation. It is a memorial both of Creation and Redemption and occurs on the seventh day of the week, commonly called Saturday. It is to be regarded as holy from sunset Friday until Sunset Saturday. It is a day of rest and worship. Consistent with this, secular work is to be excluded on the Sabbath.

Weekly Sabbath

- Gen. 2:3** Yahweh blessed and sanctified the seventh day at Creation by resting on that day.

- Exod. 20:8-11** The fourth commandment – remember the Sabbath day, to keep it set-apart. It is a memorial of Creation.
- Deut. 5:12-15** The Sabbath is also a memorial of redemption.
- Lev. 23:32** Sabbaths are to be observed from evening to evening.
- Luke 4:16** It was Yahshua’s custom to observe the Sabbath.
- Acts 17:2** Paul observed the Sabbath many years after Yahshua’s death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.
- Mark 2:27-28** The Sabbath was made for man (not the Jews only); Yahshua is Master of the Sabbath.
- Acts 13:14** Paul worshipped on the Sabbath (*and v42, 44*).
- Acts 16:13** Women had prayer on the Sabbath.
- Acts 18:4, 11** Paul observed the Sabbath for eighteen months at Corinth.
- Isa. 56:2** The Sabbath is holy (set apart).
- Isa. 58:13-14** We are to consider the Sabbath a delight.
- Hebr. 4:9** There remains a Sabbath rest (*sabbatismos* – literally, “the keeping of a Sabbath”) for the people of Yahweh
- Isa. 66:23** The Sabbath will be recognized in the new earth after Yahshua’s return.

In addition to the weekly Sabbath, Yahweh established annual Sabbaths and festivals which paint the entire plan of salvation.

Annual Sabbaths and Festivals

- Lev. 23:1-44** The annual feast days and Sabbath are all listed as “feasts of Yahweh” and are commanded to be kept forever.
- Exod. 23:14-17** Feast days were part of the covenant before the ceremonial law was given.
- Jer. 7:22-23** Sacrificial law was added after the laws of obedience, because of transgression of the laws of obedience (*and Gal. 3:19*).
- Acts 2:1** The early Body of believers were assembled together on Pentecost (*Shavuot*, “Feast of First Fruits”) – after Yahshua’s resurrection and ascension.
- Acts 20:16** Paul hastened to Jerusalem to keep a Feast (*and 18:21*).
- 1 Cor. 5:7-8** Paul instructs the Corinthian believers to “keep the Feast” of Passover and Unleavened Bread, approximately 25 years after Messiah’s death (*and Acts 20:6*).
- Zech. 14:16-19** In Yahshua’s millennial reign, true believers will go up to Jerusalem from year to year to keep the Feast of Tabernacles and worship.

14. Clean and Unclean

The distinction between clean and unclean foods is to be observed today as Yahweh's will, because it was given by Him for man's benefit and to reflect our obedience.

- Gen. 7:1-3** Noah knew which animals were clean and unclean.
Lev. 11:2-47 Clean & unclean foods are identified (*and Deut. 14:3-20*).
Deut. 6:24 Yahweh's laws are for our good always (*and 10:12-13*).
Acts 10:9-14 Peter recognized the difference between clean and unclean animals (*and v17, 28 – he did not take the vision literally but as an admonition not to call any man common or unclean*).
Isa. 66:15-17 When Yahshua returns to judge the nations, certain foods will still be an abomination.
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15. The *Ekklesia* and the House of Worship

The Greek word *Ekklesia* – usually translated ‘church’ – actually means ‘an assembly of called-out ones’. The *Ekklesia* is the Body of Messiah, the habitation of Yahweh through the Spirit. Each Believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and *Ekklesia* of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:22; Hebrews 12:23). One does not join the “church”; each person who truly believes in Yahshua is baptized into the *Ekklesia* – the Body of Messiah – by Holy Spirit.

Yahweh has always had an established order or pattern for how things should be done in His House. He desires orderliness and reverence, but above all He desires relationship, not mere religious ritual. The local assembly is a community of faith, growing towards maturity and perfection with patience and love.

The New Testament pattern for assembly oversight, under the headship of Yahshua Messiah, is the “five-fold” ministry, consisting of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. It is not a strict hierarchy or authoritarian structure, but rather a cooperative coalition. Its leaders are chosen by Yahweh's sovereign will, meet certain necessary qualifications, and have the responsibility of teaching, training,

equipping, encouraging, exhorting, directing, and providing oversight and correction to the Body of Messiah.

- Ex. 25:8-9** Yahweh told Moses to construct the tabernacle “according to the pattern” he had been shown (*and Hebr. 8:5. See also 1 Chr. 28:11-12, David & the pattern for the temple*).
- Eph. 14:15** Messiah is the Head of the assembly (*and Eph. 5:23*).
- Eph. 2:19-20** The household of Yahweh is built upon the foundation of the apostles & prophets, with Yahshua Messiah as the chief cornerstone.
- Eph. 4:11-13** The 5-fold ministry is for the perfecting & equipping of the saints for the work of ministry.
- 1 Cor. 12:28** Yahweh has **set** some in the assembly. Among them: apostles, prophets, and teachers.
- Titus 1:5-9** Instructions are given to ordain elders in every city; qualifications are given.
- 1 Tim. 3:1-13** Qualifications for the office of bishop (overseer) and deacon (attendant).
- Acts 6:1-8** Apostles appointed seven men for special administrative duties.
- Hebr. 13:7, 17** We are to remember and obey those who have spiritual authority over us in the assembly, according to their life & walk in the faith
- 1Tim. 5:17** Elders who rule well are to be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and in teaching.

The growth, health, and well-being of the local assembly is dependent upon the commitment and loyalty of its members. Those truly committed to the local Body demonstrate their dedication to Yahweh and to each other through consistent Sabbath service attendance, punctuality, a willingness to prepare their hearts and minds beforehand, by their giving hearts, and by working to avoid strife and contention.

- Lev. 23:1-3** The Sabbath is a “holy convocation” (gathering) and is Yahweh’s appointed time – His appointment with us.
- 1 Cor. 14:26** Every member is to have some spiritual gift to offer to the rest of the Body.
- Matt. 22:39** Love your neighbor as yourself (“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”)
- Ro 12:10** Be tenderly affectioned one to another; in honor preferring one another.

- 1 Cor. 1:10-17** Admonition against divisions, contentions (*and 3:1-7*).
Gal. 5:19-21 Jealousy, strife, and dissension are works of the flesh.
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16. Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are special endowments given through Yahweh's Spirit that empower and enable the believer in his or her individual ministry. All of the spiritual gifts identified in Scripture are still active & available to believers today and are freely distributed by Yahweh at His discretion and through His Spirit. The gifts are given for the edifying of the Body, and each member of the Body is to exercise his or her particular gifts in service to Yahweh and the rest of the Body of Messiah.

- Rom. 12:4-6** Different members of the Body have different gifts and offices.
- 1 Cor 12:4-11** There are diversities of gifts, administrations, workings, but the same Spirit. Yahweh freely distributes the gifts at His discretion and through His Spirit.
- 1 Cor 13:1-3** Love is the key (*and v13*).
- Eph. 4:11-12** The "5-fold ministry" is for the perfecting & equipping of the saints for the work of ministry.
- 1 Cor. 14:12** Spiritual gifts are for the edifying of the assembly.
- 1 Pet. 4:7-11** Each believer should minister his or her gift(s) as a good steward of the grace of Yahweh (*and Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Tim. 4:14*).
- 1 Cor. 14:26-31** the gifts are to be exercised in the assembly in an orderly, non-disruptive manner (*and v40*).
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17. Praise & Worship

Praise and worship is an important part of our relationship with Yahweh and Yahshua, as well as with other members of the Body. We are called to worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth, and we can do so with song (with both voice & musical instruments), with the lifting up of our hands, with clapping, bowing down, & even dancing before Yahweh.

- John 4:24** We must worship in Spirit and in Truth.
- Psa. 95:1-2** Come before Yahweh's presence with thanksgiving, make a joyful noise to Him with song.

- Psa. 100** Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.
- Psa. 149:6** Let the high praises of Yahweh be in our mouths.
- Psa. 150** Praise Yahweh with musical instruments.
- 2 Chr. 5:11-14** At the dedication of the temple under Solomon, the glory of Yahweh filled the house after the singers and musicians praised Him.
- Psa. 134:1-2** Lift up your hands to the sanctuary and bless Yahweh (*and 63:4, 141:2; Lam. 3:41; 2 Chr. 6:13; Neh. 8:6; 1 Tim. 2:8*).
- Psa. 149:1-3** Praise his Name in the dance (*and 30:11; Ex. 15:20*).
- 1 Chr. 15:25-29** Israel brought the ark of the covenant of Yahweh up to Jerusalem with shouting and the sounding of musical instruments; David danced before Yahweh (*and 2 Sam. 6:12-16*).
- Psa. 47:1** Clap your hands and shout to Yahweh with the voice of triumph.
- Psa. 95:6** Bow down or kneel before Yahweh (*and 1 Ki. 8:54; 2 Chr. 6:13*).
- Hebr. 13:15** Offer up a sacrifice of praise.
- Psa. 50:14** Offer up a sacrifice of thanksgiving (*and v23, 116:17; Jon. 2:9*).
- Col. 3:16** Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to each other & teaching & admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (*and Eph. 5:18-19*).

18. The Fruit of the Spirit

The maturing believer will exhibit discernible signs (“fruit”) of a changing life as he becomes more and more conformed to the image of Yahshua Messiah. This fruit is best exemplified by love, but also includes joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control. A believer should not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of his mind. His life should be an example – a testimony – to both believers and non-believers.

- Col. 3:14** Love – the bond of perfection.
- John 13:35** Others will know us by our love for one another (*and 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 Jo. 4:7, 11-12; 2 Jo. 1:5*).
- Rom. 12:2** We should not be conformed to the world.
- Eph. 4:23-24** Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.
- Gal. 5:16** If we walk by the Spirit, we won’t fulfill lusts of the flesh.

v19-21	We are to avoid the works of the flesh.
v22	The fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control.
Rom. 8:29	Be conformed to the image of Messiah.
2 Cor. 3:18	We are being changed from glory to glory into the same image as Yahshua Messiah.

19. Prayer

The lifestyle of the believer is one of prayer. Yahweh's people are to pray to Him in the Name of Yahshua, their only Mediator and High Priest, Who is at the right hand of Yahweh the Father and makes intercession on their behalf. Those who earnestly call upon Him will have their prayers answered in accordance with Yahweh's will. While believers can and should pray as individuals, there is also great power in corporate (group) prayer.

1 Tim. 2:8	Men should pray everywhere.
Luke 18:1	Men ought always to pray, and not faint.
1 Thess. 5:17	We are exhorted to pray without ceasing.
Phil. 4:6	Prayer may be used to express needs and appreciation.
John 14:13-14	We are to ask in Yahshua's Name (<i>and 1 John 5:14</i>).
Hebr. 4:14-16	Yahshua is the qualified High Priest.
1 Tim. 2:5	Yahshua is the only Mediator between Yahweh and man.
Rom. 8:34	Yahshua intercedes at the right hand of Yahweh.
James 1:6	Faith must accompany prayer.
Pro. 28:9	the prayer of the disobedient is an abomination.
Matt. 6:9-13	Yahshua gave a model prayer which includes praise, thanks, and petitions.
Matt. 6:5-8	Don't pray as hypocrites or with vain repetitions.
Matt. 21:13	Yahshua said that Yahweh's house would be called a house of prayer (<i>and Isa. 56:7</i>).
Acts 1:13-14	A New Testament prayer meeting.
1 Ki. 8:22-53	Solomon offers a very public prayer.
Acts 4:31	Another prayer meeting, with the subsequent outpouring of Holy Spirit.
Acts 16:13	An apparent women's prayer group.
James 5:16	The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous person accomplishes much.
Rev. 8:3-4	the prayers of the saints are like incense before Yahweh.

20. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the good news of the Kingdom. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement of Yahshua and is the privilege of all believers.

- Isa. 53:4-5** The promised Messiah would bear our sicknesses, carry our diseases, and by His stripes we are healed
- Matt. 8:16-17** Yahshua Himself took our infirmities & bore our diseases
- Jam. 5:14-16** The prayer of faith will save the sick; repentance of any known sin is key.
- 1 Pet. 2:24** by His stripes we are healed
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21. Financial Stewardship (Tithes & Offerings)

The Scriptures, by principle and example, teach that the work of the assembly is to be supported by the financial stewardship of its members. Yahweh's work has always been supported by tithes and freewill offerings. The basic meaning of the tithe is one-tenth. But the Scriptures enlarge upon this basic meaning, so that whenever the scriptural term – the tithe – is used, it is not just any one-tenth, but it is the “first and the best.” Love will motivate each member to give freely and cheerfully without any need for begging or coercion by the leadership. All we have comes from Yahweh, and we are simply stewards of His blessings. He desires and expects us to give our “first and best” back to Him.

- Gen. 14:18-20** Abraham gave a voluntary, freewill tithe to Melchizedek. Melchizedek was not a Levite (*and Hebr. 7:1-6*).
- Gen. 28:20-22** Jacob vowed to give the tithe to acknowledge Yahweh's care for him.
- Exod. 35:21** The Israelites gave freewill offerings for the work of the tabernacle of meeting (*and 36:2-7*).
- Pro. 3:10-11** Honor Yahweh with your substance and the first-fruits of all your increase.
- Mal. 3:8-10** Withholding tithes and offerings is tantamount to stealing from Yahweh.
- 1 Cor. 9:7-14** Paul speaks of the need to support the ministry
- 1 Tim. 5:17-18** Elders who rule well are to be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the Word and in teaching...

2 Cor. 9:6-7 Yahweh loves and blesses those who give generously and cheerfully.

22. Interpersonal (Covenant) Relationships

The Scriptures indicate that the Body of Messiah is not a rigid organization but rather a living Organism. It consists of many members who have been set in place, joined, tempered, fitly framed, and knit together by the Spirit into one Body. That description implies more than a weak, casual relationship – in fact, it suggests closeness and connectedness; in short, covenant relationship. We manifest covenant relationship by loving one another in word and in deed.

- 2 Cor. 12:12-30** the assembly is compared to the human body.
Eph. 2:19-22 It is compared to a building carefully fitted together.
1 Cor 12:24 The Body has been tempered together.
1 Cor. 12:18 We have been set in place in the Body.
Eph. 4:16 The Body, fitly framed and knit together (*and Col. 2:19*).
Rom. 12:4-5 There are many members but one Body, one new Man (*1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 2:11-16*).
John 13:34-35 Others will know us by our love for one another.
1 John 3:18 Don't just love in word, but in deed and truth.
Eph. 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but minister grace (favor) through your words.
James 5:9 Don't murmur against one another.
James 3:2-12 We must learn to bridle our tongues.
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23. The Authority of the Believer

Mature believers recognize that – while Satan is real and, along with a host of demons, is out to deceive and destroy the assembly – Yahshua has given us power and authority to operate in His Name. We understand that “we battle not against flesh and blood” and that we must put on the whole armor of Yahweh. This includes taking up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of Yahweh. We use intercessory prayer and Scriptural authority to overcome all the works of the adversary, recognizing that the battle belongs to Yahweh and the victory, to us. We are more than conquerors through Him who loves us.

- Eph. 6:10-18** Put on the whole armor of Yahweh; our wrestling is not against flesh & blood, but against spiritual powers & spiritual wickedness. Our offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit – the Word of Yahweh.
- 2 Cor. 10:3-5** We don't war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare aren't carnal.
- Matt. 18:18-19** Two or more in agreement have authority to bind demons and loose angels.
- Psa. 91:11** We have ministering angels to protect us.
- Rom. 5:9** We are justified and covered with the Blood of Yahshua, our protection.
- Psa. 136:1, 24** Yahweh has redeemed us from our enemies
- Psa. 98:1** His right Hand and His holy Arm has gotten Him the victory.
- Isa. 54:17** No weapon formed against us shall prosper.
- Rom. 8:37** We are more than conquerors through Yahshua Messiah.
- 1 Pet. 5:6-11** We must steadfastly withstand the devil by faith.
- James 4:7** "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."
- Matt. 10:1** Yahshua gave His disciples power over "unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of disease."
- Luke 10:17-20** We have authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Demons are made subject to us (*and 9:1*).
- Mark 16:17** One of the signs following believers is that they will cast out demons in Yahshua's Name.
- 1 Jo. 5:14-16** If we ask according to Yahweh's will, He will hear us. (We can and should intercede for our brothers and sisters in Messiah).

24. Death and Resurrection of Yahshua

Yahshua was executed on a Wednesday afternoon (Passover) and was placed in the tomb just before sundown on that day. He arose from the grave three days and three nights later – just before sundown on the following weekly Sabbath – thus fulfilling accurately the prophecy He had uttered regarding the only sign of His Messiahship.

- Matt. 12:29-40** Yahshua was to be in the heart of the earth 3 days and 3 nights – this was the only sign He said He'd give that He was the Messiah.
- 1 Cor. 15:3-4** He was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

- Mark 8:31** Yahshua said He would rise again after 3 days (*and 9:31*).
- John 20:1** Mary Magdalene came early on the first day of the week to the tomb, while it was yet dark; the stone was already taken away (*and Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:2*).
- John 19:31** The “preparation day” on which Yahshua died preceded an annual Sabbath (“high day” – the first day of Unleavened Bread, *Lev. 23:6-8*). This should not be mistaken for the weekly Sabbath.
- John 19:14** It was the preparation for the Passover. (By this time some Jews were eating their Passover meal on the beginning of the 15th day of the month).
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25. The Return of the Messiah

Yahshua will return in visible, bodily form to establish the fullness of His Kingdom on the earth. He will come in the clouds (the same way He departed) with the sound of a shout and the trumpet of Yahweh.

- Acts 1:9-11** Yahshua was taken up in a cloud and will return in similar fashion.
- John 14:1-3** Yahshua promised to return.
- Acts 3:20** Peter spoke of Yahshua’s return.
- Job 19:25-27** Job looked forward to seeing his Redeemer standing on the earth in the latter day.
- 1 Thess. 4:16** Yahshua will descend with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of Yahweh.
- Rev. 1:7** Yahshua will come with clouds. Every eye shall see Him.
- Matt. 25:31-32** Yahshua will come to sit upon His throne. All nations will be gathered before Him.
- Matt. 24:29-31** Yahshua will come after the Tribulation.
- Zech. 14:4** His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives in that day.
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26. The Millennial Reign

Yahshua will establish His Kingdom on the earth at His return, where the redeemed will reign with Him for 1,000 years. During this millennial age, Yahshua will put all enemies, including Death, under His feet, after which He will turn the Kingdom over to Yahweh the Father.

- Zech. 14:4-9** Yahshua stands on the Mount of Olives.

- Rev. 11:15** The kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of our Master.
- Rev. 20:4, 6** The righteous will reign with Him for 1,000 years.
- Rev. 5:10** They will reign on the earth.
- Isa. 2:2-4** The mountain (kingdom) of Yahweh will be established on top of the mountains (kingdoms). It will be a peaceful time during which the ways of Yahweh will be taught (*and Micah 4:1-4*).
- Isa. 65:17-24** Speaks of the Millenium.
- 1 Cor. 15:24-28** Yahshua reigns until all enemies are destroyed, then He turns the Kingdom over to Yahweh the Father.
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27. Satan

Satan, a being who is also called the Devil, is the adversary of Yahweh and His people. He is liar and deceiver, capable of transforming himself into an angel of light, and was a murderer from the beginning. He must be resisted by Yahweh's people. He will ultimately be destroyed in the lake of fire.

- Rev. 20:2** Satan is called "the dragon, that old serpent" and "Devil."
- 1 Pet. 5:8** He is man's adversary. *Ha Satan* means "the adversary."
- Rev. 12:9** He deceives the whole world.
- 2 Cor. 11:4** He can transform himself into an angel of light.
- Matt. 13:38-39** He sows seeds which grow into tares.
- John 8:44** He was a murderer from the beginning and a liar, and the father lies.
- James 4:7** We must resist the devil.
- Eph. 6:11** We need whole armor of Yahweh to stand against him.
- Rev. 20:10** The devil will be cast into the lake of fire and destroyed.
- Eze. 28:11-19** Satan's origins are described (*and Isa. 14:12-15*).
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28. The State of the Dead

Man consists of 3 components: spirit, soul, and body. The soul is the seat of the intellect and emotions. There is no consciousness in death. When a man dies, "his breath goes forth, he returns to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish". He remains in that state until the day of his resurrection. The same body is raised and glorified.

- Ecc. 9:5-6** The dead don't know or experience anything.

- Job. 14:13-14** Job will wait in his grave until his change comes (*and 17:13*).
- Psa. 146:4** When man's breath goes, his thoughts perish.
- John 11:11-14** Yahshua called Lazarus' death a "sleep."
- Hebr. 11:39-40** Righteous men of old have not received their reward.
- Acts 2:34** Peter said that David still had not ascended up to heaven at the time of the 1st century Body of believers.
- Gen. 2:7** Man is a soul and a soul can die (*and Eze. 18:4, 20*).

29. Resurrection of the Dead & Eternal Judgment

At Yahshua's return the righteous dead will be resurrected to receive immortality. After the 1,000 year reign of Yahshua, the wicked will be resurrected to be punished.

- Acts 24:15** There will be a resurrection of the just and the unjust.
- John 5:28-29** Those who are in their graves will come forth, some to life, some to damnation.
- Hebr. 9:27** Man dies only once before the judgment (no reincarnation).
- 2 Tim. 4:1** Judgment takes place at Yahshua's coming.
- 1 Thess. 4:16** The righteous dead are resurrected when Yahshua returns.
- 1 Cor. 15:51-52** The righteous living will receive immortality at Yahshua's coming.
- 1 Tim. 6:15-16** Only Yahshua currently possesses immortality.
- Rev. 20:5** The rest of the dead live not until after the 1,000 years.

Death, not eternal life in torment, is the lot of unrepentant sinners. The wicked will be punished by being cast into the "lake of fire" and consumed.

- Matt. 10:28** We must fear Yahweh, Who can destroy both body and soul in hell (*gehenna*).
- Rom. 6:23** The wages of sin is death.
- Eze. 18:4, 20** The soul that sins shall die.
- Isa. 1:28** Sinners are consumed (*and Psa. 37:20, 104:35; 2 Pet. 2:6*).
- Mal. 4:1-3** The wicked will burn as stubble and be ashes.
- Rev. 20:13-15** Whoever is not found written in the Book of Life is sentenced to the second death and will be punished by being cast into the "lake of fire."

Additional Resources

The following additional resources are available upon request:

Booklets:

- In the Name of the Father – addressing the Hebrew Names of the Father and Son
- A Day to Remember – addressing the 7th day Sabbath
- The Biblical Holy Days – An Overview – What was the purpose of the holy days identified in the Old Testament? What is their relevance today for believers in Messiah?
- Baptism – The Doorway to a New Life – What is baptism? What does it represent? Is it important today?

DVD: “Freedom to the Captives” – a powerful testimony about Pastor Matt’s childhood experience as the son of one of the American hostages held in Iran for 444 days from November 4, 1979 – January 20, 1981. Truly there is freedom to the captives!



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