

THE BOOKS OF THE
NATSARIM
AND THE ENLIGHTENED ONES

RESTORED NAMES EDITION

FOREWARD

The Book of the Natsarim (commonly translated as Nasorine, or Nazarene) and the Book of Yochanon (John) the Enlightened of Elohim were included together in a text known as the Gospel of the Kaledy, meaning “Wise Strangers”. The origins of this work are debated, as no original manuscripts have ever been found. However, it is commonly believed that the books were preserved and passed down by Celtic believers in the 1500’s after previously being saved from arson- possibly either the burning of the library of Alexandra or the Glastonbury Abbey fire in 1184.

It has been tucked away alongside a secular work known as the Kolbrin, however they don’t remotely share any similarities. It is more likely that they were both passed down through the same or a similar group of people and timeline. Whether this is a complete and divinely inspired text can certainly be debated, nevertheless we do believe that it contains words from our Messiah that were not all captured in the canonical gospel accounts. As stated by the apostle Yochanon, “if everything the Messiah did were recorded, all of the books in the world could not contain them.” (John 21:25)

In this volume, you will find astonishing parables new and old. The new bringing deeper convictions and a sincere desire to look within oneself, and the old being expounded upon greatly. The timing of these books beginning to circulate is encouraging, as more and more believers are waking up to the true gospel; salvation in Messiah alone and the importance of keeping the Torah of the Most High, a concept confirmed again and again in this text. Certain scriptures such as Matthew 5:17-19 are clarified to mean exactly what the Ruach Ha’Qodesh (Holy Spirit) has already been revealing to many of us, that the Torah is still for us today.

“I have not come to abolish the Torah or to change the teachings of the prophets, but to complete them, adding any necessary clarification and interpreting them to the understanding of men. But the time has come to ask: When will they be put into practice? When will men bring Yahuah out of the Temple and make Him a participant in their daily lives? When will men carry these things in their hearts and stop paying them lip service?” “I say with certainty, so long as Earth and the Heavens above it remain, not even the smallest particle shall be deducted from the Torah until the purpose it serves has been completed. Therefore, if anyone try to avoid even the least obligation imposed by the Torah, or to set aside the slightest of its restrictions, or teach others to do the same, he will be an insignificant thing in the life to come. But whoever lives by them, leading others to do likewise, will achieve the greatest heights of glory.” (Book of the Natsarim 9:41-42)

Please note this text has been revised to restore the sacred names of the Most High and His Son, as well as the original names of people and places. It is also separated into two separate books, which were formerly compiled together under the title ‘The Gospel of the Kaileyd¹’. Chapter and verse numbers have also been added for ease of reference.

It is also important to mention that it was reported among early assembly writers and historians, that scriptures were already being tampered with. Justin Martyr testifies to this and cites a couple examples in his book, Dialogue with Trypho. Iraneaus also talks about it in his work Demonstration of Apostolic Preaching. Upon examining this document, we encountered a few out-of-place passages that opposed the rest of the text. In Chapter 19, we have included brackets and italicized the portion we found to be potentially added, altered, or the true meaning lost in translation. If you would like to read the original for yourself, you can find it here:

https://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/hercolobus/kolbrin_11.htm

¹ Meaning “Wise Strangers”

“Some disciples came to Yahusha and asked whether they should not withdraw into the wilderness, where they would dedicate their lives to Yahuah. Yahusha said, “Of what use would my teachings be in the wilderness? Are you going to save rocks from sin, or convert camels? Will you enlighten the wind, or give wisdom to mirages? Where is the benefit if what you learn cannot be put into practice? Learning and good conduct must go hand in hand, and the greatest wisdom is that which teaches men to live in harmony. They who seek to escape the tests and trials of life are cowards. Are you going to withdraw from the conflict through lack of courage, standing silently by while the wicked swallow up the good?” (Book of the Natsarim 4:41-42)

It is time to step out in faith and be the light He has called us to be! May this be a blessing to you and your family and may the Ruach of Truth guide you in all things.

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**BOOK OF YOCHANON
THE ENLIGHTENED OF
ELOHIM**

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CHAPTER 1

1 These are the things written in his book concerning Yochanon of the Wilderness¹, which was brought to these shores by Aristolas and is no longer with us. The father of Yochanon was Zacharias, son of Barachias; and he was a priest at the Temple, married to Elizabeth from the stock of Aaron.

2 They were both strong in the faith of their Elohim, obeying the laws revealed to His prophets, but childless and well advanced in years. Elizabeth had resorted to many shrines, praying for a child, but hitherto her pleas had gone unanswered.

3 In the fifth month of the year, when fire was burnt before Gabriel in the court within the outer walls of the Temple enclosure - called the Court of the Gentiles - Zacharias was a priest at the altar of incense. Then a strange thing happened while he was alone inside, the people being outside praying. An angel appeared on the right side of the altar, and a voice said, "Have no fear of me, for I come to say your prayers have not gone unheeded and your wife will bear a son.

4 "He will become a great teacher, filled with the power of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh²; but you must bring him up in the ways of the Natsarim³. He will herald the coming of an Enlightener who will turn men from wrongful ways, making them upright and strong in ruach."

5 Zacharias listened, too frightened to speak, but thought, "How can this be when we are both weighed down with years?"

6 The angel said, "He will save many from the effects of ignorance, leading men back to the fold of Elohim, whom he will serve with the ruach and power which was once Eliyahu's. He will turn the hearts of

¹ Or John the Baptist

² Holy Spirit

³ Or Nazarene (Acts 24:5)

fathers towards the welfare of their children, and those who have fallen away from the teachings of their fathers towards the wisdom of the Torah. He will go before the people like a brazier bearer before a caravan, like a prophet of old, to make ready a people purified and dedicated to The Most High Elohim.”

7 When Elizabeth knew she was with child, she went to the Temple and gave thanks to the Elohim who had caused her to conceive, dedicating the child to Him, according to the custom. Thus it had been with Samuel, who was given back to his Father for service in the sanctuary.

8 Now when her time came, the wife of Zacharias gave birth to a son. And there was no midwife to bring him into the world, neither was a birthbell made for him. Though all others wished him to be called after the kindred of his father, Elizabeth said he should be called after hers, and he was named Yochanon.

9 At the time of circumcision, when many people were standing about, Zacharias became filled with the inflowing of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh and, under its influence, spoke as follows:

10 “Blessed be the Elohim of our people, who has given them the means of their redemption. He has brought forth a spring of salvation for us, fulfilling the words spoken by the mouths of His inspired prophets which have been since the beginning, that we should be delivered from the hands of our enemies and saved from those who hate us.

11 “The child of my body shall go before the people, proclaiming the way of Yahuah and giving knowledge of salvation for His people, with the remission of their misdeeds through repentance and reparation. Like the light of the sun on high, he has descended to give light to those who sit in darkness. He will console them in the shadow of death and guide the feet of men into the ways of peace.

12 “As it is written in the books of the Temple, ‘Hear the voices crying out of Leviy and Yahudah, never turning away, for from their loins shall

come the chastening rod of the Highest Elohim. He will raise up from Leviy a priest above all other priests, and from Yahudah someone greater than a king who will deliver my people.’”

13 The people, hearing these and many other things, were amazed and stored them up in their hearts, saying one to the other, “This is no ordinary child, and surely he will grow up to be an unusual man; therefore, let us watch and wait for some interesting developments.”

14 Among those who heard was one with an unbridled tongue who spread the word of these things abroad. And between the ears and mouths of many people, the events became magnified in such a way as to cause concern in high places.

15 When the Herod who was king heard these things, he deliberated with the Council; for all awaited the coming of the Mashiach⁴ anointed by Yahuah, but the learned priests said this could not be he whom they awaited. For, said they, it was not possible that one with his blood could be either the Mashiach or the Deliverer; such would be an abomination.

16 Then Herod said, “That may be, but let us bring the child into our own fold; for if perchance he be the Mashiach, it is well for him to be raised among us. But if it be otherwise, no harm is done. And in days such as these, it is well to be prudent.”

17 Now, word of these intentions was sped out by a maidservant, passing through the ears of slaves to the kindred of Elizabeth, who hastened to warn her. They said, “This is a day of woe, for men come from Herod to take away your child and offer him up as a sacrifice.”

⁴ Messiah

18 Elizabeth, in fear for her child, gathered him up, saying to a manservant, “Take all that can be carried and meet us at such a place,” and then she went to Zacharias.

19 Elizabeth found him at his place in the Temple and said, “Come, my husband, let us flee quickly with the babe, for here he is in danger. Tarry for nothing; unless we make haste, our little one will be lost to us, he who is the treasure of our life and the hope of our people.”

20 Zacharias said, “How can I leave my post in the Temple to go into a strange land where perchance people will have no knowledge of Yahuah?”

21 Then Elizabeth said, “O my husband, if you will not come, tell me what I must do to save my baby. I cannot waste time here when men come to put him to death.”

22 He answered her, “Flee to the wilderness of Shaba where, by the will of Yahuah, you will both survive. If they come seeking to find him here, or expect to find him through me, then my blood will be shed instead of his; for it is blood they want.”

23 Then Zacharias took the babe into a place beside the altar and kissed and blessed him, saying, “My son, treasure of my latter years, who gladdened my heart and made light the burden of days, now my cup of sorrow overflows. I am to be cut off from the pleasure of holding you; no longer may I feel my heart leap with gladness when I see your face. You are too young for my words to reach your understanding, and it is not my hand which will guide your feet, but go out strong in your dedication to Yahuah.”

24 To Elizabeth he said, “May our Elohim and the Elohim of our fathers protect you.”

25 Elizabeth said, “Dedicated priest and husband, pray for us both, that

we may not be taken, and I shall be given strength to overcome the difficulties of the wilderness.”

26 Zacharias said, “He who gave us a child in our old age will not take it away from you; neither will the child perish. May the protective power of Yahuah overshadow your journey.”

27 Now the men sent out by Herod were of his guard, and when they came to Zacharias and asked concerning the child, he did not lie, but said, “His mother has taken him and fled in fear into the wilderness.”

28 They who had come returned to Herod and said, “The child has been taken into the wilderness by its mother. No food or water is there, but many wild beasts; and the woman, being old, surely both must perish.”

29 Then those who had the ear of Herod said, “Surely there is something more to all this. Is it likely the woman would have fled friendless? Let us send other men, not of the guard, who will act differently.”

30 Herod, being troubled in his heart, agreed. Three men with knives came to Zacharias before sunrise, saying, “Herod has commanded us, ‘Tell Zacharias his life is in my hand, and I order him to speak truly concerning the whereabouts of his son.’”

31 Zacharias answered, “I am a dedicated servant of Yahuah and obliged to continually attend His Temple; therefore, my son’s whereabouts are not within my knowledge.”

32 They said, “Our knives will open your mouth.”

33 But Zacharias was unafraid and replied, “If my blood be shed, Yahuah Himself will bear witness to the deed, and innocent blood never cries out to Him in vain.”

34 When Zacharias saw he spoke in vain and no words would turn their

intentions, he took refuge at the sanctuary behind the altar, his hands on the horns. But they stabbed him with knives so he died, for they were strangers in ignorance of the Torah.

35 When the morning hour of salutation came and the priests went out, it was seen that Zacharias failed to pay the accustomed homage, and they asked among themselves why he tarried. Then one went from them into the sanctuary of Zacharias and saw his body lying bloodied beside the altar.

36 A voice was heard saying, “Zacharias is dead and lies in his blood, but the stain shall not be removed until the coming of One who will avenge the deed. Woe to those who shed innocent blood. Woe to those who let it remain unavenged. Woe, for One comes who will destroy the Temple rites.”

37 On hearing this, the priests ran out, crying, “Zacharias is dead, and an avenging ruach has taken up residence in his place.” But the others went in and saw the cloths about the altar were torn and the carved woodwork broken. Report of these things was made to the people, who mourned three days and nights, after which another priest was appointed. The body of Zacharias was shrouded in linen and placed in a tomb beside his father.

38 Elizabeth was alone with the child. She was old and found life difficult to sustain in the wilderness, the manservant having departed with her goods. She discovered a cave where there was a seepage of water and lived there until Yochanon was eight years of age. Then she died, and the child did not understand; neither did he know what to do or how to bury her. But the ever-present Elohim intervened in His manner, and some people who lived apart from others were directed to him, and he was raised in their ways. He remained with them until the day he went forth to herald the coming of the Deliverer.

39 The people among whom Yochanon was raised did not marry, but adopted outcasts and orphans while they were young. They were godly people in their own way, but did not concern themselves with others. Yochanon rebelled against their exclusiveness, desiring to carry tidings concerning the coming Instructor in Goodness to the common people. In those days, there was much confusion among men regarding One Who Would Come, and he was given many names and attributes. Therefore, none really knew what he would be like, and many sought only for enlightenment on this matter.

CHAPTER 2

1 When Yochanon had grown to manhood, he reappeared in the wilderness of Bethimra, proclaiming, “Change your ways, for you have fallen into error and ignorance. Return to the teachings of the Torah, interpreting them without guile, and turn your eyes towards the new light of the coming day. For One comes who will be the promised Instructor in Goodness, to establish the government of Elohim.”

2 Then the people said among themselves, “Surely this is he of whom it is written, ‘The voice of a herald will cry out from the wilderness, “Make a highway for Yahuah, let the swift rivers be bridged, the high mountains passed, and the rough places made smooth; for the impassable places will be crossed, and the wilderness made to flourish.’”

3 Some came to Yochanon from the place of his upbringing, who said, “Withdraw from the people, for they are no concern of yours. In good time, preach purification of the ruach and suppression of passion; but meanwhile you are too inexperienced.”

4 Yochanon said, “Worthy teachers, you dress in white, proclaiming your purity, yet fear to put this to the test. Is your flesh so weak that it must be kept continually under restraint? Is the imprisoned malefactor good by his own desire, or by his circumstances? Is not the world a place of temptation so each may discover his own strength or weakness? Untested you can know neither and must always remain in a state of doubt.”

5 “The fire hidden in wood gives warmth only when released. It also provides light and is useful. But while hidden away it is of little value. A tree left growing uncut falls and rots, serving no man. So too is it with knowledge and wisdom, for only when utilized can they have any value. Goodness is not assessed only by the things done, for the things left undone are not overlooked.”

6 Yochanon appeared strange in the eyes of those who saw him, for he was wild-haired and large, clothed in a garment of hair as were the prophets of old and bound about with a leather girdle, like Elijah. His food was locusts and bread dipped in wild honey, for he was of the Zofim who watched for the Coming of the Kingdom. He came to bear witness to the light which should shine in the hearts of all men. But the Yahudiyim⁵ would not heed him, for he used cleansing waters, which they did not. This, he said, signified the washing away of the causes of illusion and the impurities of life. He was a cleanser of minds and hearts.

7 There were mockers, but they were afraid to come near Yochanon. Yet many listened to the message and were cleansed in the River of Life, providing they were wholehearted in a desire to change their ways. Yochanon knew some were hypocrites, and he held them long under the water, for he said they required a lot of purifying. Few men argued with Yochanon, though it is in the nature of Yahudiyim to argue.

8 This is how Yochanon testified when priests and learned men were sent to question him, saying, “Who are you?”

9 He said, “I am not the One you anticipate, whose coming is at hand. Is it not written, ‘I will send a forerunner to prepare the way’? I am that herald. Soon the One you seek will hasten to acquire his kingdom. He will be like a refining fire, preparing you for participation.”

10 “I am one who verifies the prophets of old who said, ‘Take heed, for the day comes which shall burn like a fire, when the self-satisfied and wrongdoers shall burn like stubble, so neither branch nor root of their wickedness shall be left.’”

⁵ Jews

11 Then some who enquired of Yochanon said, “If you are not the Expected One, why do you baptize?”

12 He replied, “I teach cleansing in water as a sign of repentance for the past and rebirth into another way of life. I herald the coming of someone much greater who is now born among you. He is one whose sandal bands I am unworthy to unlace. I use water, but he will immerse men in the Ruach and cleanse them with disciplinary fire. He is the bearer of a winnowing fan and will thoroughly cleanse the threshing floor, gathering the wheat into the granary and burning the useless chaff.”

13 Then one said, “No good thing ever came out of the wilderness.”

14 But Yochanon, overhearing him, said, “Recall the days of our forefathers, when the wandering in the wilderness was over, and they came to a land where there was an abundance of milk, butter and cheese, where the sheep grew fat and corn grew plentifully, where the vine flourished and all good things for the nurture and comfort of man were found.

15 Then the people became weak in body, slothful, their minds turning to unclean things. They forsook the ways of Yahuah and had little respect for the teachings of the Torah. From which did they derive the most benefit - from the wilderness or from the land overflowing with good things? Pity me not for my days in the wilderness but pity yourselves who have been denied man-making experiences.”

16 Yochanon said, “Woe to you who have taken to the keeping of many slaves, for you, having robbed the man with a small plot of ground of his livelihood, are worse than thieves. You roll your eyes upward, saying, ‘Never would I steal a loaf of bread,’ and condemn one who steals because of his emptiness. Your stomachs are full, but your hearts are empty of goodness. Take heed of my words, for surely if any man act so

he brings another to wrongdoing; even though the other be in a far distant land, he shall not be blameless in the sight of Yahuah.”

17 “Hypocrites, you cast a piece of silver at the feet of a beggar sitting beside the Temple and say, ‘I have done good,’ but how small the goodness compared with the wickedness done to those unseen! What of the disinherited ones, victims of your avarice? They have been driven from their homes and lie shivering in the coldness of the night, no roof protecting them from the night dampness. They huddle uncomfortably under rocks for shelter, aching stomachs denying them sleep. They rake the hard, hot ground with bony fingers and gnaw coarse roots with teeth loosened in their gums. Their mouths are dry, and sour and bitter unsatisfying leaves become an acceptable diet.”

18 “When they crave for the relief of bread, driven desperate by mouthwatering smells carried on the air, and steal some small thing, they are harried by well-fed tyrants such as the slave owners among you. Take heed of this, for it is the Torah: If a hungry man steals because of the emptiness within his stomach, the crime is not with him, but with those whose hands hold the power.”

19 Those to whom Yochanon spoke said, “Tell us not of these things, for we have rulers. We give to the poor outside the Temple, but if we gave to the multitude of the poor, we would only be added to their number. Tell us about the Deliverer.”

20 Yochanon said, “From what do you expect the Deliverer to save you?” They said, “It is written, ‘He will deliver us from the hands of our enemies.’”

21 Yochanon said, “He will perform no mean task, but will save you from the greatest of enemies. Tell me, which presents the most danger - those who lay siege to a fortress from outside, or those within its gates, cunningly biding their time with concealed weapons? Surely it is the enemy within who is most to be feared. Therefore, I declare to you, the

Deliverer comes not to fight against the enemy clamoring outside, for the silent unseen foe within is most to be feared.”

22 Many shook their heads and said quietly, “This man is mad.” Then one among those who listened said, “If he tells of the ways of Elohim, surely those ways are strange.”

23 Yochanon, overhearing this, said, “The ant cannot understand the ways of an eagle, nor an eagle the ways of a man. How much less can man understand the ways of Yahuah!”

24 One standing close to Yochanon said, “If a man is ruled by two kings, which should he obey - the one who is close, or the one who is far distant?” Yochanon said, “If I answered you straightly, would you follow my advice?”

25 The man replied, “Surely, for I am perplexed and would hear your words.” Yochanon said, “Obey the rule of the king closest to you, he who reigns in your heart.”

26 Now, Yochanon testified concerning Yahusha⁶ in this manner. “These are the things written in the Holy Books about he who will come. ‘Then shall Yahuah raise up a new High Priest like no other before him, and he will reveal Elohim in a new light to the understanding of men. He will set the feet of men on the path of rightful judgment.’”

27 “He shall shine forth as the sun over the Earth, removing all darkness from it, and will arm men with the sword which brings everlasting peace. His star will shine above like that of a king, its light kindling the lamp of knowledge, enlightening men as the sun lightens the day.”

28 “He will proclaim the kingdom wherein the sword will be drawn against the wrongdoers, and the injustices of the poor will be redressed.

⁶ or Jesus

There shall arise the Mashiach from among you who will deliver you from your enemies.””

29 Yochanon also said, “Already the ax is laid at the root of the vines; for was it not prophesied that every tree bearing sour fruit will be hewn down and burned? Therefore, do not be fuel for the fire, but produce the good fruits of repentance wherein lie the seeds of your salvation. The day is not far distant when each shall be called to an accounting, some enjoying the fruits of their labor and rising into glory, while others go down into darkness and shame.”

30 There was a time when many temple worshippers came to gain rebirth through the cleansing waters, and Yochanon said to some self-righteous ones among them, “Children of the viper’s brood, what has caused you to seek escape from the fate in store for you? Produce deeds consistent with repentance and console yourselves no longer by saying, ‘We are of the seed of Abraham.’ I say, being of the seed of Abraham serves you no better than being one of those stones.”

31 When the people said, “Tell us what we should do,” Yochanon replied, “No man wears two coats, so let the man who has two share with the man who has none. Whoever has a store of food beyond his needs, let him do likewise.”

32 A tax gatherer asked him, “What shall I do?” Yochanon answered, “Exact nothing above the amount fixed for collection, and never exploit the defenseless and unlearned.”

33 Some soldiers asked him what they should do. Yochanon said, “Never be unnecessarily cruel or threaten to bring false charges, and make sure you always live within your earnings as soldiers.”

34 Then a captain said, “What shall I do, who must enforce commands?” Yochanon replied, “Make sure the commands are just, and do not extend beyond the need of the circumstances.”

35 A man of priestly rank said to Yochanon, “Why do you not offer incense and sacrifice?” Yochanon answered, “Such things are not fitting for The Most High Elohim, who is already full with all things and lacks nothing. Therefore, honor Him by giving thanks for His benefits, and let your only sacrifice be dedication to His service.”

36 A priest among the crowd said to Yochanon, “Do you say the Elohim of our fathers is not a great Elohim?” Yochanon replied, “You know His requirements and whether these be worthy of a great or small Elohim.”

37 Then some cried out, “Pity him, for he is only a waif of the wilderness, having neither father nor mother.”

38 Yochanon answered, “Have I not said, ‘Pity me not, for the wilderness was a goodly father, making me strong and hardy’? Can I not outrun the gazelle and lift a great stone? No sickness eats my body, and I can bite through a halter line.”

39 “What of these people fattened at the tables of their fathers, like geese prepared for the banquet? They say, ‘We are the light of the land,’ but I tell you, they are an unprofitable burden. They say, ‘Give us white water to quench the fire in our stomachs,’ when every day they kindle the fire anew through their mouths. For things that pass pleasantly through the mouth often stir up strife in the belly.”

40 Yochanon was the beacon of the Light, the herald of the Deliverer, coming to purge the world of wrongdoing by enlightening men, showing what was right and what was wrong. For though men had the light of the Torah, many saw it only dimly or with distortion, while many interpreted the Torah to make it accord with their convenience. The true Deliverer was one who would deliver men from themselves, exposing their weaknesses, failings and hypocrisies only that they might benefit, the purpose and intent being wholly good.

41 Glory to the Supreme Elohim reigning in the heavens above all. May peace and plenty fill the Earth and goodwill extend to all creation. May suffering, turmoil and disaster quickly serve their purpose through the cooperation and understanding of man, so they may pass away as things no longer necessary for his upbringing.

42 Blessed be those who preserve these words and may those who alter them suffer for what they do.

43 The world is glorified through men whose lives are governed by dedication and duty, who completely devote themselves to carrying out the purpose ordained by Yahuah, using earthly conditions to this end. The desires and longings of the heart - the hopes and aspirations of men - will never go unfulfilled or be ignored by Elohim while men are willing to rise to greatness through selfless sacrifices and devotion to duty. The highest duty to which anyone can be called is service and suffering in the cause of Yahuah.

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CHAPTER 1

1 The birth of Yahusha¹ the Nazarite, who became our Master and Interpreter of Elohim and the Torah, a worthy vessel for the greatest manifestation of the power of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh² seen on Earth, occurred in this manner:

2 About the time Yochanon the Forerunner commenced teaching the Way of the Wilderness beside Yordan³, in the year before Herod died, when Augustus Caesar ruled the Roman world, a babe was born. The father was Yoceph⁴, son of Heli, a carpenter of Galilee, and the mother Miryam⁵, his wife, who had been a virgin pledged to Yahuah and the Temple by her father Shimon, son of Yoachim, son of Nathan, son of Eleazer.

3 A decree had gone out that all who claimed kinship within the House of David should be gathered for enrollment at the City of David, called Bethlehem in Galilee. Therefore Yoceph, being rightfully born into the stock of David, took the scroll of his parentage and went to Bethlehem so his kinship could be established.

4 Now Miryam, being then heavy with child, longed in her heart to be among her kinsmen, and she prevailed upon Yoceph to take her, for Bethlehem was only a day's journey from them. The two, with a servant, came to Bethlehem at eventide, but because so many had gathered, the inns were filled. Then as Miryam's time was close upon her after the journey, a man took pity on her and provided a cave used as a stable. There the travelers found shelter and rest.

5 That night, Miryam's labors came upon her, and she suffered the pangs of childbirth and cried out in pain. Nearby, some shepherds

¹ Jesus

² Holy Spirit

³ Jordan

⁴ Joseph

⁵ Mary

were tending sheep, for in the midst of so many strangers these needed protection, and, hearing her cry, went to help. They provided a shepherd's basket which was filled with straw and placed it in the manger, and the newborn babe was wrapped in the clothes brought for him.

6 After eight days had elapsed, the child was named Yeshua⁶ meaning "One Who Delivers," for an angel of Yahuah had appeared to Yoceph in a dream, saying, "That which lies within Miryam, your wife, is filled with the power of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh and will respond to the hopes of men."

7 Later, men called him Yahusha⁷; and because he fulfilled their hopes and was anointed with the power of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh, He became acknowledged as the Messiah.

8 [Now, the stable was against a hill, behind an inn where sages from the East were staying - men of Sastera, wise in the Books of Heaven, and of Nimrod, who carried the cross of fire. So, Yoceph sent for them, requesting they come and foretell the child's future, for such was the custom.]⁸

9 One of the sages said, "It is strange indeed, for this child is born under no usual star, but under one that is a star in appearance only and not in nature, having a power not in other stars. He is destined for greatness and will motivate events touching the lives of all men."

10 When word of this was passed around, there was much excitement among those belonging to the House of David. And many, remembering the prophecies of Yochanon (for they had passed his way), wondered in their hearts, "Is this not he for whom we wait, the

⁶ Salvation

⁷ Yah is Salvation

⁸ At this time, we do not understand this detail to be true.

consolation of the Yahudiym and Deliverer of Men?” This displeased the people of Bethlehem who awaited another deliverer.

11 When the sages spoke of the matter at their journey’s end in Yerushalayim and word came of the excitement among those of the House of David in Bethlehem, there was great consternation among the priests and learned men. They tried to discover where the babe was, but the sages answered deviously and said, “His star points towards the East.”

12 An elder of the House of David, attending the blessing of the child on the eighth day, lifted up his voice and declared, “Surely this is he who has been promised to redeem us out of the hands of evil. This is he upon whom the power of the Ruach Ha’Qodesh will descend, bestowing strength, compassion and wisdom. Surely, he will rule in the Kingdom of Elohim.”

13 When the king heard about these things and that a babe had been born who, many claimed, was destined to be the Deliverer, he was greatly disturbed and summoned the Council. With the Council were learned scribes and elders who disputed among themselves concerning the babe.

14 Some said that while Yahuah’s Anointed would be born in Bethlehem, the Deliverer would not, for the birth of Yahuah’s Anointed in that place had been foretold by the prophets. Others said it might not be more than an Enlightener who was expected to be born at that time. However, when many agreed that Yahuah’s Anointed and the Deliverer might be the same person, the king sent three men to discover the child.

15 The dispute before the Council had been long, and Yoceph had been forewarned, so when the men sent by Herod came to Bethlehem, Yoceph had departed with his family. They went to the place where the kinsmen of Miryam lived. The men who came did not search long

for Yahusha, for after the Council had been dismissed, Herod slew the son who sat with him on the throne, as he had slain others of his blood. Later, Herod died himself; but after these happenings, the Romans did not bestow the title of king on any Yahudi, and it was unlawful for any man to claim the title.

16 In this manner the prophecy was fulfilled which said, “A virgin shall give birth to a son, naming him ‘Elohim with Us.’ He will be the bearer of knowledge, discriminating between good and evil. But before this is given to the people, the land will lose its kings.”

17 When time had passed, Yoceph and Miryam came to Yerushalayim and stayed at the house of a relative - a man strongly set against wrongdoing and well learned in the Torah. The forty days having been accomplished for the purification of Miryam, she came to the Temple, and Yoceph offered the prescribed sacrifice and dedicated the child.

18 Hearing from Yoceph and Miryam the things which the sages had foretold about the child Yahusha, the devout man took the babe into his arms and praised Yahuah in this manner:

19 “Because the things foretold have come about, your servant is prepared to depart in peace. For my eyes have been gladdened by the Deliverer of my people, a beacon light for others and the glorifier of Your Name. He will teach all men the ways of Yahuah and how to walk in His paths; so swords shall be made into plowshares and spears into billhooks, and peace will reign over men.”

20 Yoceph and Miryam could not understand the meaning of this and asked what was meant, whereupon the man replied, “I hold a sapling which will grow into a sturdy tree, under the shade of which many nations will find peace. Yet he will also test the strength of our people, tearing them apart in dispute. He comes as a separator, dividing the sheep from the goats, showing each his rightful place. He will place a

sword in the hands of the weak and strengthen them, and the ungodly will be smitten.”

21 After complying with the requirements of the priestly law, Yoceph and Miryam returned with the infant to their home in Galilee, a small place in a hollow at the foot of a hillside. There the child grew up, developing a strong body and keen mind, for he was strangely talented. He was wise beyond his years and deft with his hands, and when old enough, he began learning the craft of plow-making.

22 His parents, following the custom, went each year to Yerushalayim for the Festival of Deliverance⁹. And when Yahusha was twelve, they went as usual, but this time taking him with them. Having remained the seven days of the festival, Yoceph and Miryam set off to return home, but let the boy linger in Yerushalayim; for a kinsman of theirs was also returning, and they thought Yahusha was in his company.

23 Having gone a day’s journey and finding Yahusha was not with his kinsman, they became perturbed and at first light in the morning returned to Yerushalayim. It was some time before they found Yahusha in a small outside room of the Temple, sitting before an instructor of the priestly law. His parents were astonished at finding him accepted among learned men, and the teacher expressed amazement at the child’s love of learning.

24 But Miryam scolded the boy for his inconsideration, saying, “We have suffered much during the search for you.”

25 Yahusha replied, “Why search for me elsewhere, knowing I must concern myself with the work of my Father?”

26 This saying disturbed the instructor. Neither could his parents understand the meaning of the reply, but they took the boy away with

⁹ Passover

them. Henceforth he always obeyed his parents, but Miryam kept these things in the storehouse of her heart. As Yahusha grew up, his intelligence increased, and he was well liked by all, but he was a solitary child much given to wandering.

CHAPTER 2

1 Yoceph died when Yahusha was a youth, at that time working as a craftsman among the Kenites.

2 After Yahusha had been away a long time, he returned to the house of his brothers. One day, while he worked under the shade of a tree, they came to him and said, “Out in the wilderness by Yordan there is a man who cleanses people by immersion in water. He claims strange knowledge and calls himself the Forerunner. We are going to see what he teaches.”

3 Yahusha said, “I have heard of these things, and surely as the son of our forefather Yishai¹⁰ prayed to be cleansed of his secret faults and presumptions, the sons of our father should not stand aloof from cleansing. I will go with you.”

4 The brothers of Yahusha said, “This man is called Yochanon. He heralds the coming of an Enlightener who will be an all-wise instructor in goodness. He himself does not bear this new light which will dispel the darkness in men’s minds. He tells of one who will grant men the privilege of becoming children of Elohim, awakening to eternal life that part within them not born of earthly desires.”

5 So Yahusha and his brothers went out seeking Yochanon, finding him beside the Yordan, at the place of crossing where there was a pool. The hairs on the head of Yochanon were already white.

6 Yochanon, seeing Yahusha among those gathered about him, said, “Look, all of you; here he is, a man in whom there is no guile, the true Lamb of Elohim, the one we await. For Sethel, sending me forth to baptize, instructed me thus: ‘When you discover a man worthy to be the

¹⁰ *Jesse*

receptacle of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh in abundance, the same shall you acknowledge as the Enlightener.”

7 Hearing these words, Yahusha joined with those to be cleansed. But when he stood before the Forerunner in the water, Yochanon said, “You have greater powers of cleansing than I, yet you come to me.”

8 Yahusha replied, “The power to cleanse and revitalize with the Ruach is not in men but in the Ruach which fills man. It is important each should be allowed to do whatever he is called upon to do.”

9 Yahusha asked of Yochanon, “What do you know about me?”

10 Yochanon said, “Years gone by, I had a vision of three heavenly lights, and as the sun sank so they rose. A flame of fire went up over Yerushalayim, and smoke filled the Temple, and a star fell down into Yahudah. The meaning I know, for it was this: The Deliverer is born, and woe unto the house of Herod; woe to you scribes and your interpretations of the Torah.”

11 “The star that appeared and stood over Yerushalayim was a child planted into Bethlehem from out of the heavenly heights, as was foretold; and it was prophesied he would be the Deliverer. The fire that burned was the fire of a strange altar.”

12 “I prophesy great things for you. You are the true Son of Elohim. Soon you will see the glory of Heaven revealed, and the power of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh will be poured out upon you as a stream of pure water. The time has come to proclaim yourself. Peace, peace on you whom our Elohim has chosen as His Messenger, for you will proclaim the true gospel. Strengthen your heart, for the road ahead is steep and stony. No man is hated so much as one who tries to point out defects in character and attitudes and seeks to guide men along the path of right and beneficial living.”

13 Then Yochanon took Yahusha down to the river and baptized him, and he was overshadowed by the Ruach Ha'Qodesh and became fully filled with its power, so his face glowed. And the people wondered and were bewildered, for they did not understand. Yet the face of their forefather Mosheh had also glowed after he had been in the presence of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh of Yahuah.

14 Yochanon said, "Go and wait upon the mountainside nearby."

15 Later, Yochanon went to join Yahusha and told him that he was the Anointed One but should not yet make this known to the people.

16 Then Yochanon prayed thus: "We give thanks, oh Yahuah, with souls purified through realization of our misdeeds, and ruachoth reaching upward to commune with You. It is by Your power alone we have seen the light of Truth manifested and come to know the secret of Your hidden name. In humility we call You by the name of Father because You have shown us a father's compassion and kindness, and because we know You chastise and discipline us after the manner of a father. You have granted us freedom of activity, that we may enjoy the blessings of life. We have been saved by the waters of Your affection. We approach You as the only Good and Great Being, asking only that we be united with You in the waters of the Ruach and never become separated from the source of life."

17 This is how Yochanon testified concerning these events: "On that day the Ruach outflowing from Elohim came with a great surge of power. I did not know this man from others, but seeing him I recalled what I had been told by those who gave me power to cleanse with water. They had said, 'When you find someone so filled with the power of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh he can hardly contain it, you will know him for one who will baptize with the cleansing power of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh.' I have experienced this power and testify that this man is the true Son of Elohim, the Enlightener and Deliverer."

18 Yochanon left Yahusha on the mountainside, where he stayed three days fasting and communicating with the powers above. Then he went back to the riverside. Yochanon was standing with two of his disciples, Yahusha sitting apart, and Yochanon said to those with him, “There is the one giving himself as an offering of Elohim, the Enlightener of the world and the Deliverer of our people.”

19 Then the two disciples went to Yahusha and said, “Tell us about your teachings. Shall we follow your way or that of Yochanon?”

20 Yahusha said, “There is the Way of the Wilderness and there is my Way, alike in teaching, but calling to different men. What Yochanon teaches accords with the Torah even as my teaching; obey either or both, they are the Torah.”

21 From that day forth, Yahusha had power to heal the sick and to do many things, but he went out into the wilderness bordering Yordan, uncertain about his next move. While there, hungry and thirsty, he fought with the flesh, resisting the temptation to go down among the habitations of men and use his powers for selfish ends.

22 The same Ruach of Yahuah which overshadowed Yahusha overshadowed the creation. It enlightens outer darkness and bestows life and is eternal.

23 Yochanon was one of those who can see the ruachoth of men, and so he knew the nature of Yahusha. These things took place at Betharaba, which means the place of crossing.

CHAPTER 3

1 Coming from the wilderness, Yahusha still retained the full power of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh. Having it on trusteeship from Elohim, he would not use it unworthily. At night it shone around him like a pale blue haze; and though many have it, never has another manifested it in such strength.

2 Two followers of Yochanon the Forerunner- one being Andrew the brother of Shimon- were sent by him to be with Yahusha and accompanied him to the Galilean Sea of the Gentiles. Early in the morning Andrew sought out his brother and said, "We have found the Deliverer," but at the time Shimon thought another was meant.

3 When Yahusha had known Shimon for two days, he said, "You are strong, silent and steady, one likely to be ever steadfast in conflict; therefore you shall be called Kepha¹¹," this meaning "the Rock" in the tongue of the Gentiles. And from that day Kepha became a follower of Yahusha.

4 Passing along the shore, they came upon the Tower of Fishermen, and a boat was being unloaded by its owners. One who accompanied Yahusha said, "Those are good men known to me."

5 Then Yahusha spoke to them while sharing a meal and later said, "Fishing is a good life, but there is a better one. Follow me and you will become fishers of men." So, placing their boat in the keeping of others, they followed Yahusha.

6 At this time, Yahusha spoke with caution, for the people still recalled Yahudah the Galilean who had smitten the Romans in battle. Yahusha was a man of long silences, and many thought him strange. But he taught all along the shore of the Galilean Sea and called others to follow

¹¹ *Peter*

him. They worked wherever they could, for Yahusha said, “What we offer is not to be sold like a common chattel, and we will not take anything without giving value in return.”

7 He healed many, saying, “It is not I but the power from above with me.”

8 Some of the disciples said, “It is truly he who heals.”

9 But he did not cure all, for in some it created a disturbance, while many were not cured because this would have done them more harm than good.

10 When asked, “How do you heal?” Yahusha replied, “By the finger of Elohim.” This is what the prophets had said regarding these things: “These are the words of Yahuah: ‘I will restore you to health and heal your wounds. Be strong of heart and courageous, neither afraid nor dismayed, for I am with you always.’”

11 About this time, the disciples questioned Yahusha concerning the world of ruachoth wherein lay the Kingdom of Heaven, and he said, “It is like a flight of stairs leading from cellar to roof. They who enter the house are given a place on the stairs and may step downwards and back, but never up, though the stair above is not unknown to them. Those on the top stair are in glorious sunshine, while those at the bottom are in darkness and gloom.”

12 A disciple said, “Many who do not come mock your words.” Yahusha replied, “Dogs bite stones, not those who throw them.”

13 Someone asked, “Are you the Hammer of Elohim? For all yearn for Elohim’s intervention and when that comes will rejoice, saying, ‘This is the day of Yahuah for which we have long waited.’”

14 Yahusha answered, “There is a time for sowing and a time for reaping, everything to its appointed time.”

15 Yahusha gathered his followers around him and taught as follows: “These days are a night of ignorance when all is dark, but I am the Light which will dispel the darkness. My Light will light your lamps, and you too will become bearers of the Light. I am the Light to point the way, and none can find the way to Yahuah except by the Light.¹²”

16 “I come to testify concerning the Father, for those following my way see Elohim in the Light of the Father. Does not a father chastise in love and punish with affection? Does he not give you tasks only just within your power of accomplishment? Even as with an earthly father, so with the Heavenly Father, who is infinitely greater. Being flesh, we understand earthly ways, but the ways of Yahuah may also be known and understood, for His Ruach resides in all men.”

17 “Be upright in faith yourselves and teach uprightness and Truth¹³. Fear no man, especially the rich and powerful, for they live in servitude to their possessions and position. You must carry the Light to many, but few will be those who light the lamp of their lives from it.”

18 “Do not covet riches, for though few men possess them, all who do are not free but are themselves possessed by their wealth. Because riches are the possession of a few, all seek them. Even so are my words; were they possessed by all; none would value them.”

19 One said to Yahusha, “Master, we are not all like Yochanon who could surely eat bread made with sand. Is there no easy way?” Yahusha said, “The only easy paths in life lead nowhere, or are cut by others. But the path I point can be cut by none but yourselves.”

¹² Proverbs 6:23

¹³ Psalm 119:142

20 “A peddler going from place to place is willing to undergo the hardships incurred through his wandering, in order to earn his livelihood. Even so should you be prepared to cheerfully accept the hardships imposed by life, in order to gain glory in the life which follows.”

21 “If a child is not raised with austerity, can it enjoy the pleasures of later life? Only the foolish parent overindulges the child, and if it is done in the name of affection, the parent is either a hypocrite or irresponsible.”

22 Now, close by there was a well, and the disciples were drawing water for drinking. Yahusha called them over and said, “Do you find the water refreshing?” They replied, “Yes, we have drunk our fill and are refreshed.” Yahusha said, “Does any water remain in the well?” They replied, “Master, this well is inexhaustible and cannot be drunk dry by any number of men.”

23 Then Yahusha said, “It is even so with my teachings. What I have revealed so far is but a small portion of the whole, yet it suffices for the present needs. The people among whom we go are perverse and headstrong and, like a thirsting ass, can be given only sufficient to ease their pressing need. If they say to you, ‘This is beyond our understanding’ or ‘You have told us only in part,’ recall this well and the refreshing water you obtained from it.”

24 One of the disciples asked, “How shall we judge what people do, whether it be good or whether it be bad?”

25 Yahusha said, “If you are unsure whether a person’s actions be good or bad, incline in his favor. If anything may be interpreted favorably or otherwise, then interpret favorably. Do not seek for wrongdoing, like dogs chasing a foul smell. If a good man does something appearing to be bad, then withhold judgment, wondering whether there be some good motive behind it. Yet do not be easily hoodwinked. If one with a bad

reputation does something seemingly good, question his motives, but bear in mind that no man is either wholly good or wholly evil.”

26 Yahusha said, “Fortify yourselves with the knowledge of Truth as I have imparted it to you. Rejoice in the knowledge that you stand within its everlasting light.”

27 The disciples said, “Master, we are grateful for what you give us. We know each of us is a part of the everlasting Ruach. We have truly found Truth and see it more clearly than others. We are children of the Light and of the Ruach, even as we are children of the Father. None of us can ever repay you, for we have been given treasure beyond riches. Only the Heavenly Father can provide proper recompense for your labors among men.”

28 At this time, Yahusha was teaching his disciples at a place apart, for he was still wary of the people, but he and the disciples went among them to earn their bread.

29 Yahusha healed many, but to his disciples he said, “I have not come to strengthen the bodies of men but their ruachoth. For if man is wholesome in ruach, he is wholesome in body. It is better to treat the man than the disease.”

30 One day, a disciple returning from his labor said to Yahusha, “Master, we work all day and scarcely sleep at night, yet when we tell of your teachings we are abused and mocked by the people. Where is the benefit in this? Should we not be treated otherwise?”

31 Yahusha said, “When I was a boy, the poor would gather about my mother’s door, for she always had an extra loaf in the oven for them. One day, a beggar, having been fed often and now perhaps considering it his entitlement, found fit to scold her, for this day she was not well, and therefore slow. She, not being used to this, began to weep.”

32 “So I say unto you, do not let the talk of thoughtless tongue perturb you, for this is only a foretaste of what is to come. These things are refining processes of the ruach, therefore rejoice for the benefit rather than sorrow for the hurt.”

33 “For when my mother cried, I said to her, ‘Dry your eyes and be happy, for now you can perform your charitable acts to perfection. Had those who stood about the door praised you, the deed would have been less worthy, having been done for their praise and therefore not entirely out of charity. Many do good works because it increases their self-esteem, but charity is not giving the bone to a hungry dog, but giving the meat when hungry yourself.’”

34 Andrew said to Yahusha, “If we give all we have to the poor, they will grow fat and slothful, preferring a life of beggary to one of toil.”

35 Yahusha said, “Charity is giving a hand to a blind man or soothing the wounds of those smitten by the ruach-strengthening sword of life. It is good to help those in distress or those who cannot help themselves, but sometimes giving does more harm than good. Many give because it eases their conscience or raises their self-esteem. Such giving is not goodness. But when giving entails self-sacrifice, then it is better to give than to receive, for the benefit lies in the sacrifice made and not in the thing bestowed.”

36 “A rich man was going away, so he gave a purse of silver to each of his two servants so they could keep themselves while he was away. One servant spent the money on merchandise which he hawked around the city and, by being thrifty, was able to recover the silver with sufficient over to buy a stall and then a shop. When the master returned, he said to this man, ‘Such efforts should not go unrewarded,’ and made him a gift of the silver.”

37 “The other servant, having the purse of silver, began to spend it on

pleasure and a life of ease, so when the master returned, there was nothing left. This angered the master after seeing how hard the other had toiled, so he demanded repayment of the silver and, when this could not be done, enslaved the man.”

38 “The improvident servant was unable to understand why the other has been given a gift and freedom, while he was enslaved for being unable to repay - why he who had money was given more. Yet I say to you, this is the way of the Father who gives trusteeship of Earth’s bounty to his children. Likewise, they are given talents of spiritual gold which are greater than any earthly silver, but these many choose to bury in the ground. For them the day of accounting must surely come.”

39 Yahusha tarried long beside the waters, moving from place to place and teaching his disciples according to their understanding. Some were like strong, well-plastered cisterns holding water without leaking a drop; others could not retain all that was poured into them. Yahusha taught each only in accordance with his capacity, and some carried much more of his teachings than others.

40 One day, at eventide, Yahusha said, “Because you are wearied and your task seems endless, do not despair. What you do may be likened to a man down by the shore whose master has set him the task of carrying water from the sea to fill a hole in the sand. The sea flows no less, neither does the land become flooded. When the master comes, the man says to him, ‘This is a fruitless task to which I can see no end,’ and the master replies, ‘It is one which grows easier with time, and each day you are paid.’”

41 “Two men, finding favor in the eyes of a king, were promised high positions in a distant city, but had to find their own way. They set off together and stayed the first night at an inn where there were many attractions. One man spent the night in drinking and merriment; the other, finding an experienced traveler who knew the road, kept the night in his company. This second man learned that by going a particular way

he would avoid a thick forest full of wild beasts; a turning would lead him away from a swamp, and others from a precipice and thorny thickets. He went to bed and awoke early, feeling refreshed, and went his way. The other man, being heavy-headed and sluggish, started late in the day.”

42 “The early starter, heeding all he had been told, came quickly to the city and enjoyed his rewards. The other became lost in the forest and was wounded by wild beasts. He wandered through swamps and fell down the precipice to die of weariness among the thickets.”

43 Now, the thick forest is ignorance, the swamps are delusions, the precipice the carnal desires which lure men to spiritual disaster, and the thorny thickets tribulation and suffering, without which development is impossible. The experienced traveler is a disciple of the Light, and the man who reaches the city one who listens to him.”

44 The disciples said, “Master, many people hear our words, but how many take them to heart and benefit? We are trying to bail out the sea with a shell.”

45 Yahusha said, “Then you are learning patience and persistence in a good school. If a cloak is placed around a shivering man, his body becomes warm and is comforted, but if it is placed around a boulder, there is neither effect nor response.”

46 “Though I have told you the days fly as though carried on the wings of swallows, do not act as though the day’s labor is all important and must be completed within the day. Doing this you become less able to perform the task, for he who tries to reach out over the edge of his limitations falls into a pit and achieves nothing.”

47 Yacob, the disciple, said, “If a man of unlimited wealth says, ‘Come and count silver pieces from sunrise to sunrise, and all the pieces counted will be yours,’ could the man counting be expected to sleep during the night?”

48 Yahusha replied, “A man having much wealth is unlikely to do anything without purpose, and this would be in the counting. Could you count silver pieces from sunrise to sunrise and not make an error?”

49 Yahusha said, “Let none among you take the handgrips of my plow unless he is prepared to grasp them firmly and cut a deep furrow. Let none of you walk behind it unless prepared for weariness and sweat. There is no easy way for the plowman. The field is there, and he must cultivate it furrow by furrow. If he is careless, the grain yield will be poor.”

50 “Water drawn from the ground or falling from the sky will produce burning weeds and grass, but to produce bread to eat and wine to drink, water from the brows of men must be added. Yet labor is not without its own reward, for the man who labors all day sleeps contentedly even though his pillow be a stone, while the sluggard sleeps without content even though he lie on a pillow of down.”

CHAPTER 4

1 Leaving the Sea of Galilee behind them, Yahusha took the disciples up into the mountains, and others went also. Here there was a house providing warmth and shelter, so they tarried awhile, it being the time of preparation for sowing.

2 One cold night, Yahusha went out from the room where they sat at food to relieve a man guarding the asses, so he might come in and warm himself. Later, when the man returned to his charges, he found Yahusha shivering, for he had placed his cloak around a foal. The man said, “Master, why do you do this? But seeing you have done it, why does not our Father provide a mantle for His Son?”

3 Yahusha said, “The little one is helpless in our hands, but we are not helpless in the Father’s hand. The foal has no choice but to remain in the stall, while I can choose to go or stay, to keep my covering or give it to another. If Yahuah voided the effects of our good deeds, what merit would they have?”

4 The man said, “I will pray Elohim to make me good even as you.” Yahusha said, “Pray that your deeds merit the reward of goodness.”

5 Another night, a journeyman came seeking shelter and warmth and was given hospitality. He said to those who made him welcome, “You are blessed indeed to live here in warmth and comfort, while I must ride the inhospitable roads for my master.”

6 The following morning, having been well provided with sustenance for the road, he said to Yahusha ere he departed, “Master, I listened well to your words last night. Since I am a poor man, suffering many hardships, and my life is difficult, am I then assured of better conditions in the life to come?”

7 Yahusha said, “By what standards do you think these things are

judged? Using yours, the packhorse accompanying you would be more entitled to this assurance. For while you ate soup and slept in comfort and warmth, this uncomplaining beast whose lot is much harder than yours remained neglected in the cold.”

8 Towards the end of their stay, a learned man came to eat with them, one knowing all the Books of Wisdom and the Torah. While talking with the disciples he said, “Because of my knowledge I am a man of no mean position, and many men are silent before me when weighty matters are under discussion.”

9 Yahusha, overhearing this, said, “Take no credit for yourself concerning your knowledge, but compare yourself to a borrower who has a debt to repay. Does the borrower receive credit for repaying what he has borrowed? Therefore, take no credit for the wisdom you dispense. And as to the acquisition of knowledge, is this not the end for which you were created?”

10 When this man had departed, Yahusha said to his disciples, “The Books of Wisdom should be the treasure of all men, for they contain the explanations and instructions of Yahuah. When men say, ‘Woe, because I am smitten with calamity; why does Elohim let disaster strike in this manner, or why is my lot in life unlike that of others?’ be sure they have not unlocked the door of their treasurehouse.

11 “By reading the Books of Wisdom you will be brought to an understanding of the nature and intention of Elohim, and life will then have meaning and purpose. Without them you can be likened to a man at sea in a fair wind but lacking sail and oars. Reading them, but lacking guidance or understanding, you could be likened to a man at sea with sail and oars, but without the ability to utilize them.”

12 A disciple, one who had been with Yochanon, asked, “Master, tell us which is true. Yochanon taught the Way of the Wilderness and said, ‘Be the best of men, and let Elohim take care of His Kingdom, for you are

the rulers of Earth.’ Yet at other times he told us to await the coming of One who would deliver us from the evils of this world and show us the path of righteousness.”

13 Yahusha said, “If you knew a distinguished guest was coming, would you not make fitting preparations, doing all things to ensure an appropriate welcome? If a man has many servants, does he thrash his own grain?”

14 “The road indicated by Yochanon is not my road, but it leads to the same destination. I bring you the Way of the Cross, which is the cross of life. Follow what I teach, and you will be with me at the end. Choose your path, for no man can plow two furrows; neither can the hands of two men hold the reins.”

15 While Yahusha was still in the mountains preparing his disciples for the task ahead, two wandering musicians came by, and one was always laughing, and the other always melancholy. Yahusha said to them, “Many men have differing skills, and are you not skilled with the lute and lyre?” They said, “That is so.” Yahusha said, “Now, when the strings of your instruments are too taut, what happens?” They replied, “Then there is discord.” And Yahusha said, “Is it not even so if the strings are too slack?” They replied, “It is.”

16 Yahusha said, “Sometimes the natures of men need slackening, for they are too taut, while sometimes they are too slack. Be like your instruments, always tuned to the right note, and let there be harmony between you.”

17 One of the disciples said to Yahusha, “Master, you tell us many things, and I cannot retain all your words. Surely some are better than others. Which should I store in my heart?”

18 Yahusha said, “A king had two castles - one at each end of a wall guarding his kingdom - and he gave each of his two sons command over

a castle. When word came that an enemy approached, he ordered his sons to collect all kinds of provender and store it. One son collected everything he could, but the other took only what he considered the best, leaving everything else. The enemy came, and both castles were besieged. The castle of one son fell when its supplies were exhausted, but the other held out by utilizing what the other had rejected. So it is with my words - even those which may seem of least value may one day prove their worth.”

19 The disciple then said, “Tell us where we may find Yahuah and Truth.” Yahusha said, “You have the Holy Books and my words.”

20 Turning to the others, he said, “This man is like a beggar who all his life stood under a fig tree. More than anything else, he desired to be rich, but he remained always poor and dressed in rags. Like all men, he came to his hour, and those who buried him dug his grave at the place where he had spent his life. When the earth under the tree was opened up, it exposed a treasure of great prize: gold and jewels, right under the spot where he had been begging. How easy it would have been for that man to be rich!”

21 One of those to whom Yahusha spoke said, “Then all we have to do is to read and listen, assimilating the knowledge gained.”

22 Yahusha said, “There is danger even in this. Consider a snake catcher who, going among the rocks, sees a snake well worth catching, but in his haste grabs it by the tail instead of behind the head, so it turns and bites him, causing his death. Did he die because of his calling or because he grabbed the snake wrongly? Was he not wrong in his approach, rather than in what he did? It is even so with those who know the Holy Books from end to end but handle them wrongly.”

23 Yahusha said, “Be humble in your knowledge and not puffed up; but beware the snare of false humility.”

24 One said to him, “Master, what is false humility?” Yahusha said, “A man was once told that if he could learn humility, he would become perfect, and, desiring perfection in himself above all else, he diligently studied everything relating to humility. Then there was nothing about it he did not know. However, one day a man said to him, ‘What has your humility gained for you? Where have you benefited?’ To which the supposedly humble man replied, ‘Stupid one, what is the matter with you? For can you not see that, having learned humility, I am now a perfect man?’”

25 About this time, Yahusha came upon two disciples arguing as to which of his teachings should be retained in their hearts. Yahusha said, “Your argument can be likened to two wives - one old and one young. The old one kept pulling out the dark hairs on her husband’s head, while the young one kept pulling out the white hairs. So, he became bald, having no hair at all. Then both women said, ‘Behold, we have a baldheaded husband.’”

26 One day, a disciple who had been to buy provisions returned, saying, “I took down a diligently prepared book of sayings, delightful to the ear, but men took it from me and tore it apart. Surely the wrath of Yahuah will strike them.”

27 Hearing this, Yahusha called the man to him and said, “A girl once diligently collected colorful seeds and threaded them into a necklace. But when she put it on, a youth came along and pulled it, scattering the carefully gathered seeds. She ran to her father, expecting him to chase the youth and chastise him, but the father did nothing. Later that evening, he gave her a beautiful necklace of rare gems which he had bought earlier, intending to surprise her. Then she knew why he had not bothered with the youth or been concerned about the necklace of seeds.”

28 Yahusha said to those about him, “Many things befall you, and life is

difficult, but so life is meant to be. Only timber well-seasoned is fit for the carver's hand.”

29 “A carpenter once sent his two sons to the forest to cut timber, and they came upon a mighty tree - one without branches, going straight up, with sound, well-grained wood. One son said, ‘This tree is too big, the task of cutting it too difficult. Let us find another which is easier to deal with.’ The other said, ‘No, let us take only the best.’ But the first one goes further into the forest and comes upon a tree partly rotten and soft. Now, he with the rotten timber returns first, while the other comes two days later.”

30 “If the carpenter be wise, he rejects the timber brought in first and chastises his son, rewarding the other when he returns. But if the carpenter be pleased with the first son's early return, accepting the timber and building with it, placing it as a beam support, so the upright post breaks and the beam falls, killing a man, how shall the blame be apportioned? The easy way is rarely the best.”

31 Yahusha said, “Fear not the hostility of men, nor the wiles of the world. Rise above your conditions. Be like the water lily, which rises out of the mud, up through the murky waters, into the sunlight above. Strive always to rise above your circumstances, for in striving you gain strength. The man whose path through life has been easy is never as good as one whose path has been difficult. Life has two purposes only: to test and teach; and for that, Earth is perfect.”

32 “Regard each other as brothers, cherishing in sickness and supporting in trouble. Never praise yourself; and if you have virtues, let others discover them. Be careful with whom you associate, for if a man enters a tannery, though he carry nothing away, a bad smell will accompany him.”

33 “No man is so important that he is above the need to work. If it becomes necessary to dress hides in the marketplace, then undertake it

with a cheerful heart. Even the rich must do something, for idleness is the rust of time.”

34 “Judge no man otherwise than you would wish to be judged. Once, a young woman was carried off and placed in a whorehouse in another country. Her father sent two men to ransom her, and when they came to the whorehouse, one remained outside, while the other went in. When he who went in came out, he said to the other, ‘What do you think I was doing in there?’ The other replied, ‘Why, negotiating the woman’s ransom.’ Even so should you judge with the scales weighed down favorably.”

35 Yahusha taught his disciples thus: “All things a man possesses, his talents and his skills, are gifts bestowed by the grace of Yahuah. The inheritance received by anyone should be regarded as something received in trust, and it is true that if they deal with it wrongfully or selfishly, payment will be required. One of the greatest of life’s tests is the challenge of wealth or position, and few are those who successfully meet it. Therefore, do not envy those with wealth and position unless they deal with them wisely; otherwise, pity them, for they have failed to rise above their test.”

36 “A wayfarer once came to an inn and, finding no one there, went into the eating hall, where he found a table set with all good things - many kinds of food and drink. So, he sat down and helped himself, thinking, ‘No one else is here, so all this must be mine; and if mine, I can do with it as I please.’ However, when the innkeeper returned from where he had been, the wayfarer could not escape the accounting.”

37 “The rich are responsible for providing the needs of the poor, whether by work or food. This, above all, is the prime responsibility of wealth. And if a rich man says this he cannot do, then his riches witness against him. For if a poor man has a loaf of bread, he will share it with he who has none; and a beggar at the door of a poor man receives better

treatment than he does at the doors of the rich, yet the rich have the most to give. And this is the sin of the wealthy.”

38 “Riches, of themselves, are not sinful; it is what they make of men that brings them into ill repute. If they were properly regarded as something permitting the possessor to study the Books of Wisdom and to redress the wrongs of the poor, then they would serve a good end. Let the rich ask themselves with sincerity, ‘Am I not wealthy because of my lack of charity and the exploitation of others? Is it not because I love myself more than my neighbors?’”

39 “It is dangerous to be near a man without wisdom. He is like a tree with many fine branches, but few roots; the winds of adversity blow, and he is uprooted. Choose your friends with great care, measuring them against the words of wisdom. The man who is himself a good friend will never lack friends, but those who think they have many friends have none. The loneliest person is one living for himself alone, but it is better to be lonely than to be in bad company.”

40 Yahusha said, “It is not unseemly to glory in your strength, but never become vain, for in strength you are not superior to the beasts. If the standard is to be the ability to bear a heavy burden, an ass can carry more than any of you. An elephant is mightier than a score of men, while a camel has more stamina than any man. Strength and stamina are goodly things, seen in their right perspective, but they can be a heavy handicap on the path of spiritual development - particularly if they lead to arrogance and inconsideration for others. Strength, like riches and knowledge, is a goodly thing of itself if properly utilized; but for most the test is too great.”

41 Some disciples came to Yahusha and asked whether they should not withdraw into the wilderness, where they would dedicate their lives to Yahuah.

42 Yahusha said, “Of what use would my teachings be in the

wilderness? Are you going to save rocks from sin, or convert camels? Will you enlighten the wind, or give wisdom to mirages? Where is the benefit if what you learn cannot be put into practice? Learning and good conduct must go hand in hand, and the greatest wisdom is that which teaches men to live in harmony. They who seek to escape the tests and trials of life are cowards. Are you going to withdraw from the conflict through lack of courage, standing silently by while the wicked swallow up the good?"

43 The disciples said, "Master, are you bringing strife or peace? Do you prepare us for battle? Are we to rally the people?"

44 Yahusha said, "Do you still not understand? I am a man of peace, and I unsheathe only the sword of the Ruach. This is not the easy way, for it is less difficult to change things with the sword than with soft words; and those who oppose us understand that better. But let only those who would use weapons with courage talk about soft words and peace, otherwise better men will justifiably scorn them as cowards. Cowards talk about peace, and brave men about war. But I tell you that when brave men talk peace and cowards are sent to war, there will be no more strife, and a new day will dawn."

45 A disciple named Maciah said to Yahusha, "Master, teach us how to love one another without malice or envy, with goodwill and forbearance."

46 Yahusha said, "The first step is to love yourself less, and by doing this you will find more love to give. If any say, 'I like being loved,' that person is wrong, for rather you should say, 'I like loving.' Do not seek to take love, but to give it; for have I not said it is better to give than to receive?"

47 Another disciple who had believed in bodily resurrection said, "Master, what proof can be given that there is a life beyond the grave?"

48 Yahusha answered, “There is proof to those worthy of it. But if it were a manifest certainty as a reward for a good life, how would the hypocrites and those who would do nothing without payment be discovered? If uncertainty and doubt were removed from life, then it would be of less value for its purpose. Things are as they are because so they must be. If you want proof, become worthy of it; you will not be denied it even here. But you must seek diligently. Nothing comes easily, and this least of all.”

49 Before they departed from that place, a disciple said to Yahusha, “Master, now that we go to take up our burdens, tell us how to avoid wrongdoing.”

50 Yahusha said, “Were you able to avoid all wrongdoing and sins, such is the known frailty of men that I fear you would fall into another one - that of false pride. Look at the falsely pious ones who glory in their righteousness, and this is not the least of sins.”

51 Having taught in this manner and said these and many other things, Yahusha departed from that place on the mountainside and went down to carry the tidings concerning the coming Rule of Elohim to the people.

CHAPTER 5

1 Yahusha went with his disciples into Yahudah and taught there. At this time, Yochanon of the Wilderness, who heralded the coming of Yahusha, was baptizing at Ainum, not far from Salem, because there was a plentiful supply of water in that place. A great number of people came to be cleansed in the waters, for Yochanon was still free.

2 At this time, there was much disturbance in Samaria, and many soldiers were coming and going, for a false deliverer had arisen and proclaimed himself as Yahuah's Anointed. The people were restless, and there were many rumors, but Yochanon had no dealings with any of these things. Yet some said the false deliverer was a follower of Yochanon, but this was untrue.

3 The disciples of Yochanon came to him and said, "Respected teacher, some time ago you testified concerning a man who came to you on the other side of the river. Now he has started to baptize, and his teachings gather many men to him."

4 Yochanon said, "No man can speak with authority concerning Yahuah without His sanction, but this man I know to be a True Messenger and the Worthy Son."

5 They said, "He also heals." Yochanon replied, "No man can heal, except through the power of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh; and this man has that power.

6 "I have said I am not the Mashiach; neither am I any other whom men seek; I am the forerunner sent to herald his coming. The bride belongs to the bridegroom, but he who stands at the bridegroom's right hand to support him is pleased when he hears the words spoken by the bridegroom. That pleasure is now mine, but not for long; for as my star declines, so his waxes brighter."

7 Yochanon feared no man and condemned hypocrisy and indifference to the Torah wherever he found it. He was the rod of the poor and unlearned, and a staff to the weak and oppressed. He was incorruptible and spoke forthrightly, never hiding anything within his heart, and condemned wrongdoing wherever it occurred.

8 Now, Yochanon baptized with water, and because of this the priests were against him; but on this matter they could do nothing. However, Yochanon had condemned the actions of Herod, who had sinned against his blood and the Torah. And because of this, the people murmured against Herod. Therefore, as these were restless times, and the people were in a mood for revolt, he had Yochanon taken and imprisoned. For had there been a rising against Herod at this time, Rome could not have come to his aid.

9 Yochanon was imprisoned in a fortress, and this pleased Herodias, for she had long borne ill will towards him. Though Herod had no lawful right to take his brother's wife, the fault was not his alone. Herodias wished with all her heart to rid herself of the condemnations of Yochanon but could not accomplish this because Herod held Yochanon in awe. For he was a truly holy man, much beloved by the people. Though Yochanon was kept in confinement, Herod often spoke with him and listened to his words. But though they stirred the heart of Herod, he found them difficult to understand.

10 While in prison, doubt stirred in the heart of Yochanon, and he sent disciples to Yahusha, enquiring whether he felt he was truly Yahuah's Anointed; for at this time there was much confusion on the matters. When the disciples returned, their reply puzzled Yochanon, for they reported Yahusha as saying, "I am not he whom you expected, or the Deliverer of these people, but the Deliverer of all men. Nevertheless, if only another will change the hearts of the people, I shall not be found wanting." But Yochanon received wisdom and knew he had not erred.

11 Now, a certain feast day came, and Herod entertained his officials

and the leading men of Galilee. And during the course of the entertainment, his daughter danced for the guests. She so charmed and delighted them that Herod, while under the influence of wine and the urgings of others, being also full of pride at their applause, swore to grant her any boon, whatever it entailed.

12 The girl withdrew to consult her mother, who told her to request the head of Yochanon. Though the request greatly upset Herod and sobered him because he realized the extent of his folly, he himself could not break an oath of this sort made in the presence of his guests.

13 The oath sworn was a kingly one, but Herod was not a king. Therefore, he put it to one of the guests - a learned man - as to whether anything he wished to do would have force within the Torah, or whether he could only be bound by an oath made within the Torah. The man replied that even kings were bound by the Torah, and though Herod was less than a king, he had sworn a kingly oath which, if broken, would confirm his lack of kingly authority. However, he said that Yochanon, being a lawbreaker, could not be protected by the Torah, and so the oath made by Herod stood.

14 So on the morrow the head of Yochanon was struck off and displayed at the gate. So it was that Yochanon was put to death because Herod feared his influence over the people; for he declared the coming of a new kingdom, and Herod feared the day of deliverance.

15 Yochanon had said, "I have been sent with many powers. I am with you to point out the way of the Torah. I herald the Deliverer and the Rule of Elohim."

16 Yochanon had taught his disciples to pray in this manner: "Holy be the name of Yahuah in the places He created to serve His will. Let the coming of the new kingdom under the Rule of Elohim not be delayed beyond our days, but come in the time which is at hand."

17 When the followers of Yochanon heard what had happened, they took charge of the body of Yochanon and laid it in a tomb by the river. There was a loud outcry from the people, who said, “Why should our prophets be treated in this manner? Where is the Deliverer?”

18 Later, when Yahusha returned to the river, He found two followers of Yochanon and took them to a place of safety.

CHAPTER 6

1 Before going out among the people to declare himself, Yahusha returned to Genesareth - the town of his upbringing - accompanied by his disciples. He went first to the place where his mother was staying, and though she greeted him warmly because she loved her eldest son, Miryam did not fully understand Yahusha. She always knew he would grow up to be different and would become a Man of Elohim because, when carrying him, she dreamed that a bright flaming star had come down from Heaven and entered her womb.

2 His own kinsmen had once thought him mad and sought to take control of him. But now, his brothers and sisters having grown up, they no longer troubled him. They had said, "He has lost his father and seeks another. For is it not written, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'?"

3 When younger, Yahusha had been overawed by the prospects of the future, and often fearful that he might not fulfill the promise. But he overcame this, and any fears of his inability. It is in this, and his dedication, that his greatness was revealed.

4 Though Yahusha wielded the Ruach Ha'Qodesh of Yahuah, and in him it was stored up as in a water tank, he still had to overcome the weaknesses of men. For without so doing, his greatness could not be made manifest. Those who say he was something other than man detract from his greatness, for then the things he had to do would have been easier to accomplish. Perhaps they cannot comprehend the heights to which men can rise when inspired by Yahuah, the Father of all men.

5 Going into the Temple, Yahusha stood up to read, as he had often done in holy days. He read out a passage from the scroll of a prophet to the

Yahudiym, called Yeshayahu¹⁴ in the tongue of his fathers and, having done so, returned it to the scrollkeeper and sat down.

6 After others had performed their duties, Yahusha had a chance to speak. And with all eyes upon him he did so, and the people were astonished.

7 For he said, “Behold, you are witnessing the fulfillment of the Holy Writ, and the accomplishment of Yahuah’s design. I am chosen to be the tongue of the Father, speaking His words to you, His people. I am the Light shining in the midst of darkness. And even as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, so do I come to show how the good are to be separated from the wicked.”

8 Yahusha spoke with knowledgeable authority, bringing a new message which gladdened the hearts of those who heard him. The people marveled and whispered among themselves, “Where has he gained all this knowledge? How has he become so learned? Is this not the son of Yoceph, the carpenter who is now dead, and of Miryam? And do not his sisters live here still? Yet they say he has healed the incurable.” But not all received his words in this manner, and many were offended.

9 Noticing the murmuring among these, Yahusha addressed them, saying, “Do you hold it against me that I left? If a man has two duties, he must make a choice - not following the inclinations of his heart, but the course indicated by higher decree. No doubt you have heard about the things I have done elsewhere and will say, ‘Let us see you do the same here.’ To this I can answer with sincerity: a prophet is unacceptable in his own neighborhood, and a physician is not called to cure those who know him. When I come in friendship and compassion to those who need my help, they say, ‘Physician, heal yourself first,’ thinking me mad. Why now should I be called upon to do things Eliyahu and Elisha could not do? The only ones they cured were Syrians.”

¹⁴ *Isaiah*

10 Yahusha did not heal many here, and he said, “I heal in accord with the Torah and not against it.”

11 After hearing what he said in the Temple, many people were vexed with him and sought to hustle him out of town. But others said, “Let him be, for he grew up here and is only the son of a carpenter; therefore, he tries to make himself important. He has been away and seeks to impress us.”

12 Being so poorly received in the town where he had been brought up, Yahusha went out around the villages. Choosing twelve apostles from among his disciples, he sent them away in pairs to deal with many things caused by the intrusion of evil.

13 He said to them, “Carry a staff, but take no food, no money and no change of clothing. When you are invited to a house, stay there until you leave the village; but never tarry where you are not welcome.”

14 Yahusha said, “Many will fail to grasp your meanings, or will interpret your words wrongly. Do not dispute with them, but put things right with patience. Never disregard a questioner or abuse him, lest others think you have no answer. All can only grasp what you say according to their understanding, therefore speak plainly and to their hearts.”

15 Yahusha himself went about proclaiming the advent of the Rule of Elohim, and he also cured many kinds of sickness. Then people began to say, “This man is great and good even among those dedicated to the service of Elohim.” And many heeded his teaching and led a new life.

16 Now, many people believed there would be two kinds of deliverers, and a man named Yoceph Baraban had many followers. Yahusha met him at a house in Bethgal and said, “Why do you declare things which

stir up the people?” To which the other replied, “What concern is it of yours?”

17 Yahusha answered him after this manner: “Several men were sitting in a boat, and one began boring a hole beneath his seat. Seeing this, his companions said, ‘What are you doing here?’ He answered, ‘What concern is it of yours what I do beneath my own seat?’ And they replied, ‘Surely it is our affair when what you do will swamp the boat, and we will all be thrown into the water.’”

18 Yahusha moved to another place, and a crowd gathered around him. And while he was speaking, one of his first followers tried to push through to him. Now, this man was deformed and ugly, his eyes squinted, and he was ungainly. But he walked in the light of Truth. The crowd jostled him, shouting, “Look at the ugly man; push him back or he will scare the teacher away.”

19 Then Yahusha stepped down from where he stood and, pushing through to the man, put an arm around his shoulders, greeting him affectionately. Yahusha said to the people, “Why mock someone in whom the light of goodness shines? What matters the appearance of the body when the ruach within is bright? None among you has a ruach such as this man’s, beautifully glowing with goodness.”

20 “This I say to you: the body is of little importance, for it perishes at its hour; but the ruach never dies. Why do you treasure that which you can keep but a short while? For soon it will be cast off like a worn-out tunic. Surely it is better to treasure more lasting things. The shell of a pearl is ugly and rough, but men do not seek it out for itself, wanting only what it contains; and this becomes the cherished treasure of a beautiful woman. Never heed the external ugliness; seek for the beauty within.”

21 In the crowd there was a man who employed many others, and he

said, “Master, I am so stirred up by your words that I will give up everything I have and follow you.”

22 Yahusha said, “How many look to you for food and employment?” The man replied, “My children are numerous, and I have many servants, and there is my father who is old.”

23 Yahusha said, “The lives of no two men are alike, and all require the labors of many to support them. Even the greatest teachings cannot satisfy empty stomachs. Therefore, return to the place of your appointed labors and remain constant in your responsibilities. Give all you make over your modest requirements to Yahuah and study the Holy Books daily.”

24 Yahusha said, “A man without the Light places his faith in gold, burying it in the ground so it will support him in adversity. Yet what benefit does it bestow if he never needs it? He worries continually and must be constantly on guard, lest he be robbed. And when he dies, his inheritors spend it. Yet by charitable deeds and self-restraint, a greater treasure which cannot be taken by robbers or dissipated by others can be laid up openly and without fear.”

25 Someone in the crowd said, “Great Teacher, to some you say, ‘Give up all,’ while others you tell to continue in their ways. I have many responsibilities and a moderate surplus over my requirements. What should I do?”

26 Yahusha said, “Do what is right and just. Study the Books of Wisdom and live according to their teachings. Exploit no one, and work for the Rule of Elohim.”

27 A man said to Yahusha, “Master, I know the problems of the rich, for I have sons and many friends. But how can I know whether they love me or my wealth?”

28 Yahusha said, “A rich man owned a large warehouse, but one night this burned down, consuming all his wealth. And though he had given other warehouses to each of his two sons, when he lost his own, they would not help him. While poor, he met a beggar boy whom he adopted to fill the empty places in his heart. And, going to a distant city, by hard work, he established another warehouse, becoming rich again. When the adopted boy grew up, the man gave him a warehouse, but one much smaller than those he had previously given to his sons.”

29 “The two sons heard about their father’s new wealth and sent word that they wanted to combine their warehouses with his, so that by trading together they could all get richer. The man then sent messengers to all three of those he had helped, saying his business had declined, and he was in the hands of moneylenders and required a hundred pieces of gold to continue. The two sons returned excuses, saying they could not help; but the adopted son sent two hundred pieces of gold, saying he had pledged himself to obtain it. Thus, the man found out who loved him and left all his estate to the one he had adopted.”

30 Speaking to the people about him, Yahusha said, “So long as the great sun never shone upon Earth, there was darkness; and had it not come to shine, there would be darkness still. Without the sun, men would not have known day from night; but when it came, both were made distinguishable. These times are a night of ignorance, wherein wrongdoing and bewilderment prevail; but a light has come to dispel the darkness and make right distinguishable from wrong.”

31 After these things had been done and said, it was the time of a festival of the Yahudiym, and Yahusha returned to where there was a place of assembly. On the way, he passed through the market where sheep were sold, beside which was a salt pool having a covered entrance to shelter the sick and maimed.

32 A man was lying nearby, and Yahusha said to him, “How long have

you been here?” The man replied, “I have been here a long time, having no one to put me into the water at the proper times.” Yahusha took pity on the man and taking him by the hand, raised him up, saying, “You are cured; arise, take your bed and depart.”

33 This happened on the Shabbat¹⁵, and when some pious Yahudiym saw the man carrying a burden, they rebuked him. But he answered, “The Healer who came and cured me said I should take up my bed, so where am I in the wrong?”

34 The pious Yahudiym enquired regarding the Healer, but the man said he did not know him, having never seen him before. Later, when the man who had been cured saw Yahusha outside the place of assembly, he learned his name and told the Yahudiym.

35 Before this, the pious ones who were separated out from the people had ignored Yahusha, but now, because he did such things on the Shabbat, they turned against him. For Yahusha said, “If my Father does not rest, why should I?” They thought he claimed closer kinship with Elohim than ordinary men, but he meant to show that all men are brothers.

36 The next day, when Yahusha commenced speaking to the people, many sought to do him harm. And he said, “You have the teachings of the Torah and the Prophets. Why do you seek to do me harm?” Then they shouted back at him, “Because you are possessed by demons. You tell us we are wrong, but we are content with our ways. Leave us to go our way, and you go yours.”

37 After this, Yahusha went away, because of the hostility towards him. But when it came close to harvesting time, his brothers sent a messenger, saying, “Come back now. The people are busy at work. Let

¹⁵ *Sabbath*

your followers here see for themselves the things you do, for if your message is important, the bearer should not remain hidden.”

38 On his way back, Yahusha and the disciples with him passed through Samaria, where there was a place called Yacob’s well, five furlongs from Shechem. The sun being at its height, they decided to rest there. After refreshing themselves, the disciples went into the town to buy food, leaving Yahusha reclining not far from the well.

39 Now, while Yahusha rested there, a Samaritan woman came to draw water. And Yahusha, not having a vessel, asked her for a drink. This surprised the woman, for the Yahudiym regarded anything handled by the Samaritans as being defiled. She said, “How can you ask this of me?”

40 Yahusha replied, “If you knew what Elohim gives through me, you would have requested a drink from the waters of life.”

41 The woman said, “What is this water of life? Surely it cannot bestow greater benefit than this well, the gift of our forefather, which provided water for him, his household and his flocks.”

42 Yahusha said, “This water, originating on Earth, can satisfy only body; and the drinker will thirst again. But the water I can provide, springing from an eternal source, satisfies any who drink, so they need never thirst again for things not of this world, and it grants everlasting life in glory.”

43 The woman said to Yahusha, “Let me have this water you talk about, so I am freed from the necessity for drawing water.”

44 Yahusha said, “It would be best if you went and brought your husband, for two may understand better than one.”

45 She answered, “But I have no husband.” Yahusha said, “In this you

have at any rate spoken true, for though married five times, you now live with one who is not your husband.”

46 The Samaritan woman said to Yahusha, “Master, I can see you are one of those special people who know all things. Now tell me, is it true what your people tell us, that we should worship in the Temple at Yerushalayim to reach the ear of Elohim, for he is only there and not on Mount Gerazim?”

47 Yahusha told her, “Be assured, the time is coming when the place of worship is unimportant. For though your people worship without understanding the nature of worship, while the Yahudiym worship with this knowledge, neither know the true nature of worship. The time is coming when all who understand the nature of worship will do so in Ruach and in the light of Truth.”

48 “For Yahuah is the greatest of ruachoth, and His worshippers must therefore bring something of the Ruach. This - and labor in His service - is the only acceptable kind of worship. The smoke of flesh and fowl are not acceptable offerings.”

49 The woman heard without understanding, but one with Yahusha stored these things in his heart. The woman said, “Someday an Enlightener will come and explain these things to us.” Yahusha replied, “My words may have come from the Enlightener Himself.”

50 The woman said, “I must go, for you frighten me.” Just as she was preparing to go, the disciples returned and were surprised to find Yahusha had been talking to a Samaritan woman in this manner, but they said nothing. Leaving her pitcher, the woman hastened away to spread word around that there was a man out at Yacob’s well who could read the past and might be the Enlightener, for the Samaritans did not await the Deliverer as did the Yahudiym.

51 When the woman had gone, the disciples showed the things they had

brought to Yahusha. But he was disinclined to eat, saying to them, “Doing the will of Yahuah sustains me, and the inflowing power of His Ruach quenches my thirst.”

52 One of the disciples said, “It is well to eat now, for the harvest is ripening over there, and the harvesters need strength.”

53 Yahusha said, “The reapers cannot expect their pay until the crop is gathered into the storehouse. Let us wait to measure the fruits of our labor before celebrating. Is it not written, ‘Where one man sows, another reaps’? You will be reapers in fields sown by others. Many have toiled in the preparation of the ground and have sown good seed. You must be no less diligent in reaping the harvest, gathering it in carefully so not a grain is lost.”

54 The one who had remained with Yahusha said, “Master, I am puzzled. This woman had many husbands; tell us which one will be her husband in Heaven.”

55 Yahusha said, “In Heaven there is neither marriage nor giving in marriage, for there the promises of marriage are fulfilled. To one she must incline more than towards the others; and if he inclines likewise, there is union of the ruach. But unions of the ruach may be either weak or strong.”

56 Another disciple said, “What of he who is not her husband?”

57 Yahusha answered him, “Marriage is not of the flesh, nor made by the words of men. It is of the ruach, and they who are joined in ruach and flesh in the sight of Yahuah let no man seek to lightly put apart. A marriage wholly of the flesh is fornication, though it be blessed by many priests.”

58 “Yet marriage is the measure of value. A thing possessed by many is of little consequence. The worth of a coin lacking inscription is

unestablished, and the possessor carries it without faith, doubting its ability to buy bread. A woman may be reserved for marriage or give herself freely for love. She knows her own worth best. But if she gives herself to several, then it is not love, but fornication.”

59 “A union is blessed before a priest and sanctified in the eyes of the people. But I tell you, unless the bond is forged on the anvil of adversity and wrought under the hammers of stress and struggle, it is a thing of little spiritual substance.”

60 “Love is not like the thistle seed, blown this way or that according to the prevailing winds of desire and inclination. It is not the offspring of flesh, but the progeny of the ruach. It can be proven and established only under difficulties and tribulations, and it is because of the known frailties of men under trial and test that marriage has been ordained to enshrine it.”

61 Now, after these things were said, many Samaritans came and heard the words of Yahusha and invited him to stay among them. And he remained three days.

CHAPTER 7

1 Yahusha then went by boat, and where he landed there was a man who lived in a deserted tomb, because he was tormented by an intrusion from the kingdom of dark ruachoth. Attempts had been made to confine him in fetters, but because of the strength unnaturally given, he easily escaped. Day and night he would shriek among the tombs and upon the hillside, terrifying people and often injuring himself by falling.

2 Yahusha knew the nature of the tormenting thing and called upon the power within him, so it entered the body of the possessed man, wrestling with the evil thing inside him. Then the man ran screaming among a herd of swine, and two fell into a ravine, but shortly the man became calm, for the evil intruder had departed from him.

3 The swineherds ran away to carry the tale of these events to people round about who came to see for themselves what had happened. When they saw the mad man was rational, they became afraid and asked Yahusha to go away.

4 When Yahusha was preparing to depart, the man who had been cured begged to go along with him. But Yahusha said, “No, you remain here and bear witness for me.” The man spread the tale of what had been done for him through all the free cities, for he received much silver in the marketplaces.

5 Coming close to another town on the seashore where a crowd was gathered to hear him, Yahusha saw Mattityahu¹⁶ seated where dues were collected, and he said unto him, “Are you ready to follow me?” For he had spoken with Mattityahu before. Mattityahu replied, “I am ready, but first come and eat with me.”

6 When Yahusha arrived at Mattityahu’s house, he found other tax

¹⁶ *Matthew*

gatherers had assembled there, with many others who did not observe the Torah of Mosheh which are in the Holy Books of the Yahudiym.

7 While eating, Yahusha said, “No man of himself can know right from wrong. For what is right in one man’s eyes may be wrong in another’s, therefore strife arises among them. Only when men accept a single standard of judgment and abide by it can there be peace. When men live together without the light of the Torah, they are like a house built with unmortared bricks, or like men trying to tow a boat but all pulling in different directions.”

8 “There are two laws - the law of men and the Torah of the Father who is in Heaven. When I speak of the Torah, I do not mean the law of men. I am the Light illuminating Yahuah’s Torah so men see it more clearly, and though I fulfill the Torah, I do not change it. Never say ‘this is right’ or ‘that is wrong,’ but only ‘this is right or wrong according to the Torah, and in the Light of Yahusha.’”

9 “I bring new oil for the lamp of the Torah, for that within it is now impure, and the light produces too much obscuring smoke. For I am the Son of Man and bear the sufferings of men, coming to fulfill their hopes even as it has been foretold. Is it not said among the Jesseneth that the Son of Man is the perfected man who will set the standard for those who wish to be true sons of Elohim?”

10 Later, when Yahusha went outside, he found some Parashiym¹⁷ standing apart, as was their custom, and one put the question to Yahusha, “How can you claim to be a teacher, interpreting the Torah of Elohim, when you associate with tax gatherers and lawbreakers?”

11 Yahusha replied, “It is not the healthy who need the attentions of a physician, but those who are ill. It is the tree growing out of the sand which requires watering, not the one growing by the river. I come to

¹⁷ *Pharisees*

minister to the spiritually sick, not to the righteous who have their consolation.”

12 A man in the crowd said, “This is a day of fasting, kept by all who are truly religious. Yet here are you and your disciples eating and drinking.”

13 Yahusha said, “Is it usual for attendants at the bridal shower to deprive themselves of pleasure while the bridegroom is with them? Soon he will depart, and that is the time for hearts to be heavy. A heart weighed down without cause is an unnecessary burden, adding neither joy nor benefit to the lives of men. Fasting is good, but when it becomes a routine religious rite, it is no more than a purposeless vexation.”

14 A soldier in the crowd asked Yahusha, “Do you uphold the teachings of Yochanon of the Wilderness? For there was a man I can understand.”

15 Yahusha replied, “Yochanon sent men to me enquiring whether I was the Promised One or should they look for another. I said, ‘Go back and inform Yochanon of all the things you have heard and seen here, and how the poor are learning about the coming of the Rule of Elohim and the disinherited told when justice will reign.’

16 “People went out into the wilderness, expecting to find a great man, but what had they in mind? A man speaking like the prophets of old or a nobleman clad in garments of fine linen? Yochanon dressed in a manner fit for the place and purpose, and he spoke in accordance with the message he had to convey. He was the man of whom the Holy Books speak - a voice of one crying in the wilderness, preparing the path for one who follows.”

17 “I tell you with all sincerity, no mother ever gave birth to a better man than Yochanon, yet when the Rule of Elohim comes, everyone living will have to exceed him. Ever since Yochanon declared these things he was harried with violence, even though all the prophets before

him foretold present events. He spoke with the voice of Eliyahu, and if any of you have the understanding, you will know what I mean.”

18 “Concerning this generation, which is wrapped up within itself and blind to all going on about it, there is little to say. It is like children at play calling out to one another, ‘We play the pipes, but you refuse to dance; we raise a lament, but you will not mourn.’ Like all good men, Yochanon was misunderstood; for few knew the measure of greatness. He lived simply, neither eating nor drinking to excess. And because of his way of life, men called him ‘crazy.’”

19 “The Servant of Man comes along and goes among the people, eating and drinking with them, and he is accused of gluttony, loose living and drunkenness. What must a man do to prove himself in the eyes of the people? Whatever he does is wrong.”

20 One of the Parashiym who was nearby said to Yahusha, “We understand your meaning, but where do you stand in relation to the Torah? Have you come to take it away or declare it obsolete?”

21 Yahusha replied, “No one patches an old cloak with new fabric, for this shows up its age without strengthening it. Likewise, no sensible person puts new wine into old wineskins, for this causes them to split, the wine pouring out so neither the wine nor the wineskins have any value. Is it not much wiser to put new wine into new wineskins? I have come to place something beside that which is already there, to hold a mirror to the Torah and to man, so both may be seen with greater clarity.”

22 A poor man standing nearby said, “What use is the wisdom of the Holy Books? Will it provide our bread?”

23 Yahusha replied, “What use is a lamp at night? Will its light appease hunger? Is it worthless because it cannot do so? Each thing has its

appointed use. The foot should not be called upon to do the work of the arm, nor the ear the work of the eyes.”

24 “A carpenter does not do the work of a potter, nor does a weaver make plows. A pupil may not be a good teacher, nor a servant a good master. Each must seek only to excel in the position he has, and not to be better than others at their own task. Whoever supports me, that person will I support; and I will strive with those who are against me.”

25 “I have not come to bring peace but to put a sword into the hands of men, setting sons against their fathers and daughters against their mothers. For nothing is worthy if a man will not fight for it. Anyone following me will find enemies among his own kindred, and though he love his parents above all else, I will give him a cause which is greater. My burden is not light and must be shouldered with fortitude and courage. Those finding it too heavy must go elsewhere.”

26 “The man who seeks to preserve his life through cowardice will be deprived of its benefits, and he who is prepared to make sacrifices for the cause of man will surely gain the crown of life. Whoever receives a good and just man openly, giving him his due, shall in turn be given the reward of his merit. But those who expect to receive rewards bestowable only by One greater than a prophet will be disappointed.”

27 It was after this that Yahusha said to his disciples, “When the task is difficult, a man seeks consolation from his father. A man may be lonely among many, but no one need be lonely in the ruach, for this is never shut off from communication with a source of comfort.”

28 Then Yahusha prayed, “Oh Father above Heaven and Earth, Your Son submits to Your will. And if things declared in Your name remain mysteries to the learned but are revelations to the simple-hearted, You know best, my Father. You have placed a great responsibility on Your Son, but few heed him. The Father’s words, spoken through the mouth of His Son, are not highly regarded.”

29 Later, at another place, Yahusha said to the people gathered there, “Follow me, all those who are overburdened and weary, and I will help you. Take the yoke of my cause upon you, and learn from me, for this will ease and not add to your load. I am understanding and compassionate, not expecting anyone to bear a load too heavy for them. The heavy-laden shall know the Light and be moved from the darkness, but they who cast aside their burden and go astray are lost forever in darkness. Life loads each according to his capacity, and no two bear a similar burden.”

30 At this time, Yahusha always kept some disciples with him when he walked about, and one Shabbat he and two of them were following a small pathway leading past uncut corn ripening in the husk. The disciples plucked a handful - for the Torah permitted them to do this, providing they did not enter the field or take any away - and, rubbing the ears between their fingers, ate the grains. Three Parashiym were passing by, and they rebuked the disciples and said to Yahusha, “Why do you allow your followers to do things not permitted on the Shabbat?”

31 Yahusha answered, “Does the deed affect the day? Have you not read that, when driven by hunger, David went into the House of Yahuah and took the sanctified loaves to eat, sharing them with his men? Though these loaves were reserved for priestly fare, did he not justify himself by saying all produced by the Earth were for the use of men? Surely the Shabbat was made for the sake of man, and not man for the sake of the Shabbat! As man bows to the needs of life, so the Shabbat must bow to the needs of men.”

32 Towards evening, as they returned, Yahusha saw a man working in the fields and said to him, “If your labors are dedicated to the service of Elohim, you are blessed; but if it is otherwise, you are a lawbreaker.”

33 The disciples, hearing this, said, “Master, is there so much difference between the things of the morning and the things of the evening?”

Yahusha said, “The same difference as between an empty stomach and a full one; the same thing may be forgiven one man but not another.”

34 On another Shabbat, Yahusha came out of the Temple to be accosted by a man with a paralyzed arm who said, “Master, I am a mason who can no longer be useful and must humiliate myself by begging for food to feed my family. Let me become a whole man again, not for my sake but for the sake of those depending upon me.”

35 Nearby stood some self-righteous members of the congregation who watched closely to see what Yahusha would do. But he, knowing their thoughts, called them over and said, “Let me know your views concerning the keeping of the Shabbat. Should good be done when it would be uncharitable to leave it undone?” They said, “We abide by the Torah as it is interpreted for us by those knowing better than we.”

36 Yahusha became angry and was hurt in his heart, for their hard-heartedness and wrongful interpretation of the Torah were indications of their spiritual apathy. So, he healed the man’s arm. The self-righteous see no wrong in themselves, only in others. And they interpret all things to accord with their own convenience.

37 Then the self-righteous ones left, plotting among themselves, and they decided to become supporters of Herod, who was against Yahusha. They said, “Let us set a trap for this troublemaker who condemns our ways. He reproaches us for wrongdoing when we simply obey the Torah, and accuses us of things which he declares to be sinful, but which are not more than natural weaknesses of men.

38 “He proclaims himself to be the mouthpiece of Elohim, so let us test him and see. Let us find out whether he speaks true or false. We will send men to beat him up, and see then whether Elohim comes to his aid. Let other men abuse him and hurl insults at him, heaping every kind of indignity upon him, treating him roughly to test his gentleness. We will

heckle him and cause commotion whenever he speaks, and see whether he abides by his own teachings under provocation.”

39 They laid their plans. However, there were others who came to Yahusha and asked him how they would recognize the Deliverer when he appeared among them.

40 Yahusha said, “Is it not written, ‘He will judge the disinherited and lowly who trust in him. He will smite the Earth with the rod of his tongue and destroy wickedness. He will be girdled with integrity and belted with trustworthiness’?”

41 Then some said, “Surely this man is Yahuah’s Anointed.”

42 Someone said, “Master, how do we know the Deliverer will come to us?”

43 Yahusha said, “Is it not written, ‘He will come to the worthy and just, but to the people he will be like a winnowing fan, ensuring only the best are gathered in’? It is also said, ‘He will bless those who follow him with wisdom and gladness. He will be sinless, gathering together a dedicated people whom he will lead in righteousness as an example to all nations. They will cast out the ungodly from their midst. Those born in the days of the Deliverer will witness the things he will do for the generations which follow.’”

44 “Is it not also written, ‘The words of his mouth will smite the Earth forever, and, for the chosen among men, there will be a guiding light for the rest of their days’?”

CHAPTER 8

1 Kepha, who had been called Shimon, owned a house beside an olive garden, and his brother, his wife and his mother-in-law lived there with children and servants. These did not welcome Yahusha, while Kepha's mother-in-law kept to her bed, for she was down with fever. Yahusha, finding her in this condition, sat down beside her and, taking her hand, stroked it so she soon slept. When she awoke, she got up and attended to the guests, for the fever had gone.

2 The brother of Kepha said to Yahusha, "This place already supports sufficient priests and expounders of religion, and you bring others with you to swell their numbers. How will you all live?"

3 Yahusha said, "I will tell you a parable. An inconsiderate man once owned a cat, which he sometimes neglected to feed. One day, he came home with a dog found wandering and lost. The cat said to the dog, 'Now I shall surely starve, for you are much bigger than I am, and the food for you will be often forgotten, so you will devour mine.' The dog said, 'This will not be so, for when we are hungry, I can bark and whine, which you cannot do. This will show the master we are hungry, and we will both be fed.'"

4 Later, while they were dining, Yahusha said, "Men say I am the scourge of the Parashiyim, but this is untrue, for many of these are godly men whom it would be unworthy to lash with the tongue. It is the painted Parashiyim, the hypocrites pretending to be what they are not, whom I criticize."

5 "There are those who carry their goodness on their shoulders for all to see; those who say, 'Tell me my duty and I will do it, show me my obligations and I will carry them out'; those who bow to the ground so their eyes may not look on passing women; those who trip over their feet with excessive humility; and those who do good out of fear. I bring their faults into the light of day, so they may benefit from their own shame."

6 The brother of Kepha said, “Master, we are respectable people and live among our own kind, for a man who works among goats always carries some of their smell. Why do you associate with wrongdoers?”

7 Yahusha said, “I prefer the wrongdoer who is aware of his deficiencies to the good man who is overly aware of his goodness. Is the starving and desperate man who steals to feed his hungry children bad, while the overfed respectable man protected from temptation by wealth ill earned is good? Which of the two needs compassion?”

8 “Going to the Temple makes no one good unless goodness is already established in their hearts. No truly good man could serve the Father devotedly for an hour and then turn his back on Him for the rest of the day.”

9 Yahusha went outside to where there was an open space surrounded by trees, and here a crowd started to gather around him. While he was speaking, a man pushed through in distress and, coming close to Yahusha, begged him to come and save his young daughter. Yahusha said, “I will go to her immediately after I leave here.”

10 Now, a leper stood apart from the crowd, and Yahusha went over to him, saying, “Do you want to be made well?” The man answered, “O Master, you could make me a new man if you would only will it to be so.”

11 Yahusha touched him, and the man’s affliction began to depart. Yahusha said to him, “Go to a priest, taking the prescribed offering of your cleansing, and he will testify to the cure.”

12 Those about said among themselves, “He heals unlike other holy men, for those he cures seem to be filled with a strange form of vigor.”

13 As Yahusha went back into the gathering, a centurion came up to him

and said, "I have heard of your powers from many people, and my son is at home and in great pain. Will you kindly heal him? And for this I will be forever grateful."

14 Yahusha said, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion replied, "My house is a very humble place and hardly fit for you to enter. Just command it and I know the boy will be cured, for I trust you. I who give and take orders know the power of command."

15 Yahusha was surprised to hear these words and, turning to those who followed him, said, "Nowhere in the land have I seen faith such as this. Believe me, many will come from East and West, thinking to sit among our forefathers in the Kingdom of the Ruach, but many who are heirs to this Kingdom, having forfeited their heritage, will be found outside the gates, and there will be weeping and wailing."

16 Then Yahusha said to the centurion, "Go home, my friend. Because of your faith, I will not disappoint you." Then Yahusha gave the centurion a piece of metal, saying, "Place this beside the boy." And from that time, the boy began to recover.

17 In the crowd which pressed around Yahusha was a woman who had suffered from bleeding for twelve years, whom no one had been able to cure. Coming up behind Yahusha, she prayed silently to herself and touched him on the back. At once, the woman began to feel comfortable and relieved.

18 But Yahusha knew the healing power had been drawn from him in an unexpected outsurge. Turning to the disciples in the crowd, who stood guard, he asked who had touched him. Kepha, who was there, said, "How can we know? The crowd presses so close we can hardly control them."

19 The woman, hearing this, and fearful for what she had done, came forward and fell on her knees before Yahusha, confessing her guilt. He

raised her up gently, saying, “My daughter, it is not the power in me alone, but your faith has opened a door whereby it poured out to effect a cure. Be at peace in your heart, for the complaint will trouble you no more.”

20 After this, Yahusha needed a rest, and while doing so a servant came bearing a message to the man whose daughter had been ill, telling him she had died. Yahusha, overhearing what was said, called the man to him and said, “Do not upset yourself; just trust me and wait awhile, and we will go together.”

21 Yahusha then bid the crowd remain where it was and went with the father and his servant, accompanied by three disciples. When they arrived at the man’s house, mourners had already started the wailing of the laments, and Yahusha rebuked them for making such a noise when the girl was only sleeping, for he had sent his Ruach before him. The mourners said, “What kind of a fool is this?”

22 Ordering them outside, Yahusha, accompanied by the parents and two disciples, entered the room where the child was lying. Taking her hands, Yahusha said, “Wake up, my little one.” And after a while she gave a great breath. Later, opening her eyes, she smiled and soon got up. The parents were overcome, but when they recovered, Yahusha told them to keep their own counsel and attend to the child.

23 When they had left, Yacob¹⁸, one of the disciples, asked, “Why are some brought back to life and others not?”

24 Yahusha answered, “Did I not say this one only slept? There is a time appointed for dying, and the ruachoth of men keep their appointments. I work with the torah of life, not against it.”

25 When they arrived back at the place where the crowd was gathered,

¹⁸ James

there was a man lying in their midst, with a greatly swollen leg which had crippled him for many years. He said to Yahusha, “Master, I have been a sinful man and have been punished.”

26 Yahusha said, “Be of good heart, for your suffering has compensated for your misdeeds.”

27 Some nearby who were hostile towards Yahusha, hearing this, said, “This is blasphemous talk.” Overhearing what was said, Yahusha turned to them and replied, “Talk such as this is cheap and serves no end. It takes more than a wagging tongue to effect cures.”

28 Then Yahusha said to the man on the ground, “Arise and go your way.” Thereupon he got up and walked, the people being amazed and giving thanks that such powers could be manifested among them.

29 Yahusha then left and returned to the house of Kepha and, when he arrived, found several Parashiym waiting outside. They said, “We hear you have much wisdom. What is the basis of your teaching? What sign can you give of your authority, or what proof, so we can believe? Mosheh provided heavenly bread when our people starved in the wilderness, and by his deeds we know him for a true prophet.”

30 A disciple said, “He has just healed four people.” But the Parashiym replied, “There are others who heal. This power is not unique in him.”

31 Then Yahusha said, “Must you have proof and be given signs to believe? Surely this would take all merit from belief. As for Mosheh, I assure you he did not provide bread from Heaven when he fed those who starved in the wilderness. Through me, Yahuah will send down the bread of Heaven, which nourishes the world.”

32 Therefore, when working to support yourselves, do not overlook the need for the bread of Heaven which nourishes the ruach, for man cannot

live by mortal bread alone. Strive less for perishable food and more for the food of eternal life.”

33 The crowd answered, “O Master, never fail to provide us with this bread.”

34 Yahusha said, “I bring the bread of life; whoever partakes of it will never hunger. I bring the water of eternity, and whoever drinks of it will never thirst. All I am intended to receive from above I will share with everyone who comes to me.”

35 “The power I have comes from Heaven and is used not for my own ends, but to serve the purpose of He who gave it. His will is that I should waste no particle of what I have been given, but must account for it when my work is ended. For it is the will of He who invested me with authority and power that whoever has faith in me and believes in my cause, putting my teachings into practice, will enjoy immortality in glory.”

36 One of the Parashiym said to Yahusha, “Why do so many flock to hear you speak instead of going to the temples and places of assembly? Why do they have to listen to someone speaking on the streets and hillsides when they could listen to those fully armed with knowledge of the Torah?”

37 Yahusha answered, “I too am surprised so many seek to learn righteousness from me. Maybe they come because I am among those disinherited. But before telling them what to do, put yourselves in their place. Can it be they find my teachings more sustaining and closer to their hearts?”

38 Many of the Yahudiym were angry at the teachings of Yahusha, for he said, “I have the true bread of life and of Heaven.” They said, “Is this not the Yahusha we know, son of Yoceph and Miryam who are just ordinary people?”

39 Yahusha once said to them, “Do not say things behind my back when you can say them to my face. I will draw no one away from your own teachings unless something greater inclines them towards me. But if it does, they are on the way to immortality. The prophets promised your forefathers that their descendants would receive instructions from Elohim. So can you not believe these things? Therefore, anyone Yahuah inclines towards me hears me speak with His voice.”

40 The people who joined the crowds about Yahusha filled him with compassion, for they were so anxious to find the Deliverer. They seemed pathetically helpless and lost, like sheep without a shepherd.

41 Yahusha said to his disciples, “The seed planted was good, and there is a rich harvest ready for the cutting. But alas, the harvesters are few; therefore, the overseer must be requested to send more men.”

42 The following day, Yahusha was seated among the trees near the house of Kepha, and with him were many disciples. And one said to him, “Master, since the days of our fathers, many slaves have come into the land - great numbers having no slaves, being forced into brigandage, for otherwise they would starve. Are these men evildoers?”

43 Yahusha replied, “What they do is not good and therefore must be evil. But though their wrongdoing may be great in the eyes of men, it is small in the eyes of Elohim compared with the evil done by those who stand behind the deed. Many, blameless in the eyes of men, will not escape the judgment of eternity.”

44 “The disinherited say, ‘All things will change when Yahuah wills it,’ but I tell you the Father will not do the work of his sons. The Deliverer comes to take men to their places of labor and will ease their burdens there, but he cannot undertake the whole of the task. He will initiate the Rule of Elohim, but cannot force it upon men. He will teach them to judge the underprivileged justly and to deal harshly with the arrogant.

The rich will be less rich and the poor less poor. He will point the feet of men towards the path of perfection, but cannot carry them along it. Earthly kings can drive men to fulfill their tasks, but no one can be driven along the path to glory. Only those who guide and lead can take men this way.”

45 “I bring the Light, and the Light is a good tree bearing beneficial fruit. But fruit on the tree of darkness is consistent with conditions about its roots. For all trees are rooted in darkness, but the good tree transmutes the things of darkness into things of light.”

46 A disciple said to Yahusha, “Master, you say harsh things about the rulers and those in high places but do not seek to arm us against them. Surely the day of arming comes soon.”

47 Yahusha answered, “A physician is called to treat the sickness, and a healthy man does not require his attentions. The good in men I strengthen but leave untouched; it is the evil I seek out to destroy. Were it not for the strength of those who govern, there would be no peace in the land. Man would strive with man, and there would be murder and pillage everywhere. It would be like the sea, where big fish feed on the small, and nothing is there to prevent it. Therefore, if murder and robbery are kept from your door, pay due homage to those who stand guard.”

48 “If an evil king be guarded by a thousand good men, should these be slain to kill the king? Is it not best to first take the good men away from service with the king, bringing them into your own ranks? Those who serve evil, though powerful and wily, are cowards and hide behind the arms of better men. Therefore, by killing the brave men are you not adding evil to evil? No, first bring the good and brave men to your side, and then let events happen as they will.”

49 A young disciple who became an apostle said, “You speak about

bread unlike other bread, but the meaning is not clear to me. Tell me again about it.”

50 Yahusha said, “I will tell you with certainty, he who follows my cause wholeheartedly will gain eternal life, for I have the bread of immortality. The bread I give forms part of my being, and I share it for the good of the world. Many have the grains, but these are yet to be ground and baked. Unless, therefore, you can partake of my substance and become like me, you cannot gain immortality in glory.”

51 “Yet what I can do, you can do also; what I have become, you can become. I do not ask men to follow a path I would not travel myself. Neither is there anything in me not inherent in you. As I am, I am the true food of men, and the power of life flowing in me is their true drink. I come with special gifts and authority from above, clothed with the living Ruach, and I express life as I do because of the powers within me. So it will be with those who partake of my bread.”

52 Many of those with Yahusha could not hold these things in their hearts, for they were not easily understood. But one recorded them. Some, hearing these teachings, said, “These words are not easy to understand and difficult to accept.”

53 Yahusha said, “So you find difficulty in accepting what I say. Suppose you could see me communicating with my place of origin - would you believe then? But the eyes of the flesh cannot see things intended only for the eyes of the ruach.”

54 “Only the ruach contains the power of life, and the flesh of itself can see or do nothing. The words I have spoken concern only the life-holding ruach, and I have not referred to worldly matters. But still, you do not understand. I know you are perplexed and confused by my teachings. That is why I said something greater must speak internally to incline you toward me.”

55 From this day, many disciples and followers no longer heeded him.

56 It is written in the Holy Books of the Yahudiym, “In the days of unrighteousness, I will send forth a firebrand to consume the world with fire.” Also, “Then each man shall know the fullness of his own nature, and his reward shall be according to his measure.”

CHAPTER 9

1 Yahusha went from there to the house of his mother, for Miryam had a small inheritance. She was a careful woman; for once, when her children were young, having lost a small silver coin, she swept the floor carefully, sifting until she found it.

2 Leaving there, he withdrew to the sea, for Yahusha liked to swim and be among the boats. Now while he was there, a great number came from Galilee, from all of Yahudah and from Yerushalayim, some even from beyond Yordan and from the coast of the Western Sea where he was known.

3 Yahusha bid his followers prepare a small ship as quickly as possible to take him away from the great crowd pressing about him. As he had cured so many who were afflicted, those still uncured tried to touch him, and there was a constant shoving and scuffling to get nearer.

4 Escaping the boat, he went with it a short distance to where a path led up a hillside. Climbing this to a small mount, he sat down with his disciples. The time for celebrating the great festival was approaching, and Yahusha had sent out many apostles and heralds.

5 Seeing that a large crowd had gathered on the hillside, Yahusha stood up and addressed the people, after they were seated, in this manner: “This is a night of ignorance when men wander, lost in the darkness of worldly conditions. I am the Light and hope of men.”

6 “These are the people I support and accept, and this is the message I give to them. For I have come to unsheathe the sword of the Ruach among men and to lead them forth to fight the battles of Elohim. The sword is the Ruach, even as the body is the sheath. Let your swords be bright and keen for the fray. Be staunch and resolute, and the Rule of Elohim will surely sweep all wickedness and evil, all pain and distress from the face of the Earth.”

7 “I accept the oppressed and dispirited, for they shall inherit glory in the Kingdom of the Ruach.”

8 “I accept those who grieve, for they should not be without a comforter. Is it not written, ‘Let the words of Yahuah be an unquenchable light within you, and they will shorten your days of sorrow’?”

9 “I accept the disinherited, for they shall inherit the Earth. Is it not written, ‘The disinherited shall be joyful amid bounty and peace’?”

10 “I accept those who hunger after enlightenment, for they shall be satisfied. Is it not written, ‘The pleasures of the food table sit heavily on the stomach, but wisdom fills the heart with satisfaction and content’?”

11 “I accept the compassionate, for they shall be compensated. Is it not written, ‘He who has compassion builds a fountain of consolation for his time of need’?”

12 “I accept the pure-hearted, for their nature draws them closer to Elohim. Is it not written, ‘He whose hands and heart are clean receives the fullest measure of the power of the ruach’?”

13 “I accept the peacemakers, for they are truly the heirs of Elohim. Is it not written, ‘Listen, my children, and I will teach you the ways that are good, causing you to seek for peace and maintain it’?”

14 “I accept those who suffer in the cause of mankind, for on them shall fall the mantle of glory in the Kingdom of the Ruach. Is it not written, ‘When they scorned and abused me, I was strengthened by the Ruach of Yahuah, and nothing can now dismay me’?”

15 “I accept those whose motives, when seeking to do good, are misunderstood, for their place in glory is established. Is it not written,

‘Because they have reviled and slandered you, eternal glory will be granted’?”

16 “You whom I accept are the salt of the Earth, but if the savor of the salt disappears, it is useless. As salt without any flavor would be good for nothing, so those without goodness in their hearts serve no purpose. As salt adds flavor to food, so do good men make life more acceptable.”

17 “I am your Light, but you are the light of the world. Therefore, build a strong city set on a hill, for a light shining from a hilltop cannot be hidden. I have given you the Light so it may be put to use, for men do not put a lighted candle under a grain basket but in a candlestick where it can light up the room.”

18 “Let your lights shine before men, so they see the path clearly. Join your lights together, so they combine to form an unquenchable flame. For while a candle is easily snuffed out, it takes many men to subdue a forest fire.”

19 “Be stouthearted and resolute, for the struggle will be grim. The foe is wily and well entrenched behind thick walls. Those who have lived with poverty and misery, maintaining a cheerful heart in tribulation, will arise to glory. Those who are broken serving the cause of Yahuah will receive a mantle of splendor. Those whose proper desires remain unfulfilled on Earth will find fulfillment in Heaven. Those who have cheerfully borne affliction or deformity will radiate strength. And those who die for the cause of justice and peace will inherit life in glory.”

20 “I reject those who oppose the Rule of Elohim. I herald a reborn world, even as I was heralded; but while such as these encumber the Earth, it will not be reborn. I assure you of this: Unless the world be reborn, it cannot know the Rule of Elohim. The upheaval of the labor pains will be great. For though many will say, ‘Speed the day’ with their lips, in their hearts they will be saying, ‘The cost is too great; spare the

coming.’ By their fruits shall they be known, and by their deeds shall they be judged.”

21 “I reject the rich who live with their riches, or those who live beyond the bounds of moderation, for they shall be humbled in outer darkness. Is it not written, ‘Those in houses of comfort, where they sit at ease listening to instruments of music and sleep on soft beds of ivory, shall not survive’?”

22 “I reject those who gorge themselves with refinements of food while others hunger, for they shall hunger in the Kingdom of the Ruach. Is it not written, ‘They who serve Yahuah will be filled, but those who do not will want’?”

23 “I reject those who scorn the way of wisdom, seeking vain pleasures which dull the ruach, for they shall be sorrowful in their proper place. Is it not written, ‘The ruachoth of those who serve Yahuah shall be joyful, but the ruachoth of those who reject Him shall weep in sorrow and regret’?”

24 “I reject the arrogant and selfish and those mainly concerned with themselves, for they will be friendless in their place. Is it not written, ‘The things built of selfishness and false pride will be broken’?”

25 “I reject the liars and deceivers, for their abode is a place of darkness. Is it not written, ‘The deceitful shall not know the presence of Yahuah’?”

26 “I reject those who encourage ignorance, walking stiff-necked, their hearts an unopened book, for they shall not be enlightened. Is it not written, ‘Those who shower scorn on the words of others and close their eyes to righteousness shall not receive a righteous reward in their place’?”

27 “I reject the fornicators and adulterers and those who seek after lewd

pleasures, for they shall go to a place of uncleanness. Is it not written, ‘Only they who are clean can come into the presence of Yahuah’?”

28 “I reject those who in any way cause needless suffering, for they shall go to a place of pain. Is it not written, ‘He who causes distress, though it be done in secret, yet he is seen and will repay’?”

29 “I reject the hypocrites and self-deceivers, for their loathsomeness will be properly purged. Is it not written, ‘Words not written in the heart should never issue from the mouth’?”

30 “Woe to all who hear my words but twist their meaning to suit their convenience. If a man says he is with me but does not abide by my teachings, then he is a hypocrite. If he says, ‘But I live in circumstances where this does not apply,’ he is a liar. Far better that such as these say, ‘We are against you,’ for until they do, the world will not be reborn.”

31 “I bring light to the threshing floor of life, where suffering and misfortune are the flails, tribulation and distress the winnowing fan and the wisdom of Yahuah the winnowing shovel. Here the wheat is separated from the husks, the chaff is thrown out, and the good grains gathered up.”

32 “I come to build a new Temple, and if you say, ‘These are good teachings,’ and take them to your heart but tomorrow revile your neighbor and deceive your kinsmen, you are an unstable brick. If the Temple be built with such material, surely it will collapse, and those within will perish. Is it not better if it were never built? If you say, ‘But I am weak,’ then examine your defects and take the first step to stability; but examination is a waste of time unless leading to rectification.”

33 “I call you to serve no mean cause, but to stand beside me and claim your inheritance. Those who dispute the claim are the ones I reject, and you must set your faces against them, even as I do. Come and inherit the incorruptible glory, which is in Heaven, even as flesh is on Earth. The

way is narrow and difficult, for no one who has not been tempted and tried can attain his reward.”

34 “He that is near me is close to a blazing fire and may get burned, but he who withdraws from the heat withdraws from Heaven. Some have said, ‘The yoke of the Torah sits heavy on our shoulders,’ but I tell you, I come not to lighten but to magnify the responsibility. Mosheh brought the Torah which says not to kill, but I say, any who releases anger on his brother without just cause shall not escape judgment.”

35 “The Torah you have condemns adultery, but I tell you that if any man looks upon a woman with fornication in mind, he is no less guilty. For it is what a man thinks that will lead him to glory or decay. He who is pure in love does not defile his heart by looking at another woman with fornication in view.”

36 “The Torah you have says, ‘No man shall put his wife away unless he give her a bill of divorcement,’ but I tell you that whosoever seeks to put his wife away, except for adultery or she is found unchaste, places her on the path of adultery and is therefore not guiltless. What Yahuah has blended in ruach let no man seek to sever, but those joined in body and not in ruach are not sanctified.”

37 “The Torah you have says, ‘You shall not swear falsely or break an oath, though if you vow something to the service of Yahuah, the pledge must be kept.’ I tell you never to swear any oath, but confine yourself to a straightforward ‘yes’ or ‘no.’ It is needless to say more, for the word of a godly man is more binding than the most solemn oath sworn by another. If you are not a godly man, then doubtless, your word and oath would be worthless anyway.”

38 “If your eye give cause for complaint, leading you towards lewdness or obscenity, pluck it out. It is of greater advantage to suffer disfigurement on Earth than to be cast into the depths to suffer it there. If your right hand give cause for complaint, cut it off, for if your body be

maimed on Earth, you bear it a little time; but surely do nothing to prevent it remaining intact in the place of glory.”

39 “The Torah you have says, ‘Love your neighbors and hate your enemies,’ but I tell you to love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who deceive or persecute you. For if you only give love for love, this cannot be claimed as a meritorious thing, when even criminals return the love of those who love them. If you only repay good with good, dealing fairly only with those who treat you likewise, how can merit be claimed for this, which is no more than criminals do? It is the same if you give only to those who give to you, for criminals give to their own kind. Can you stand by and let it be said that criminals treat each other better than do godly men?”

40 “Love your enemies, but not their faults. Love those who hate you, but concede nothing to their wickedness. Give without expectation of return; then only can you lay claim to goodness and be called a Servant of Yahuah.”

41 “I have not come to abolish the Torah or to change the teachings of the prophets, but to complete them, adding any necessary clarification and interpreting them to the understanding of men. But the time has come to ask: When will they be put into practice? When will men bring Yahuah out of the Temple and make Him a participant in their daily lives? When will men carry these things in their hearts and stop paying them lip service?”

42 “I say with certainty, so long as Earth and the Heavens above it remain, not even the smallest particle shall be deducted from the Torah until the purpose it serves has been completed. Therefore, if anyone try to avoid even the least obligation imposed by the Torah, or to set aside the slightest of its restrictions, or teach others to do the same, he will be an insignificant thing in the life to come. But whoever lives by them, leading others to do likewise, will achieve the greatest heights of glory.”

43 “Do all charitable acts privately, not displaying your righteousness to catch the eyes of others, for by so doing you void their benefits. Only those seeking public acclaim and hypocrites do these things ostentatiously. Never seek publicity for your deeds or goodness nor let it be forced on you. I assure you that those who do these things have their reward on Earth, and nothing awaits them elsewhere. When setting out on an errand of goodness, keep your right hand in ignorance of the left hand’s deeds. Do your good deeds in secret, knowing they are not overlooked and will be duly rewarded, but do them without thought of reward, or they will lose their merit.”

44 “Do not be like the hypocrites who pray in the sight of everyone; they are being rewarded now. Pray in solitude, for your Father can be contacted from anywhere and is everywhere. Never use needless repetition or ramble on in the mistaken belief that the more you say, the more likely you are to be heard. Do not be a mere babler of words, for prayer is not formed by words alone. Remember, your every need is known, so whatever is withheld may be for your own good. Prayer is contact between ruach and Ruach, and should seek only to reinforce the strength of the ruach.”

45 “This is a pattern for prayer: ‘Our Father in Ruach, may Your nature become known among men and Your rule established on Earth, according to the heavenly plan. May Your design be completed. Give us the sustenance we need and overlook our transgressions as we overlook the transgressions of others. Do not test us too severely and strengthen us against the servants of evil.’”

46 “If you overlook the failings of others and forgive people for the wrongs they have done to you, then the burden of your own will be alleviated. Also, when you fast or undertake an obligation, do not be like the hypocrites who lengthen their faces, going about it self-righteously, bringing themselves to the attention of others.”

47 “Hoard no earthly treasures which can be destroyed by moths and decay, or may be stolen by thieves. It is far better to establish a storehouse in the Heavens, for there you can accumulate treasures beyond reach of these things. A man’s heart is never far from the place where he establishes his credit.”

48 “Providing you view everything optimistically, maintaining a cheerful and confident outlook, you will radiate assurance. If you do not, you will shed despondency and gloom wherever you go. No man has ever succeeded in serving two masters, for his loyalties must lie with one or the other. Neither can a man have two prime objectives; he must aim for an earthly goal or a spiritual one.”

49 “I advise you not to worry unduly about the future needs of the body, how it will be nourished and clothed. There is more to life than eating and comfort, while overdone pleasure soon palls. Keep this one fact constantly in mind: The soul is of more importance than the body.”

50 “Think about the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap or gather in a harvest, yet provision has been made for their needs. Do you think any less consideration has been given to your welfare? Trust in the powers above, and when things go wrong, try to understand the reason. When you are being tried by tribulation, try and see the objective of the test.”

51 “Is there anyone among you who, by thought alone, can add an arm’s length to his height? Worry is a useless activity of the mind, so why worry about food and clothing? Look how the wildflowers grow in the meadows: they do not toil or spin, yet Solomon in full regalia was not attired so attractively as one of these. If such beauty is bestowed on wildflowers, which can display it for only a few days before being consumed, shall Yahuah not give much more attention to you, His children? Or have you no faith in anything?”

52 “Therefore, worry less about material things, and concentrate more on the spiritual, making the cause of Elohim your main concern. Do this, and all other things will come within your reach. Do not worry about tomorrow, for it will look after itself. Each day will bring you sufficient problems without the need to worry about those of other days.”

53 “There is no reason why hypocrisy, the disease of the day, should come so naturally to men. But which of you is not contaminated by it? How many of you are self-deceivers, making excuses for these things? How is it you can readily detect the small faults in others while being absolutely blind to your own much greater ones? How can you say to another, ‘Let me help you see more clearly,’ when you are practically blind yourself? You, hypocrites and self-deceivers, first examine your own faults and failings before criticizing those of others.”

54 “Never be afraid to voice your needs, and if you have a friend, turn to him whenever you require help, for this is the nature of friendship. Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened. These things are the Torah of life, for at the end it will be said to you, ‘As you sought, so have you found; and according to the manner of asking have you received.’ It is not what you seek, but how you seek; not what you request, but the manner of requesting.”

55 “Is there any man among you who, if his son ask for bread, will give him a stone, or a snake if he ask for a fish? If, then, you, with all your mortal faults and ignorance, know how to give the right things to your children, how much more able is Yahuah to give what is right for His.”

56 “The things you surely do not need are comfort and content, while assurance and security open the gates to spiritual apathy. Enter by the narrow, unpretentious gate, for the road leading to the dark abyss has a wide road and attractive entrance, while the gate leading to immortality is austere, and the road fraught with difficulties.”

57 “Beware of false prophets and those who would mislead you, for many seeking to promote their own ends walk the ways of righteousness, clothed in sheepskins, but are hypocrites, being ravening wolves within. Those who indicate an easy path are false guides. And those who say another can absolve them from the effects of their misdeeds expound an error.”

58 “You will know them by the effects of their teachings, just as a good tree is recognized through the fruit it bears. Can the wildthorn produce grapes, or are figs found growing on thistles? If a tree fails to produce good fruit, it is cut down and burned, for it can serve no better purpose. Therefore, I say, judge men by the fruits of their labors.”

59 “Some hail me as their leader, thinking this will help them in the life to come, but it will not. Only those who wholeheartedly serve the cause and purpose of Yahuah will enjoy this in full glory. Many who do things in my name will expect me to intercede for them, but to these I will say, I did not know you, or authorize the statements you made; by your deeds shall you be judged.”

60 “This does not apply to those who, hearing my words, put them into practice, for they are like the sensible man who built his house on a foundation of rock. The rain poured down and the floods rose; the wind howled above and beat against the house. But it did not collapse because it was set firmly.”

61 “But there will be many who, hearing these words of mine, will ignore them. And these may be likened to a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain poured down, the floods rose, the wind howled and beat against the walls, and the whole house collapsed.”

62 “I herald the coming of the Rule of Elohim and a reborn world. I accept those who follow my way, and I will lead them into their kingdom. I reject all those who are against my way.”

63 “I call upon men of good will to follow us - men who wholeheartedly desire the light and oppose the way of darkness. But the road may be long and beset by many foes. Yet have no fear of those who come with swords and fiery words; their danger is apparent. Those who will be our undoing are the hypocrites and self-deceivers who pay lip service only and manipulate the words of the Torah to accord with their convenience. I tell you this: Many will come, but few will be selected.”

64 “Mosheh viewed the promised land only from Pisgah. Let this not be your fate. Face the difficulties ahead, overcome the evildoers who maintain the rule of evil, and claim your reward. The sword is drawn, but the battle has yet to be won.”

65 “In the reborn world, the wolf shall lay down with the lamb, and the lion with the kid, and a little child shall play with them. Surely, because of their goodness and goodwill, even the wild beasts will submit themselves to the will of those who participate in the Rule of Elohim.”

66 When Yahusha finished speaking, the great assembly of people was silent. For, unlike other teachers, he appeared inspired by divine authority. But within moments they were excitedly discussing the words among themselves.

67 Then a disciple who stood beside Yahusha shouted, “All who serve Yahuah, praise Him. For He has sent the true Enlightener and the Deliverer, and will Himself reign over us through the Ruach which fills His Son. Heed these things, follow The Way of Yahusha¹⁹, take up the cross of life and the Rule of Elohim is at hand.”

68 There were many among the crowd who said, “Surely this is Yahuah’s Anointed for whom we have long awaited. Now we will be delivered according to the promises of the prophets.”

¹⁹ Acts 24:14

69 Hearing the things said by the people among themselves, Yahusha was saddened and said to Bartholomew, who stood near him, “Tomorrow they will revert to their old way of life and permit evil to reign through hypocrites and self-deceivers. How can they be brought to understand that should Yahuah intervene to bring about the Rule of Elohim, Earth and mankind will have failed Him and be unworthy of His rule? Life’s purpose is to produce shepherds, not sheep. But the lives of the people are turned inwards upon themselves.”

70 It was now late in the day, but many people still lingered. And a disciple said to Yahusha, “Master, the crowd was very large, and many did not hear all Your words. Could you not speak to these? For, though hungry, they would rather listen to you.”

71 Yahusha said, “My throat aches, but I have bread more satisfying than that which fills the stomach, and meat more satisfying than worldly meat. My supply is inexhaustible. I have multiplied this through you, so now you go among the people and provide what they need.”

CHAPTER 10

1 Some days later, Yahusha was in another place with about sixty disciples, one of whom said to him, “There is Joshua the Faster, who claims to be the Mashiach of Elohim, and Yoceph, who proclaims deliverance by the sword, while many say the Enlightener and Deliverer are two men. The gale of words makes it difficult to get a bearing on the harbor entrance.”

2 Yahusha said, “Things are changing, and many alive today will live to see a different world. I come to set men free by removing the shackles of ignorance and to deliver them from evil and from themselves.”

3 Hearing this, many of the disciples left, and Yahusha said to those who remained beside him, “Do you also wish to go your way?”

4 Kepha answered for all, “Master, your teachings excel those of others, for they carry the hope of eternal life. We believe you to be the chosen messenger of Yahuah who speaks with His voice. We accept what you say because it responds to the yearnings of our hearts.”

5 Yahusha said, “We all make mistakes, and though I have chosen unwisely with others, I have not been mistaken with you.”

6 Yahusha did not proclaim himself to the people according to their understanding and devoted much time to the teaching of disciples. This concerned mainly the coming Rule of Elohim, but to the twelve he taught many hidden things, for there was knowledge suitable only for a few.

7 He said to them, “You are among those entitled to know secrets concerning the Rule of Elohim, but to those who are not numbered among the elect, everything should be explained simply and in parables. It is truly written in the Sacred Books, ‘They may see with the eyes and

be deceived, and hear without understanding, but if they would only turn to Yahuah, their ignorance would be wiped away.”

8 Then Yahusha appointed the twelve as apostles to go out among the people and proclaim the things he had said. The twelve were: Shimon, renamed Kepha; Yacob and Yochanon, sons of Thunder; Andrew Saronides; Philip Bardrush; Bartholomew the Stranger; Mattityahu the Levite; Thomas, son of Jonas; Thaddeus, called Lebios before he came; Yacob, son of Alfeous; Yahudah²⁰ of Iscaroth; and Shimon of Canaan, the zealot.

9 Yahusha sent them out with these instructions: “Avoid Samaritan towns. Keep away from places where the people are being stirred up for strife, but go to the Yahudiym wherever they are to be found. When entering a dwelling, give the greeting, ‘Peace be on this house.’”

10 “I know that you are being sent like sheep delivered to the wolves, for you do not bear the message expected by the people. So be careful, always alert, cunning as serpents and harmless as doves. Beware of those who would bring you before their courts, and do not concern yourselves about what to say, for when it becomes necessary, you will receive inspiration from the Ruach Ha’Qodesh, and words will come.”

11 “I can assure you of this: Whoever stands by me, upholding my cause before men, him I will stand beside before the Council of Heaven. Give no heed to what is said about me - it is already forgiven. But slander against the powers of the Ruach Ha’Qodesh, which is the Hand of Yahuah, is unforgivable.”

12 One of the twelve said, “We will meet other teachers, whose words will not be the same as those spoken by you.”

²⁰ *Judas*

13 Yahusha said, “This will certainly be so, for to each man his own road and his own light; but Truth is Truth whoever proclaims it and must be obeyed. However, Truth is something rarely seen clearly, and even many who see it have difficulty in describing it to others. Speak about the good and evil which are manifest in the lives of men and tell them each shall be judged according to his works.”

14 Yahusha said, “Men will always go astray, but those who lead them astray cannot shun responsibility. Remember what I have said about those who stand behind the wrongdoings and foolishness of others, hidden from sight and untouchable by men. It would be better for them to have a millstone hung about their necks and be thrown into the sea than to suffer what they will for leading innocents astray.”

15 “Be on guard against undutiful inclinations, and work in harmony one with another. If your companion offends you, rebuke him without anger; and if he indicates regret, forgive him wholeheartedly. Even though he offend you many times, and is contrite, forgive him.”

16 Some of the twelve said, “These things are difficult to understand, and we have the natural failings of men. Give us courage and strengthen us in the cause.”

17 Yahusha replied, “Have faith in what you do, for with faith you could move mountains or cause uprooted trees to replant themselves. All things are possible to those who believe them possible.”

18 Nevertheless, he strengthened them by a transfer of Ruach Ha’Qodesh so they had the power of healing.

19 Yahusha said, “Those who do not build with me are destroyers of my works, and those who pay lip service only are useless tools. Never judge any man by the words of his mouth, and keep away from those who pour them out in a torrent. Have no dealings with those who do their good deeds in public, and shun those who push themselves forward for

attention. A man whose problems are small will readily come to be eased of his burden, while he who carries a heavy load is often inconspicuous.”

20 “What you do pays no earthly reward; though the reward elsewhere may be great, it is useless claiming one here. If one of you had a man out plowing, would you say to him on his return, ‘Come, sit down and rest’? Is it not more likely you would say, ‘Go and clean yourself. Get my meal ready. And after you have finished, go and eat yourself. Then go to rest’? Is any employer grateful because those who work for him do the things for which he pays them? So it should be with you. Having carried out your orders and done your duty, you should simply say, ‘We have only done the things we were supposed to do.’”

21 “Many will seek to snare you in a net of words, but avoid the meshes spun by their wiles. Never talk about anything not thoroughly and honestly believed. The blind cannot lead the blind, and if they do, fall into a ditch. No man can walk confidently in darkness without a light. The eye is the lamp of the body; and if the lamp is defective, the whole body is in gloom. The Ruach Ha’Qodesh is the lamp of the soul, but if it remains unlit, it serves no purpose.”

22 “Many will mock and scorn you, saying, ‘Fools, we have full stomachs and soft beds; we have everything for our comfort and needs. What have you?’ There is little to be said in reply, for wise men do not mock, knowing that gems of wisdom often fall from the lips of fools. Take no heed of these, for they suffer from a spiritual defect - an ailment blinding them to their own deficiencies while exaggerating the failings of others.”

23 “Do not offer bright jewels to dogs nor place a string of pearls around the necks of swine, or they will be trampled into the ground. The beasts will turn and rend you for not providing bones or husks.”

24 Philip said to Yahusha, “Master, you caution us against anger, yet were you not angry when a man beat his ass with a rod?”

25 Yahusha said, “I warn you against anger among brothers, or anger relating to yourself. There is a righteous anger which is justified. In all things there are balances and limitations, and to know these you have the Books of Wisdom. If a man comes against you, threatening harm, he is more dangerous if he is calm and silent than if he is unsteady with anger. The silent biting dog is more to be feared than the barking one. Therefore, is it not in your own interests that I teach you self-control?”

26 Then Yahudah asked concerning the coming Rule of Elohim, and Yahusha answered, “It is like this: A man scatters seed on the ground. Day follows day until the grain sprouts and grows. But what goes on in the ground to bring this about is beyond his knowledge. The soil produces the crop by its own methods, nourishing the crop until it ripens. When the corn is ripe at harvesting time, the man reaps and gathers in.”

27 Yahusha then said, “To know the nature of the Rule of Elohim is important but difficult for me to explain to your understanding. It is like the small seed which, once planted, shoots up into a great plant, providing shade for many forms of life. These are able to see and know both the seed and the plant but have no knowledge how one became the other.”

28 “Know that, though I am here with you, I am not apart from He who inspires me. That which is in me is not separate from the Ruach of the Father, and that Ruach is wholly in me. I express the likeness of the Father and contain His power and substance to the full measure. I am the Ruach outflowing from Yahuah, given voice and form. I am the voice and Word of that Ruach. I am of that Ruach but not that Ruach.”

29 “I am the fulfillment of men’s hopes and the fulfillment of the

Father's desire. As I am, so is the Ruach. As I am, so shall all His children be, for I am the pattern for all men. I am emptied of worldliness in order to hold the Ruach Ha'Qodesh. And I am an answer to the Father's creative Word."

30 "A pitcher half filled with water would hold less oil than an empty one. If wine is poured into a jar containing water, the wine is diluted. So, when men say, 'What purpose does it serve to forgo worldly pleasures?' tell these things to them. If they will not listen, then on their own heads be the illnesses and pains from which they will surely suffer."

31 The twelve said, "Great is the hope you have given us, and great is the inspiration of your words."

32 Yahusha said, "I do not do this of myself, for I have been filled with the power of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh, which is part of Yahuah. With this He created all things. I come that I may bring Light to those who dwell in darkness, to bring to those who are on the brink of death a knowledge of life, and to bring consolation to those who suffer. I am the hope of those who despair, the helper of those who have no guide, the treasure of the poor, and the healer of the sick. I am the Light of Eternal Life for all who die. And as I am, so must you be."

33 "Go, carry the good tidings without trepidation or fear, without respect for persons, calling all who listen to follow a path which is direct, narrow and stern. Call them, whatever their circumstances, for each one will have something to contribute."

34 Then Yochanon said, "Master, you have taught us many things and armed our wits. You have taught us how to act towards those who believe in your cause and those who do not. Yet even among those who most conscientiously follow your way, even among those who should be brothers, is found jealousy, pettiness, envy and selfishness."

35 Yahusha said, "These things are the challenge of life, and inseparable

from the present rule of man. The test is your ability to change them. The corn will be gathered into the storehouse of the Ruach, and the chaff cast into the fires of transmutation.”

36 Yahusha taught these things to the twelve in a manner different from his other teachings. There were many other things which may be told, but not all were heard with understanding.”

37 Kepha said, “Let us partake of your strength, so we can withstand whatever is sent to test us.”

38 Yahusha said, “When the test comes, it is never as expected.”

39 He also said, “The man who says, ‘I may be wrong,’ is always right; the man who says, ‘I am certainly right,’ is always wrong. To avoid a fight is not cowardice, and to fight with the assurance of victory is not courage. Weak men often fight, and strong men often run; motive is all that matters. To judge anyone by their (former) actions is to judge unfairly.”

40 Then, while they were gathered about him, Yahusha said, “Now, who do you think I am?” Shimon Kepha answered, “You are surely Yahuah’s Anointed.”

41 Yahusha said, “You are rather rash but, as no mortal disclosure was made to you, wise also. Since your name means a rock, and you live up to it, I will establish foundations for the city of my cause upon you. And neither death nor evil shall overthrow it. To you I give the keys of this city, and the kingdom to which it is the gateway shall welcome you as a prince.”

42 “In as much as I am the Way²¹, the Truth²² and the Light²³, I bring

²¹ *Ps. 119:1*

²² *Ps. 119:142*

²³ *Prov. 6:23*

you salvation from ignorance. I am the Savior of all who wander in darkness, but who, seeing my Light, follow my lead.”

43 One of the twelve said, “Master, you are truly our salvation, our hope and our Life²⁴.”

44 Yahusha said, “Many will flock to my cause, but few will be chosen to serve; many will follow my way, but turn aside at the obstacles. For if any man believes but fails to put his belief into practice, it will be profitless to him. If anyone take one part of my teachings, shunning the sterner and more inconvenient, the rest will serve no purpose. For it is in the nature of men to accept the easy path and turn aside from the harder one. But there is something in each which tells him this is wrong. Everyone has a spark within which, fanned by the wind of dedication, will kindle the flame of glory.”

45 One of the twelve said, “Shall we confine our mission to the Yahudiym?” Yahusha replied, “Enlightenment is the inheritance of all men. Carry the message to all the seventy nations of the Earth.”

46 Another asked, “Should we take it to the young and to the old as well? For the thoughts of the young change with every wind, while the old are like seasoned timber into which it is difficult to drive a nail.”

47 Yahusha said, “Teach each according to his understanding and capacity.”

48 Yahusha then said, “Always treat those you meet as you would have them treat you; act towards others as you would have them act towards you. For this is the essence of the Torah.”

49 When Yahusha had given these instructions to the apostles, they left.

²⁴ Deut. 32:46-47

And Yahusha went with four disciples to carry the message to other towns.

CHAPTER 11

1 Yahusha came to a place where he had a kinsman and stayed with him, but on the second day a large crowd gathered outside so it was impossible to remain at peace. These kinsmen were quiet people whose lives followed a tranquil course, for they conformed to the pattern of life imposed upon them. Hearing the clamor of the crowd, they became agitated and said, “Surely Yahusha must be out of his mind and we should put restraint upon him, otherwise we will be ridiculed.”

2 Just then, some important men from Yerushalayim spoke to them, and they said among themselves, “This thing is now beyond our control, but surely we shall never live normal lives again.”

3 The men from Yerushalayim said to some people standing outside the doorway, “Go away. This man is possessed by the king of evil ruachoth and calls on him for help when casting out his subjects.”

4 Hearing this, Yahusha called to the men from Yerushalayim, asking them to come outside to where he was. He then asked them, “Can evil cast out evil?” They said, “On this point we have no clear guidance.”

5 Yahusha then said, “Surely, if a kingdom is divided against itself, it must collapse. Likewise, a household split internally soon falls apart. If evil powers counteract each other, are they not like men in an army who fall upon each other with swords, thereby rendering the army ineffective? Set evil in action against evil and nothing except good can result.”

6 Yahusha then went into the house and told those inside he was going to the Temple in that place. And one said, “The clothes you wear are travel-stained. Will you enter the House of Elohim in these?”

7 Yahusha replied, “When guests call upon a nobleman in his house, they must be fittingly attired. But when workmen call to make repairs,

they enter in the clothes of their trade.”

8 Yahusha spoke to the people in the Temple, saying, “The Parashiym occupy the seats of the prophets and should therefore be obeyed. In general, they live good lives, and you would do well to follow their example. But with many the goodness is only on the outside, and they are rotten within. Therefore, by exposing these I serve those who are really good.”

9 “I tell you to beware of hypocrites, self-deceivers and liars, and to be constantly on guard against those who, in the name of righteousness, would mislead you. When inspired to become the voice of Elohim, the prophet spoke of these. For he said, ‘They praise me with their mouth and give homage with their lips, but I am not in their hearts. They worship only because this has been their upbringing. Such as these do not worship Yahuah because they are good, but for the sake of reward and through fear of the unknown.’ These are people against whom I have set my face, for their goodness is fair outside but rotten at the core.”

10 “There are others who dig in the darkness, hoping their thoughts are unknown. They delve around in the filth within themselves and say, ‘This is pleasant, and none sees what we do,’ but the record of their thoughts is never lost. Yet these, concealing what lies within, set themselves up as leaders of the people who, finding their troubles multiplied, look vainly for the cause. Yet the people only get the leaders they deserve, for those who will only serve goodness cannot be misled by evil.”

11 “There are deceivers who lead the people along devious paths which can never end in contentment. They produce doves’ eggs to the people, but when hatched in secret, these produce vipers. They fawn upon the rich and notorious, a smile on their faces and a dagger in their hearts, but to the underprivileged they turn a face of harshness.”

12 “The hypocrites, the self-deceivers and the self-centered are the minions of evil on Earth and are the true enemy opposing the coming of the Rule of Elohim. Let them maintain the upper hand and you will never know the joys of a reborn world. Turn your backs on these wherever you find them, so your contempt is made manifest. But remember, they will be found in the most unexpected places.”

13 “Beware of the self-seekers, whose path is over the bodies of those they drag down. If you associate with them, you may become a cobblestone for their feet. Avoid the tangled thickets of money dealing, lest the spiders therein lure you into their webs and suck you dry. The self-seekers are blind to the obligations of life, supposing these to be a profitless burden. But I tell you that anyone who shoulders them courageously and cheerfully will be duly rewarded.”

14 “The cross of life is not easy to bear, for it chafes and weighs down heavily. But unless a man sacrifice himself upon it, he shall not rise to glory. Do not seek directions for an easy path, for this is not difficult to find though it has no destination. Follow the harder one. The directions are given in the Holy Books, and at the end you will find sunlit meadows and a region of liveliness.”

15 “I say to you, come, take up my cross and bear it manfully, and I will not leave you unsupported. I teach the strengthening of the ruach in men through purification, repentance and good deeds. The trials of life are many and take numerous forms, some being easily understood for what they are; but others, coming in the guise of gifts, are not so readily detected. This is what the prophet said about those who failed to rise above the tests of life: ‘Their cuttings will not take root; the winds of Yahuah will blow upon them, and they will wither, to be borne away by the whirlwind.’”

16 “A coward lies to those who trust him, for he fears the anger of others. A liar is also a coward, for he follows a path better men would

scorn. I have come to winnow the grain from the chaff. And those who follow me, bearing the burden of my cross, must not be halfhearted in the cause. I separate the sheep from the goats, accepting one and rejecting the other; and a sheep does not mate with a goat. I accept the truthful man; he is peaceful within himself, for whatever is sown in truthfulness will be reaped in content.”

17 “I have not come to point out the place where a treasure trove is hidden, but to tell of its existence; the search remains with you. Nevertheless, I give directions, which, if followed, cannot fail to uncover it. For is it not written, ‘If you desire wisdom as men desire gold, and seek Truth with the diligence men display when seeking treasure, you will not be denied knowledge of Elohim’?”

18 “Lay up treasures in the storehouse of eternity and enjoy them forever. Hoarded silver can buy only pleasure which quickly palls, or things which endure a little while before falling apart or decaying. Only the treasures laid up in Heaven will ensure everlasting glory.”

19 “Keep these things always in mind, for if my words have fallen on barren ground they are wasted. Spread out your roots in the sustaining soil of the new light I bring you. And when the plant of faith grows, do not let it be smothered by worldly weeds. Maintain cheerfulness in your heart, and its reflection will lighten your countenance; and, smiling, you will be welcome wherever you go.”

20 “Go your ways, but beware of those who speak fairly but hold deceit in their hearts. Beware of hypocrites and deceivers. It is no sin to be blind, but to disguise the blindness and say, ‘We see; follow us,’ is one of the greatest evils.”

CHAPTER 12

1 After being away some time, the twelve apostles rejoined Yahusha and gave their reports. And when they had finished, he said, “You have done well. Let us go away to a secluded place where we can be alone.”

2 Andrew said, “Spare me time to visit my womenfolk, so I can be assured they do not lack food or suffer.”

3 Yahusha said, “Yahuah will provide for those who serve Him faithfully, but men are not always suitable tools in His hand. Go and do whatever has to be done.”

4 The rest set out in a boat, but when they reached their destination, a crowd had already assembled. Yahusha spoke to the people, teaching in parables, and when at length he wearied, dismissed them and went to sit alone on a small hill.

5 Meanwhile, the disciples had put to sea in a boat, and, as darkness fell, tried to row back, but the wind was against them. Yahusha, therefore, waded out to them in the darkness. Then, the wind being in their faces, they quickly crossed the sea to a village where many sick and lunatics were brought to be healed.

6 Going to the place where they were staying, it was then the cool of the evening. Some of the disciples started quarreling, but soon quieted down. When they were all in the house, Yahusha asked what the argument had been about. But they were silent before him, not knowing what to say; for they had been disputing among themselves as to who was the greatest among them next to Yahusha.

7 Yahusha then said, “Whoever wants to lead must know how to serve, and the humble-hearted serve best. A great man is not one who has sought greatness, but one whom the need has found great.”

8 Yahusha then took the arm of a young child belonging to the house, who had been standing behind him, and, drawing the boy forward, said, “Whoever accepts responsibility for a little child such as this accepts me, and whoever accepts me accepts my cause. For it is profitless to discuss greatness apart from responsibility. Let the one who can accept the most responsibility be the greatest.”

9 After they had eaten, two followers of Yahusha came into the house and approached him, saying, “Master, we have robbed a rich man. Have we not done a good deed? For this gives him a better chance in the life to come.”

10 Yahusha said, “Even though he used riches wrongly, you have done no more than add wrong to wrong. Evil cannot be rectified by evil, no matter what the circumstances.”

11 One of the men said, “Master, I gave all the proceeds to the disinherited, gaining nothing for myself except the fear of death, while the other with me gave only some silver, keeping the rest.”

12 Yahusha said, “Then your crime was the lesser one, but a crime nevertheless.”

13 Yahusha dismissed the man and said to the disciples, “No man can push another into goodness, or force spiritual credits upon him. Men are brought to goodness by guidance and example.”

14 Mattityahu said, “These men have sons - what of them? For is it not in the Torah that sons shall suffer for the misdeeds of their fathers? Where is the justice in this?”

15 Yahusha said, “The sense of words changes with their transmission. And have I not told you that taking one part of the Torah and setting it apart from the rest leads to error? Only by diligently reading the whole, word by word, can it be understood.”

16 “Given a single thread from a carpet, could any one of you know the pattern? It is the transgressions of the fathers which cause the children to suffer. For not only are there things which must not be done, but there are things which are to be done. Also, things which must be guarded against.”

17 “If a man fails to instruct his children, or permit them to grow up unruly, he is a transgressor against the Torah. And is it not obvious this affects the children? If a man chooses his wife for her beauty and charm - because she pleases him - and not for her wifely and motherly attributes, he transgresses against the Torah. Does not the effect of this fall upon his children? If a man steal, Elohim will not chastise the children. But if that man be caught and crucified, his wife sold into bondage, will not his children suffer?”

18 “The Torah of Yahuah, as given in the Books of Wisdom, is unlike the laws of men. A man is responsible not only for what he does, but for what he fails to do. And though he spends his whole life in prayer, at places of righteousness, but overlooks his obligations under the greater Torah, he is not free of transgression.”

19 “The deeds of men are like pebbles thrown into a pool, sending out ever widening ripples; and I assure you that all harm done by the ripples shall be accounted against he who caused them, no matter how far distant it occurs.”

20 “This is the Torah: Whatever a man transmits to his children, even down to the tenth generation, that shall be accounted against him. Likewise, if a man fails to do things he should for his children, that too will not be overlooked.”

21 “When the day of assessment comes, it will be like a net cast into the sea, which gathers up every kind of fish - some wholesome and others

not. When full, it is drawn ashore, and the wholesome fish are placed in baskets, while the unwholesome are thrown aside. So it is at the time of assessment - the good go in one direction, and the transgressors in another.”

22 One of the disciples said, “Master, it is easier for some than for others. The rich are not tempted to steal, but many a poor man must steal, or see his children starve.”

23 Yahusha said, “The transgressions of the rich lie mainly with the things they fail to do, those of the poor in things they find it difficult to avoid. The justice of Yahuah takes all things into account.”

24 “Is it not written, ‘Toil not to lay up riches which make eagle’s wings for themselves and fly away’? And it is also stated, ‘Some are truly rich though they dwell in poverty, while others are poor amid their riches.’ Those who wallow in their wealth, enjoying it as pigs enjoy mud, are like sheep which, buried in darkness, never live again in the light. The man who gains privileges and wealth in this world but lacks wisdom to utilize them to his true benefit, suffers a fate no better than the beasts which perish.”

25 “True wisdom is filling your lives with things conferring a lasting benefit, and the goodness of life cannot be assessed according to abundance of possessions. There is nothing whatsoever in this world which cannot be used as a stepping stone to a life of glory, and riches are no exception, but few men are wise enough to overcome the test they present.”

26 “There was once a rich man who was always robed in purple and fine linen, whose days were spent in entertaining and feasting. Outside his gate sat a beggar so hungry he would have been satisfied with the scraps of food thrown aside from the rich man’s table. The beggar died at his hour, and his soul found itself in the company of the saintly fathers of his race. The rich man also died and, after his assessment, found himself

in the company of those who suffered. Filled with misery, he raised his eyes to the glorious place beyond his reach. And there, bathed in bright light, he recognized the beggar he had spurned, in the company of a Great Soul.”

27 “The rich man cried out, ‘My Father, send a word of comfort; for here I suffer in filth and squalor.’ The Great One answered him with compassion in His voice, ‘My son, recall your life on Earth, when you enjoyed all the good things it were possible to obtain, and think of the difference between what the beggar and you had. Now he is the one who is comforted and surrounded by beauty and cleanliness, while you live in filth and degradation. But it was you who made the choice of place for your future. Still, this is not all. For while you could have reached out a helping hand to him on Earth, here there is an impassible barrier between those of you who are in that place and those in this.’”

28 “Then the man who had once been rich said, ‘I beg you, send messengers to my family and brothers, so they may be warned of what lies in store for them before it is too late.’ The Great Soul replied, ‘They have the teachings of the Torah which carry sufficient message and warning. Let them take heed of this.’”

29 “He who suffered replied, ‘No, this they will not heed any more than I did, for their days are filled with worldly distractions. But if someone were to return from the dead, it would bring these things to their attention, and they would definitely take notice.’”

30 “The Great Soul answered, ‘Nothing can serve them better than the teachings of the Torah, not even one returning from the dead. In fact, this would serve them ill. For if their goodness stemmed only from proofs such as this, it would be devoid of merit, and therefore worthless at the assessment.’”

31 Yahusha said, “This is the manner whereby you will teach the people, but do this according to their understanding. In one place you will tell

the parable in a certain manner, and in another place, you will tell it differently, making sure the message never varies. The design inscribed on the outside of a pitcher makes it attractive to some, but not to others. This is unimportant, for it does not affect the contents.”

32 After this, Yahusha took his disciples to Tiberias. From there, he and the twelve went through Zebulun to Tyre on the Western Sea, where they stayed among fishermen in a village by the narrow waters.

CHAPTER 13

1 Yahusha and the twelve worked with the fishermen and on ships bringing goods from all parts of the world, even from the cities beyond. And during this time, he did not draw attention to himself.

2 Then one day, while in the part of Tyre called “The Place of Purple,” he came upon two men in argument among several others.

3 He said to them, “No disagreement can be settled justly by blows, while loud words confuse the issue. If your brother does wrong, reprove him quietly, but let it be between you two alone. If the matter cannot be settled between you, then seek two men acceptable to both, and let them decide the issue.”

4 By the time Yahusha had dealt with this matter, a crowd had gathered, and someone in it called out, “Master, come with me to my brother, and tell him that the estate left by our father should be shared with me.”

5 Yahusha called him forward and said, “I am a teacher. No man has given me authority to decide such matters. When things are done properly, there is less likelihood of repercussions.”

6 Then Yahusha turned to the gathering and said, “Take care always to guard against all kinds of greed and acquisitiveness, for no man’s happiness can be assured by his possessions. In fact, much wealth is the father of sleepless nights.”

7 “There was a certain rich man whose fields were fertile, yielding heavy crops. Seeing the bounty of the land, he decided there was insufficient space to store it and had his barns and storehouses pulled down so bigger ones could be erected. Into these he stacked everything until the new buildings were packed full. When this was completed, he relaxed, saying to himself, ‘Now I have ample laid up for all my future needs and can eat, drink and enjoy my good fortune.’ But that night he

was called to his accounting in another life, and no part of his worldly goods could be taken. Now, who benefited by all he had accumulated? This is how it is with those who accumulate worldly wealth but remain spiritual paupers.”

8 Yahusha then turned to two of the twelve who stood beside him and said, “This is why I tell you not to unduly concern yourselves with food and clothing. There is so much more to life than eating, and the body requires more than clothes. Look at the wild birds, which live happily from day to day, and learn from them. Have no doubts, my friends, for you are certainly heirs to glory, with an unassailable treasurehouse in Heaven.”

9 “Be prepared for whatever comes, your clothes fitting the occasion and your lamp lit, like servants awaiting the master’s return from visiting, ready to open the door immediately. The master is gratified on finding his servants anticipating his arrival and does not fail to reward them. Thieves keep clear of houses where the owners have made provision for their coming, but go in search of those unguarded or where the occupants sleep. Therefore, always hold yourself in readiness, for you never know from day to day what will eventuate.”

10 Kepha said, “Master, is this meant for us, or does it apply to everyone?”

11 Yahusha answered, “Who does the master choose to fill a position of trust? Is it not the man who works diligently though not under the eye of the master? I can assure you this is the man who will be promoted. If, however, the man in whom trust is vested thinks, ‘I am not being observed by the master,’ and gets drunk, or is careless about what is done, be sure the master will catch him out.”

12 “Any servant who knows what to do but fails to do it should not go unchastised; but those who do not know what is expected of them cannot be justly criticized. From the man who is given much responsibility,

much will be expected; for the greater the trust placed in a man, the greater should be the return.”

13 A man in the crowd said to Yahusha, “We have heard of your teachings and that you herald the Rule of Elohim. Tell us about this.”

14 Yahusha said, “There is the kingdom of the Ruach and the kingdom of the flesh. Yahuah rules the first Himself, but the second He rules through His viceroy - man. But man tries to set himself up as an independent ruler, making his own laws and setting aside those of his Sovereign. When the viceroy ceases to rebel and governs in accord with the decrees of the Sovereign, that will be the Rule of Elohim.”

15 The man said, “This teaching is beyond our understanding. We have the Torah which comes from the mouthpieces of Elohim.”

16 Yahusha said, “Of course you have the Torah, but it is either disobeyed, ignored or circumvented. Therefore, it is nullified and rendered ineffective.”

17 “I have come to gather the lost sheep, bringing them back into the fold, which is the will of Yahuah. I have come to cleanse the Earth with purifying fire. But though I have struck the sparks, the tinder is not yet ignited. I travel a stony road, but the greatest ordeal lies ahead.”

18 “You may think in your hearts that I come to bring peace to the Earth and concord among men, and this is true, for such will be under the Rule of Elohim. However, before this comes about, those who oppose it must be defeated. Therefore, I come to arm those who are loyal to the cause, to put a sword into the hands of men and stinging words on the tongues of women. Henceforth, families will be divided against themselves, and brother will be separated from brother, and father set against son.”

19 Some in the crowd said among themselves, “These words we can

understand. Truly this is the One promised who will deliver us from our oppressors.”

20 Yahusha said, “Bide your time, and all things will be made clear.”

21 A scribe in the crowd said, “It seems you speak with hidden meanings. How are we to interpret these teachings?”

22 Yahusha said, “You are so accustomed to devious thinking, trying to make a ‘yes’ into a ‘no’ to suit your convenience, that when given Truth you pull it apart, seeking to find something else behind it. Unless you accept these things as would a child, you cannot hope to enter the Kingdom of Yahuah.”

23 “When you see clouds coming in from the West, you say, ‘Soon there will be rain,’ and this forecast proves to be correct. When the South wind blows, you say, ‘It will be extremely hot,’ and again your prediction is right. What hypocrites you are, so quick to interpret some signs while closing your eyes to others less to your liking. You can interpret the omens in Earth and sky, but close your eyes to those indicating present trends.”

24 Someone in the crowd said, “We have the failings of men. Should we be condemned for these?”

25 Yahusha replied, “As sons of Yahuah, you inherit His substance and are heirs to glory. Think less of earthly weaknesses and more of godly strength.”

26 Another in the crowd asked Yahusha about unjustified suffering, and might not his cause bring this upon the heads of his followers? Someone else said, “What about the Galileans who died in resisting the efforts of Pilate to appropriate the Temple offerings so he could bring water to the city of Yerushalayim?”

27 Yahusha said, “The Galileans and the Governor did right in their own eyes, the former seeking to serve Elohim, and the latter, men. But these things are not matters to be placed at issue, for whoever serves one serves the other, and there is no clash of interests. Can you believe that the Galileans who suffered as they did were worse than others in Galilee? This is not so; they suffered for no wrongdoing, but through misguidance.”

28 “Calamity strikes capriciously. Do you think those who died when the tower fell on them at Siloam deserved death more than the others? Life is full of uncertainties, so men must be made aware of the need for repentance, knowing the day of assessment may be near or far. Be sure of one thing: There will be no discrimination among you on the assessment day; all will get their fitting reward.”

29 Then one in the crowd shouted, “Tell us about the Kingdom of Heaven, for surely if we are going there, it is well to know what it is like.”

30 Yahusha said, “If you were going to a distant city, which would be most beneficial - a description of it, or details concerning the route? Then too, is it not important to prepare for your reception? For if a man residing in a palace describe the place, this serves no purpose to one who will have to beg for scraps and sleep in the gutters.”

31 “The road to Heaven may be likened to ten young women who, taking lamps, went out to meet a bridegroom - five being irresponsible, and five reliable by nature. The irresponsible ones left everything to the last minute and snatched up their lamps forgetting the oil containers were not filled. Because the bridegroom was delayed, all the young women lay down to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout to say the bridegroom was coming and to go out and meet him.”

32 “The young women all arose and trimmed their lamps, but the

irresponsible ones, finding theirs going out, said to the others, 'Let us have some of your oil, for we forgot to fill the containers.' The others replied, 'We cannot do this, for we do not have enough oil for all. And if we share with you, there will be insufficient to light the way. It is better we provide light all the way with five lamps than we all provide light for just a short distance.'"

33 "The irresponsible ones hastened to the oil vendor, but he would not serve them. And while they were away, the bridegroom arrived. And those who were ready lighted his way and joined the guests at the wedding, the doors then being closed. Later, when the irresponsible ones returned and stood outside shouting to be let in, the doorkeeper said, 'Who are you? What purpose do you serve? Go away.' Therefore, I say to you, be always alert, your spiritual lamps trimmed and filled with the oil which gives eternal light. For you never know the hour when you will be called."

34 They who stood about Yahusha asked, "Who is chosen to enter Heaven? And how is the selection made?"

35 Yahusha explained in this manner: "A king decided to collect all debts due and ordered those who owed money to come before him. One of these was so heavily indebted that he was in no position to repay, so the king ordered that he be sold into slavery to satisfy the debt. The debtor begged the king to be patient, saying that, given time, every last farthing would be paid. The king, taking pity on him, released the debtor from his obligations."

36 "A few days afterwards, the king's debtor met a poor man who owed him just a small amount. And the king's debtor took hold of him and said, 'Repay the money due to me at once, for I have no patience with defaulters.' The poor man begged him to be patient, saying that, given time, he would repay in full. But the other would not have it, and had the poor man committed to prison."

37 “The poor man’s friends reported the matter to the king, who had his debtor brought before him. And he said, ‘You villain, because you pleaded with me to have pity, I released you from the whole of your debt. Had I not done so, you would have thought me harsh. Yet what consideration have you shown?’ Then the king condemned the man to severe punishment until the whole of the debt was paid. In this manner men are chosen for Heaven.”

38 “And therefore I say very earnestly, deal with others as you would be dealt with, not holding one Torah in your heart for yourself and letting another issue from your lips for others. Prepare yourselves for entry into Heaven, for this can only be done here and is the purpose of Earth. Do not think that, because you are not immediately chastised, your iniquities are overlooked.”

39 “A sower went out into his grainfield and sowed with good seed, but during the night, an enemy came and strewed wheat-like weeds over the ground and went away. After the wheat blades had sprouted and the stalks began to form wheatheads, the weeds among them were revealed. Then the field laborer went to the landholder and said, ‘The field was sown with good seed, and yet it is now full of weeds. Shall we go and pull them up?’”

40 The landholder answered, ‘Someone who wishes to harm me has done this. But in pulling up the weeds you may do more damage. Let both grow together until harvesting time. Then the reapers can separate the weeds from the wheat, stacking the weeds for burning, and gathering the wheat into the granary.’”

41 “Therefore, because transgressors go unpunished here, do not think they are overlooked or that there is not a day of accounting. Not a single deed or thought - whether it be good or bad - is overlooked.”

42 One in the crowd said, “But our thoughts harm no one.”

43 Yahusha replied, “Only yourself, for thoughts mold, strengthening or weakening the ruach. Is it not written, ‘The nature of man is formed according to his thoughts’?”

44 Yahusha was asked, “What then is the ruach? For the Holy Books do not make this clear.”

45 He replied, “The ruach of man may be likened to a date seed planted in the darkness of the ground, giving no indication to anyone not knowing its nature of what it will become. When the tree springing from it is full grown, it spreads out in the sunshine - a haven for birds and a source of pleasure for men. Or it may be likened to leaven which a woman places in a bushel of flour; there it spreads throughout the whole to change its nature.”

46 “It is like a treasure buried in waste ground. The plot had no value until it was rumored that a treasure was there. Then men bid against each other to obtain it. While within the egg, a chick is self-sustaining; but once the shell is broken, it must be fed. So it is with the ruach of man and the Ruach Ha’Qodesh. I assure you that every plant not nourished by the waters of life will wither and die.”

47 Several in the crowd said, “Tell us again about those who enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”

48 Yahusha replied with these parables: “Admittance may be likened to a wedding feast prepared by a king for his son. He dispatched servants, inviting many guests. But though each was told, ‘The feast is preparing even now, the geese and beasts are being roasted, the bread is in the ovens, and there is wine on the tables,’ yet those invited ignored the messengers, saying they were too busy with their own affairs, while they abused or even ill-treated them. When this came to the ears of the king, he sent soldiers to take those who had ill-treated his messengers and confined them in dismal dungeons.”

49 “The king then said to his servants, ‘Though I prepared a sumptuous feast, those I invited were unworthy of the honor I paid them. Go out again and invite any who will come.’ The servants went out into the streets, returning with many persons. However, while they were all seated at the table, the king noticed one who behaved badly, using lewd language to those beside him. The king called two servants and bid them take the man and throw him into the dungeons with the others. But to make sure, he went to one where there was the most filth so he would be in his own element. I have said before, though many are invited, few are chosen. Now I say, many choose not to come.”

50 “There is another way for separating the wheat from the chaff, illustrated by this parable. A man left for a distant country, but before departing he called his servants to him and entrusted him with his store of gold. To one he gave three bars of gold, to another two bars, and to another one bar, each receiving gold in accordance with his capabilities.”

51 “The servant who received three bars of gold went and exchanged these for silver, spending this in pleasure and high living, thinking that with all this silver he could have a really good time. The servant who received two bars was a cautious man, and he buried his gold in a safe place, for he thought it best not to take chances with it. The servant who had received one bar went and bought goods which he resold, and by this and other efforts he obtained another gold bar, for he thought to himself, ‘As the master did not think me as capable as the others, I must prove I am.’”

52 “When the master returned, he called his servants for an accounting. And the one who had received three bars of gold said, ‘Good master, with so much wealth I could not resist temptation and spent it enjoying myself, never thinking about the day of accounting.’ The master said, ‘You are an untrustworthy scoundrel,’ and he placed him in bondage until the whole of the value was repaid. The man who had received two

bars of gold said, ‘Master, I knew you were a hard man and was afraid to take any risks, so I safeguarded the gold; here it is.’ The master said, ‘You have been neither good nor bad, but took your ease while I was away; go about your job, but expect no promotion.’ The man who received one bar of gold said, ‘Having only one bar, I increased it to two, for I knew you would need gold on your return and have been a good master.’ To this one the man said, ‘Well done. You have proved worthy of my trust. I will now place you in charge of my treasury.’”

53 One of the people gathered about Yahusha said, “How should I treat my servants? For I have one who is troublesome - though perhaps it is his youth.”

54 Yahusha then told this parable: “A man had a garden plot set aside for vines, but a self-planted fig tree grew among them. In the fruiting season, the man came to this plot accompanied by his gardener, who said, ‘This fig tree is interfering with the vines. If it fruited, it might not matter; but as it does not, would it be best to cut it down? For it is only taking goodness from the soil, which could be used more profitably by the vines.’ The man said, ‘Leave it for another season, but give it a little attention. Then if it fails to fruit next season, cut it down. I like figs, but a new cutting might take a long time to mature. And this tree, having chosen its own situation, may yet prove more profitable in this plot than the vines.’”

55 Yahusha said, “If a fig tree grows among vines, it can be left, for both produce good fruit. But if it grows among thorns, then these are cut down and the fig tree left on its own.”

56 “If a man hires three laborers for his vineyard and there is work only for two, he dismisses the one least worthy of his hire. Yet everyone who labors must be paid his due. But if one pour less than full measure into the task, he cheats no less than one who deceives at the weighing.”

57 Some self-righteous people who picked pieces out of the Torah to

suit their convenience - as a child picks segments from a pomegranate - and lived by these ridiculed Yahusha.

58 But he said to them, “You who try to impress others with your righteousness are hypocrites, but what goes on in your minds is not overlooked. Admiration and popularity may benefit you in this world but count for nothing in the world to come, unless worthily earned. I come to herald the Rule of Elohim when such as you will be swept aside by those who serve His cause.”

59 Some in the crowd shouted, “Who will you take to serve it?”

60 Yahusha replied, “When the trumpets sound the rallying call and two men are reaping in a field, one will be taken and the other ignored. Two scribes will be writing in a room, one will be taken and the other ignored. Two women will be grinding corn, one will be taken and the other ignored.”

61 Someone said, “Where will they be taken?”

62 Yahusha answered, “Vultures gather where the carcass lies and bees where the flowers grow. Flies are drawn to stinking meat. Brave men converge on the battlefield, while cowards seek their hideouts. The day of decision will come like a roll of thunder, and on that day, those serving the cause of Yahuah will be separated from those who serve the powers of darkness.”

63 There were many other parables which Yahusha used in this place, to bring understanding to the people. He taught simply so all could grasp what he said, but afterwards, when alone with the twelve, he explained things differently, revealing a deeper meaning.

CHAPTER 14

1 Yahusha and the twelve left the shores of the Western Sea and, after preaching in many places, came to the Sea of Galilee, where Yahusha and seven of the apostles took ship with Nathaniel's brother and passed over into Dalmantha.

2 About this time, Herod Antipas heard about the activities of Yahusha, whose fame had spread, for he was unlike the other teachers. A rumor had started that he was Yochanon of the Wilderness raised to life, and this explained his powers; for only in one able to come back from the dead could such an abundance of power manifest. Most thought he was one of the old prophets returned, but were unable to explain his powers. Though these things brought fear to Herod's heart, he took no action.

3 Others said, "The same is Yahusha who was born Yeshua, son of Yoceph and Miryam, claiming to be a prophet dedicating people to serve the cause of Elohim, that a kingdom under his rule may come to Earth."

4 When the boat carrying Yahusha and the seven with him came to the shore, it was drawn up near to some women who were washing. And one shouted, "Glory to Yahuah, and blessed be the One through whom He manifests."

5 Yahusha said, "Glory is not yours to give, neither does the King of Glory need it. Therefore, your words are empty of meaning. Give service instead."

6 Another woman cried out, "Blessed are the breasts that suckled you."

7 Yahusha answered, "The blessed are those who hear the words of Yahuah's messengers and obey them."

8 Passing along the beach, Yahusha and three disciples came to where a group of people stood. And they were of those who walked in the light

of the Torah, but they were self-deceivers who trimmed the lamp to suit their convenience. One said, “If you are really sent from Elohim, show us some sign as proof. Then we can believe what you say.”

9 Yahusha said, “Why are you always demanding proof? Certainly, this generation is undeserving of proof. If you are invited to dine with a man, do you ask him to prove his food is good? If you were genuine, my words would strike a responsive chord in your heart, and you would know. If I drew aside the curtains to reveal the glory that is Heaven and you believed, would your belief bear the fruit of goodness? It would be like unseasoned timber or untempered iron.”

10 A crowd started to gather, and Yahusha returned to the boat. And as people began to jostle him, he ordered it to be taken out a little way. As he was getting into it, a scribe pushed forward, saying, “Let me join you, and I will follow wherever you go.”

11 Yahusha said, “Foxes have holes, and birds have nests, but the Servant of Man has nowhere to lay his head. Not even a board is offered to him here. If you are sincere in your offer, let this be the place of your labors; for you are not a hardy man.”

12 Another man with him said, “Then let me come. But may I first have time to bury my father?”

13 Yahusha answered, “What service can the living render the dead? Leave the dead to their own kind.”

14 The boat was taken to another place, then it was discovered that, as no bread had been obtained previously, there was insufficient to provide a good meal for everyone. While they were arguing about how it should be distributed, Yahusha said, “Let those who get some take care their piece does not contain the leaven of the Parashiym or of Herod.”

15 Yahusha, seeing they looked blankly at him, said, “Do you not understand? When wholesome, even a morsel of bread will nourish. But if it contains bad leaven to turn it sour, it will be bitter in the mouth and nourish no one. Eleven out of twelve among the Parashiym are good, but it is the bad who contaminate the whole and leave a bitter taste in the mouth.”

16 When the boat drew into the shallows, some of those with Yahusha went to get food. And a crowd gathered about him, so Yahusha told a parable often repeated. “A sower went into his cornfield carrying seed in his apron, and he scattered it about so some fell in the open and was eaten by the birds. Other seed fell on stony ground and sprouted quickly, but as it could not put down roots, it quickly withered. Some fell among thistles, where it was smothered before reaching maturity. Still others fell on good ground and having ripened, produced a bountiful harvest.”

17 “This parable is simple to understand, and I will explain it to you. I am the sower, and the seeds are my words. Some of you standing here in the open listen but close your hearts to the message. With you, my words are like the seed eaten by the birds. With others my words are like the seed falling on stony ground, for though they receive them hopefully, they are weak-willed and shallow-minded. Thus, when their belief is tested, they give way immediately. Still others receive the words, but the message is like the seed sown among thistles; they hear and understand, but because of their daily cares or a craving for worldly things, the words of the message become overgrown and perish. Lastly, there are those who hear the words of the message and welcome them. It is in these that the bountiful harvest is produced.”

18 A man nearby in the crowd said, “No doubt you are a worthy teacher, but we have the teachings of the prophets and the Torah of Mosheh. Are these not good?”

19 Yahusha answered him, “Certainly these are good, but what too many make of them is not good. There are many among you who know the

teachings of the great ones, but though words issue from your mouths, your hearts are evil. Yet you cannot hide the underlying impurity, for whatever is stored in the heart colors that which issues from the mouth. Words from a pure heart are good, but words from a befouled one are evil. I tell you that not one reckless or inconsiderate word is spoken which does not enter into the accounting. Out of your own mouths will come the words assigning you to the place of glory or to the place of purification.”

20 Now, those who had gone to obtain food having returned, Yahusha and those with him sat around and began to eat. One of the Parashiyim who stood nearby expressed surprise that he let his disciples eat without first washing their hands, though there was plenty of water beside them.

21 Yahusha said, “This is typical of many today - you carefully clean your eating utensils and choose the best food. But these are external things and obvious; inside you are filled with greed and deceit. Never mind outward appearances, but make sure you are clean all the way through.”

22 “I assure you of this: Everything that is hidden will one day be revealed, and every secret thing will be made known. The words spoken in darkness will be heard in the light of day, and what has been whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops.”

23 Turning to his disciples sitting about him, Yahusha said, “Do not be afraid of these people, for the worst they can do is to drive the life from the body. If you must be afraid of anything, let it be your own frailties; for if you give in to these, you suffer for it long after the body has fallen apart.”

24 “Are not five sparrows sold for a single coin? Yet each one is known to Yahuah, for nothing living does not participate in life, and this is maintained by the Ruach Ha’Qodesh. For just as fish live in the waters of the sea, so are men maintained in the Living Ruach.”

25 Speaking to those who had spoken previously, Yahusha said, “Woe to you self-deceivers, who are false interpreters of the Torah. You are like unmarked graves which men walk over in innocence; unaware they are being defiled. Yet nothing from outside can ever enter into a man and sully his soul; it is what festers within him which comes out to reveal his uncleanness.”

26 “The things which defile a man - such as fornication, malice, envy, obscenity, and adultery - come from a weeping ulcer within the mind. The uncleanness within a man is like a stone dropped in water, the ripples going out from him to contaminate others.”

27 “To all outward appearances, many of you live good lives; but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and deceit. You erect memorials over the graves of those who spoke with the voice of Yahuah and decorate the monuments to the martyrs who died unjustly. You say, ‘Had we lived in those times, we would never have done the things our forefathers did.’ But do you take care to ensure your children never have cause to say the same about you? Therefore, do not set your standards by those days, but according to the better ones in the days of your children.”

28 One of the people who were there said, “We have heard that you teach the coming Rule of Elohim and claim knowledge of the Kingdom of Heaven. Tell us about these things.”

29 Yahusha said, “The Rule of Elohim is not something which will come suddenly, nor will it bring about a violent change. It is not a change of surroundings, but a change of heart. The changed conditions will be brought about by changes in the heart. No man can say, ‘It is here’ or ‘It is there.’ It is here but waiting recognition. Just as others have heralded my coming, so do I herald the coming Rule of Elohim. But its establishment does not depend on anything done by Elohim, but on the actions of men.”

30 “The Kingdom of Heaven is where Yahuah rules in Ruach, but there is that within each man which can extend the Kingdom of Heaven. When this is drawn out of men while they are on Earth and established here, then the Kingdom of Heaven will embrace the Earth. When the Rule of Elohim is established on Earth, then will the Kingdom of Heaven come down so Heaven and Earth are united in one.”

31 A rich man standing by said, “We cannot understand these things, and they confuse us. Just tell me what I must do to enjoy eternal life.”

32 Yahusha said, “By your attire, you are among those privileged to enjoy wealth. What do you do with it?”

33 The man replied, “I do as others, getting the most out of it and enjoying life to the full.”

34 Yahusha said, “You would be better off selling all you possess and giving the proceeds to the poor. Only thus can you discover yourself and benefit from eternal life.”

35 The rich man’s companion said, “Wise Teacher, what of me? I conform to every verse of the Torah. I pray every day and give generously to the poor.”

36 Yahusha said, “Have you ever been hungry or slept on the street or gone unclothed?”

37 The man said, “No, why should I?”

38 Yahusha said, “You deceive yourself and are a hypocrite besides. How can you say you comply with the Torah and teachings of the prophets? Is it not stated in the Torah that you should love your neighbor as yourself? Yet all about you there are people who are hungry, clothed in rags and homeless. Your house is filled with good things far

exceeding your moderate needs, and all you hand out are a few coins and a morsel of food. It is the duty and obligation of such as you to see no man suffers hunger and privation in your neighborhood.”

39 Turning to a disciple sitting at his side, Yahusha said, “Shimon, son of Joanna, let this be your teaching: It is easier for a camel to enter into the city by the needle’s eye than for a rich man to enter into the Glory of Heaven.” The rich man turned away and left.

40 And another who was there said, “Master, just what is meant by my neighbor?”

41 Yahusha then told this parable: “A man had found it necessary to travel the road to Yericho going out from Yerushalayim. Along the way he was attacked by footpads who stripped him naked, beat him up and, after taking all he possessed, left him half dead by the roadside. A short time later, a priest came along the same road and, seeing the injured man lying there, passed by on the other side, for he feared defilement. Another self-righteous man came along but hastened by, thinking, ‘I would help if I could, but he is nearly dead, and I am no physician. Better for me to push on and tell someone.’ A merchant came by alone but, seeing the man lying there, thought, ‘Perhaps the robbers are still around and I should not dismount. Besides, I wear fine clothes which would be spoiled.’”

42 “Now, a lowly Samaritan traveling the same road came upon the man lying there, and his heart was moved with pity. So, he tore strips off his tunic and bound the injured man’s wounds. Then, lifting the man, he set him on his own ass, bringing him to an inn and attending to his needs. When departing the next morning, he said to the innkeeper, ‘Here is some silver. Look after this man. And if the payment is insufficient, I will settle the bill on my way back.’ Which of these four, in your opinion, acted as a neighbor should towards the helpless man?”

43 The man who had questioned Yahusha said, “Why, surely the man who took compassion on the stricken man.”

44 Yahusha said, “Now you know your neighbor. Go and act likewise towards men.”

45 Leaving that place, Yahusha and those with him went by boat to another shore on the Sea of Galilee, arriving on the morning of the Shabbat. As Yahusha was going into the place of worship, a woman bent double without the ability to straighten herself came and begged Yahusha to heal her. He put one hand under her chin and the other on her back and straightened her up. She went away filled with happiness.

46 The Levite who conducted the worship noticed this and, seeing the woman inside, said to her, “Six days are set aside for work, but the Shabbat is sacred, and you should not have sought healing on that day.”

47 Yahusha, overhearing this, waited outside for the Levite, and when he came said, “What a hypocrite you are. What member of your flock does not loose his cattle or ass from their stalls and water them on the Shabbat? Also, are the cows not milked and the hogs fed? They are not left to suffer, yet you could deny relief to this poor woman because it is the Shabbat.”

48 Hearing this, many of the people supported Yahusha, and he preached to them. A blind man was brought to Yahusha while he preached. He took the blind man apart from the crowd and, moistening his thumbs, drew them across the blind man’s eyes. The man gave a sudden cry and squinched up his eyes.

49 But Yahusha said, “Open your eyes and tell me what you see.”

50 The man did so and said, “I can just tell it is light, but cannot distinguish anything.”

51 Yahusha then covered the man's eyes with his hands, and after withdrawing them said, "What do you see now?"

52 The man replied, "Oh Master, I can see everything, though it is not steady."

53 Sometime later, the apostles who had been away rejoined Yahusha, bringing with them a disciple who had deserted Yahusha in Endor. He was named Barnabas and, seeing him, Yahusha was overcome with joy and welcomed him warmly, whereupon two of those who had come with him went aside and were sullen, for they had not been received in this manner.

54 Calling the twenty-two men who were there with Him, Yahusha addressed them as follows:

55 "A man had two sons. And one day the youngest came to him and said, 'Father, I want to go away from here. Therefore, give me the inheritance which would one day be mine so I can take it with me.' So, the father divided his estate and gave the youngest son his portion. This was then sold, and the youngest son departed to a distant city where he dissipated the money on women and riotous living. After his money had gone, he found that no one wanted to know him, and soon he was completely destitute."

56 "No work being available for him in the city, he went outside. But the only job he could obtain was that of a swineherd. Often, when he saw the pigs gorging themselves, his own stomach aching with hunger, he would think, 'If only I could bring myself to eat the pigswill, it would ease my hunger. What a fool I have been, for here I am worse off than any of my father's employees. I will go back to him, admitting my failure as a son; for he never withheld anything from me and let me go my own way when this was what I wanted.' So, he set off and returned to his father's estate."

57 “His father saw him coming while he was still far off, and, seeing his son footsore and weary, the father’s heart was filled with compassion. He ran out to meet him and embraced him warmly. The son was stricken with remorse and said, ‘Father, I have done wrong, but will do my best to make amends. I am unworthy to be treated as a son, but let me work for you as a servant.’ But the father led him home and called out to the servants, ‘Here is my son. Bring him a change of clothing, get a ring for his hand and sandals for his feet, go and kill the fattening calf and roast it, for we are going to celebrate his return with a feast. I thought my son was lost, but he has returned, and I am happy.’”

58 “Now, the elder son had been out in the fields all day, and, drawing close to the house at dusk, he was puzzled to hear the sounds of music and laughter. Passing one of the servants, he enquired what it was all about. And the servant replied, ‘Your father has ordered a celebration for the safe return of your brother.’ This made the elder son so angry that he would not go into the house. And when his father came out to see why, the son said, ‘Over the years I have served you faithfully, and you know you can rely upon me. Yet you have never even put on a feast of goatmeat for me and my friends. Now this prodigal comes running back because he has squandered everything on harlots and gambling, and you immediately have a great feast of celebration.’”

59 “The father said, ‘My son, you are my right hand, and I know you have never let me down. I depend upon you, and all I have is yours. But it is a special occasion, for the one I thought was lost to me has returned. This does not lessen my affection and regard for you. But he is weak and needs support, while you are strong and do not require such displays of affection.’”

60 Yahusha put his arms around two disciples and said, “My friends, when the going gets tough and the road is long, some collapse by the wayside. It is these who need encouragement. And it is not always easy to admit failure. When a sheep becomes separated from the flock and is

lost among the thornbushes, does not a good shepherd leave the rest and go in search of the one which has gone astray? This does not mean he loves it more than the others, nor does it lessen his love for each of them.”

61 It was some days later, at another place, that a follower named Yoceph said to Yahusha, “Master, if a man cheat another, is he punished for the cheating or for the harm he has done to the other man?”

62 Yahusha said, “Speak of punishment only to the people, for this accords with their understanding. On Earth, men’s deeds are weighed on scales balanced between reward and punishment, but these work inaccurately. In the Kingdom of the Ruach, the measure of assessment is a man’s earthly life. You are now on the balances; do not be found wanting.”

63 “A man who can be trusted in small matters can also be trusted with greater things. The man whose transgressions are petty would commit much greater ones if given the opportunity, or if he had greater courage. The purpose of life is to establish a man’s credentials. For if he is found unreliable in dealing with things of this world - which quickly pass on the wings of days - how can he be trusted with things of glory in the Kingdom of Heaven?”

64 “For glory is the garment with which each one who comes to the Kingdom of Heaven will be clothed, and each one who comes will be given attire and station according to the credentials established on Earth.”

65 These and many other things were taught to the disciples by Yahusha, but only one recorded them.

CHAPTER 15

1 Taking only the twelve apostles and a few women who were also followers, Yahusha set out for Caesarea Philippi, a city renamed by the Tetrarch Philip when seeking Roman patronage.

2 One eventide, while on the way, Yahusha said to the twelve, “Who do the people in the places we pass through think I am?” They were not agreed, some saying the people believed him to be the Deliverer and some the Enlightener. Others said the people believed him to be the Mashiach, while some said that many thought he was Yochanon of the Wilderness, for sometimes it seemed his ruach had entered Yahusha.

3 Yahusha said, “Who do you think I am?” Again, they were not agreed.

4 And Yahusha said, “I am he whom all men need, whomever they seek. Call a thing by a hundred names and it remains the same. However, each of you keep your own conception in your own heart and discuss it with no one.”

5 Later, at a house at Balos, they were discussing the people’s expectations for the Mashiach. And Yahudah said to Yahusha, “If you are truly he, then the people will believe and follow you, for the prophecies in the Holy Books must be fulfilled. He will surely come, and I believe you are he. I believe the reborn world is at hand, and the day of the people’s salvation is near.”

6 Yochanon said, “It is foreordained that the Mashiach will suffer death by violence but will rise triumphant above it, to manifest again as proof that death is not the destined end.”

7 Yahusha said, “Perhaps I am the Mashiach, for will he not be all things to all men?”

8 Kepha said, “Master, we are your friends, and you are our guiding light, the hope of our lives. Do not say such things, for we could not bear to lose you.”

9 Yahusha answered, “I must bear the cross of life, and on me it lies more heavily than on others. Each must do whatever he may be called upon to do, and great causes demand great deeds and sacrifices.”

10 Then he said to Kepha, “Do not be so blinded by worldliness that you cannot believe the ruach can rise above the claims of the flesh. If you are, then it would be better for you to come no further.”

11 To the others he said, “Do not view these things as men do, but see them through the eyes of Yahuah.”

12 Coming to a village, Yahusha ate while a small crowd gathered. And there he addressed the people, saying, “If any of you intend to become followers of mine, you must put aside any thoughts of self and carry your own burden of suffering without complaint. If a man worries too much about his own safety and comfort, he gains nothing. But if he sacrifices these for the sake of my cause, he will not lose. What profit can a man make by gaining all that the world has to offer, in exchange for the welfare of his own soul? What can he take from his gains to buy back what has been lost?”

13 “Therefore, take care, for I give fair warning. If anyone in this adulterous and depraved generation choose to ignore my teachings, that person may find himself ignored when seeking entry into the state of glory. I can also tell you that some are here who will realize the nature of Heaven before undergoing the experience of death.”

14 Someone there said, “Adultery is kept in check by stoning. How can the punishment be increased to prevent it?”

15 Yahusha said, “If a tree is cut down, it will spring up in many places

from the root. Evil is overcome by digging out the root of evil. Adultery has many causes. But if a man marries a woman who has fornicated, can he revile her for sorrow he has brought upon his own head? The dowry of a chaste woman is so much higher. But if a man accepts what she brings and revile her for what she has not, surely, he is mean hearted.”

16 “Before any man cast a stone at an adulteress, let him search his heart and see whether he be guiltless before women. I say to those men who have one rule for their wives and another for the wives of others, set one standard and abide by it, otherwise be branded as hypocrites.”

17 “Men too readily lay blame at the doors of others. For surely if anyone puts his hand into a snake hole, he can hardly blame the snake for being bitten. If a man enters a house of harlotry, who is to blame if he collects the whore’s dowry?”

18 Yahusha was invited into a house to eat and rest, and having done so, he sat outside in the courtyard amusing the children who played there. He told them stories which were seeds planted in their hearts. Some women were also listening. And when two of the twelve came into the courtyard and told the women to see the children did not bother Yahusha, he overheard them and said, “Let the children come to me, for from such as these will come the Rule of Elohim.”

19 Yahusha and the twelve entered Caesarea on the day before the Shabbat, and on the Shabbat, Yahusha was invited to dine at the house of a Parashiyim, for he had many friends among them. Seated not far from Yahusha was a man whose body was swollen by water, and Yahusha desired to heal him. But being a guest, he asked whether any there objected to this being done on the Shabbat. As none did, so Yahusha laid his hands on the man, who then became excited, going out and ejecting from all parts of the body so it became slackened.

20 Yahusha said to those present, “I am sure if any of you found an ox

or ass fallen into a well on the Shabbat, you would have no hesitation in rescuing it.” None disputed with him.

21 Seeing how those present scrambled for the best seats, Yahusha said, “When invited to a feast, do not rush for the best seats, because the host may have special guests in mind to occupy them. So, if you have grabbed one of these seats, he will come and request you to vacate it in favor of another, and you will then have to take a seat not wanted by anyone else. When invited as a guest, it is wiser to take one of the less desirable places; then your host will come and escort you to a better seat. Thus, the other guests will see that the host holds you in high regard. It is a rule of life that whoever makes himself out to be more important than he is will be humiliated, while he who is modest will be exalted.”

22 Yahusha said, “Most of you here give formal feasts; and all have more food and the good things of life than they need. Yet because your stomachs have never been empty, you cannot understand the sufferings of the underprivileged. But if adversity descend upon you, the cry goes up, ‘Woe is me. Can there be an Elohim when I am thus afflicted?’ Do you not understand that misfortune and tribulation must be sent to such as you? For in what other way will you learn compassion?”

23 “When giving a feast, read the intentions of your heart. Are you giving it solely for love of those invited? Or do you seek to gain something from it? Are your motives centered on yourself, or on others? Also, is it not surely true that if you can afford to give a feast or indulge in good food, you can afford to provide for others who are underprivileged? Who is it that feeds the poor and needy? Is it not the poor themselves? And do not the rich entertain only the rich? I can assure you; it will not be so under the Rule of Elohim.”

24 “Many say, ‘But the poor are poor through no fault of ours.’ But I tell you that if many of you were as good as some of the poor, you would not be wallowing in luxury. How many here can truly say, ‘My goodness has brought me riches’?”

25 After this, Yahusha went and addressed a crowd near a water fountain where several expressed intentions of becoming disciples.

26 Yahusha said, “It is sad that so many desire to become disciples without weighing the cost of discipleship. To follow me as a disciple means renouncing all home comforts, and this is not something to be lightly undertaken. Many have responsibilities which cannot be cast onto the shoulders of others. So, to those who follow me as disciples, burden is added to burden. Apart from privations and discomforts, disciples are subject to the mockery and scorn of men, and unforeseeable suffering may be in store for them. Those who follow me, taking up my cause but not as disciples, double the burden of their cross.”

27 “If you wished to erect a house, it would be very shortsighted to commence the building without working out the cost and being sure this could be met. If the cost and money available are not first calculated, the foundations may be laid but it will be found impossible to complete the job. Then you will become the laughingstock of the town, and people will say, ‘The fool started something he could not finish.’”

28 “What would be your opinion of a king who, with an army of a thousand men, marched against another with ten thousand, without carefully weighing his chances? Would he not do better to remain where he was and sue for peace?”

29 “So, I say to those who would become disciples, weigh the matter in your hearts; then, if still of the same mind, give up all you hold dear and follow me. But do not come if in so doing you cast aside responsibilities and obligations. For if you do so in relation to others, you will be no less inclined to do likewise with me when the road becomes difficult.”

30 Among the crowd were many self-righteous people and hypocrites - self-deceivers who, interpreting the Torah to suit their convenience, saw no wrong in themselves, who, setting themselves up as judges, were like

blind men trying to sort black pebbles from white, and had no more success. They said to Yahusha, “You choose the wrong types. If you chose differently, we would follow; but sand does not mix with honey.”

31 Yahusha said, “Let me tell you a parable. Two men went into the Temple to pray - one being a self-righteous man and self-deceiver, the other a man aware of his failings and shortcomings. The self-righteous man prayed in this manner: ‘I praise my Elohim for many blessings, giving thanks that I am not like the majority of men - avaricious, deceitful, dishonest, and adulterous. I fast twice weekly, pay all my subscriptions, and attend every Temple gathering.’ The self-righteous man had a specially reserved seat, so the other was standing apart. And he prayed differently, saying, ‘My Elohim, do not desert me. I have many failings and need strengthening so I may overcome them and be a better man.’”

32 Yahusha said, “I assure you of this: The man who benefited from his prayer was the second one, not the first. This was because, though the first man had many virtues, he was unable to recognize his failings. The second man was reconciled with Elohim, while the other was not. He who prays must be as one looking into a mirror - not with the expectation of seeing a gratifying reflection, but seeking an image revealing his faults.”

33 “If a man put tinted glass before his eyes to enhance his image, thus putting out things he does not wish to see, he is not only a self-deceiver but a fool unto himself. The charioteer does not overhaul his chariot to seek the strong points, but to discover the flaws; and if he did not put these right, he would risk his life.”

34 When eventide came and Yahusha sat with the apostles, one of them said, “Master, we have given up all we have to follow you, and sometimes we get depressed.”

35 Yahusha said, “The blows life delivers are strengthening ones, and

without adversity men would become weak in ruach. The reward I can offer is small compared with your rewards in glory, for here you are small but in Heaven you will be great. There, the highest on Earth shall be lowest, and the lowliest here shall be the exalted there. This, however, does not follow as a natural sequence, but only providing the challenge of life is met as it should be, and surmounted.”

36 The following day, Yahusha took Kepha, Yacob and Yochanon - three of the apostles - to a cave high up on the mountainside, where they remained in meditation for three days. On the third day, while seated in the cave, the others saw the whole body of Yahusha exude a light and become radiant, the colors being blue and white. They were astonished at such an inflow of power, for no other body could have contained it. Though manifesting in them also, it was much weaker. The three with Yahusha covered their eyes before the brilliance.

37 And Yochanon said, “Master, while the Ruach Ha’Qodesh manifests in us as no more than a faint blue glow seen only in total darkness, your brilliance is like that of the sun compared with the palest star.”

38 Kepha said, “It is good for us to have seen this, for now we know how poorly we compare with you.”

39 Yahusha said, “I do not teach things without purpose. The things I do are not beyond the reach of anyone. But keep these things to yourselves. I shall truly need all my power and strength to carry out the task ahead. What must be done will be done, not as I want it, but as the Father wants it. For now, I know the path I must follow and the ordeal I must undergo.”

40 Coming down from the mountain, Yahusha saw some disciples and two apostles in the midst of a crowd which parted to let Yahusha through. He found the apostles trying to heal a man who was deaf and dumb, but they could not, and the crowd was mocking them.

41 Then Yahusha said, “The man’s ears are not fast, neither is the tongue without speech, but the ruach within cannot use them.”

42 Thereupon he strengthened the ruach of the afflicted man with his, and the man fell to the ground, foaming at the mouth and tearing at himself. Then the crowd drew back from Yahusha in fear, while the man’s father abused him. But soon the man on the ground arose and walked away, and he could both hear and talk.

43 Later, the disciples asked Yahusha why he had succeeded when they had failed. And he said, “These things are done through the power of the Ruach Ha’Qodesh, which is the Hand of Yahuah. Men have it according to their capacity to hold it. But before it can come in, evil must be driven out. I do not teach abstinence from evil for some purposeless end, but to bring to men the recognition of their heritage. All men were once sons of Elohim, but they became bastards of Elohim without heritage. I come to men so they may re-inherit and become true sons of Elohim.”

44 One said, “Master, while you were away there was another here who healed and did the same things as you. But he was not one of us, and we argued with him. He is a disciple of Shimon the Sorcerer, who does many strange things, and the people listen to his words.”

45 Yahusha said, “Separate the words from the deeds, but good is good whoever does it. Therefore, never speak disparagingly of anyone who does good. If he is not yet against us, he may be for us. Therefore, it is unwise to become angry in haste.”

CHAPTER 16

1 Yahusha departed from where he was and moved over to the water in Yahudah across the Yordan. And here too crowds gathered about him to hear his message. Many of the usual questions were asked and similar answers given.

2 One man put this question to him: “Great Teacher, is it lawful according to the great Torah for a man to put away his wife? For there are other laws concerning this.”

3 Yahusha said, “What did one of the great lawgivers, speaking with the authority of Elohim, say about this matter?”

4 The man answered, “The Torah he gave permitted a severance deed to be made, and with this the wife is divorced.”

5 Yahusha said, “Such laws are needful while men are without wisdom. I assure you it will not be so when the Rule of Elohim comes. They are made for those who cannot overcome differences by compassion and understanding. Where there is no feeling, there cannot be love. Divorce is decreed for the failures in love.”

6 “Since the beginning, there have been male and female, each needing the other for fulfillment and spiritual flowering. For this reason, a man leaves his parents and unites with a woman so the two become one in flesh and ruach. The flesh is easily parted, but with the united ruach it is different. Therefore, when two are joined together in the union of love, let no act of man sever them from each other.”

7 “Fornication occurs in marriage as well as outside it, for marriage is much more than the union of flesh. And whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery in ruach against the one who is his true wife. Should a wife divorce her husband and marry another, she too commits spiritual adultery.”

8 “Marriage has a much greater significance than this depraved generation realizes, for it enters into marriage thoughtlessly and irresponsibly, and then cries, ‘Loose us from our obligations, for we have failed and cannot stand the bonds of the covenant.’”

9 After this, a disciple came to Yahusha and said, “Master, enlighten me. If there can be fornication in a marriage blessed by tradition and priest, do a man and woman commit greater fornication if unblessed?”

10 Yahusha said, “Marriage is the blending of two ruachoth; fornication is the joining of flesh. Nothing done or not done changes this. But if a man and woman be married in the sight of Yahuah and not before a priest, let this union not be lightly put apart. For I assure you that no future marriage blessed by priest or otherwise will be a marriage in ruach; it will be no more than fornication.”

11 The following morning, Yahusha and five disciples had not gone far along the road when a man came running after them, saying, “Master, what must I do to know the joys of immortality in glory? I know you teach goodness, but though I do my best, I find it difficult among so many pleasures.”

12 Yahusha said, “You have the commandments of Mosheh; keep these faithfully as interpreted by the fullness of the Torah. But to these, two more are now added which shall be just as faithfully obeyed: Act towards others as you would have them act towards you and love your neighbor as yourself.”

13 The man said, “If only I could be as good as you.”

14 Yahusha answered, “Do not call me good, for no man made in the mold of man is wholly good. If I were not made in the same mold as man, I would not be subjected to his tests and trials and, without

overcoming these, could not be wholly good either.”

15 When the man had gone, one of the disciples who came from beyond the Western Sea said, “I have heard that three things only make men wholly good. But you have many Holy Books which I cannot read. Tell me of the things which are in them.”

16 Yahusha said, “Store these things in your heart, they are sufficient for the day: Never utter curses against Yahuah or the powers about Him, nor speak immodestly to exalt yourself. Do not act fraudulently, and never exaggerate. Always maintain an even temper, and do not act hastily. Never use violence unnecessarily, nor do anything causing unnecessary sorrow. Avoid anything to do with lewdness and obscenity. Commit no slander and speak no gossip. Never make mischief so strife is brought into the lives of others. Tell no lies. Be humble without being servile and be clean in all ways. Whatever you do to earn your bread, do to the best of your ability. Fulfill all your daily obligations, and in the time left to you, serve a cause which is good. Add these to the teachings you have heard, and you will live a good life.”

17 Another disciple said, “A good man soon loses his friends.”

18 Yahusha replied, “No; goodness - like adversity - winnows them.”

19 One of the other disciples said, “It is very difficult to live a life which is wholly good.”

20 Yahusha answered, “It is even more difficult to enter into the greater life of the Ruach.”

21 The words surprised those hearing them, but Yahusha assured the disciples about him that it was true, adding, “Nothing worthwhile is ever easily gained.”

22 Yahusha continued, “Let all who can do so empty themselves of evil.

The deeds are outside, but the thoughts are within. By striving hard and chastening the flesh, not yielding to the call of its lusts, the soul is strengthened by an inflow of spiritual food.”

23 Then Yahusha asked the disciples with him if all understood that unless they could pass the tests of the flesh, they could not know Heaven. All replied that they understood.

24 A disciple asked, “How long must men be subject to death?”

25 Yahusha replied, “So long as women bear children.”

26 Another asked, “What is the food of the ruach?”

27 Yahusha said, “The truly hungry man eats bitter things and enjoys them; even so does the hungry ruach thrive on the bitterness of the world. The body is not nourished by bitterness and therefore enjoys food supplied by every healthful plant. If the ruach is to be made healthy, the body must be subdued; for either the body is master or the ruach is.”

28 One of the women, Salome, who had accompanied the disciples, asked Yahusha, “Is it within the Torah for a man to marry and yet not lie with his wife?”

29 Yahusha answered, “It is never right to live falsely or to dishonor a pledge. Always let whatever be done accord with the intention declared.”

30 Salome said, “Master, when will the Rule of Elohim come?”

31 Yahusha replied, “When women place greater value on the treasures they hold, for men will strive harder for gold than for brass. When man and woman cease to pander to the flesh and become truly one in ruach. For of this I assure you: Unless man and woman exalt the ruach above the flesh, they will not know life in glory.”

32 Another woman asked, “Who then shall know eternal life?”

33 Yahusha said, “All will have eternal life, but not all will know it, while many will be found in a place of sorrow.”

34 She said, “No woman can make a man good.”

35 And Yahusha replied, “Any woman can make a man better.”

36 When they came to a place of rest, Philip said, “Master, teach us to understand our Father in Heaven. And if we know His nature, it will suffice.”

37 Yahusha answered, “I have been with you some time, but still, many of you do not understand. I do not speak of myself, but as the mouthpiece of the Father. Can the nature of a father be much different from that of his sons?”

38 “I teach you about Yahuah the Father, for you have to carry my words to others, and, spoken thus, they will understand. But he is not quite like earthly fathers, for his wisdom is infinitely greater. Think of an earthly father and magnify his greatness and goodness, his wisdom and justice, his sense of discipline and compassion a thousand times, and you glimpse Yahuah the Father hazily.”

39 One of the women, not yet a disciple, approached the place where Yahusha sat, and said, “I have been harshly treated by the Torah concerning a daughter’s inheritance. How do you interpret it?”

40 Yahusha said, “I interpret all laws with mercy and compassion, but justice must not be put aside in their favor. It is written that if a man dies without fathering a son, his inheritance shall become the daughter’s, but his wife shall not be deprived of her portion. Yet when there are sons, a

daughter is not deprived of her portion. Therefore, the inheritance should be divided equally among sons and daughters.”

41 “All women should have a rightful portion at marriage, but it would be unseemly for any woman to contend with her kinsmen for it. No woman should ever seek a husband because of what she may gain from such marriage, for this makes her a deceiver, denying him the joy of love. No woman should ever snare a man into lust or seek a husband so she can leave her father’s house, for this is a wrong against the husband.”

42 “No woman having committed fornication should ever go to a man as wife, for in giving herself cheaply to one and dearly to another, she shames and insults her husband. If she loved him, how could she say, ‘Give much for that which I freely bestowed on another’? Better for her to say, ‘As with him, so with you.’”

43 “A man built a house, taking care with the decorating and its furnishings. Then, going to a friend, he said, ‘Because of my affection for you, I will give this house to you as a gift. I know this is not usual, but I have so much affection for you that I willingly disregard the common custom of men.’ Later, he built another house and, taking the furnishings which were no longer new from the first house, put them into the second. Going to another friend, he said, ‘I have a house which, because of my affection for you, I will sell at the usual price with a yearly rental for the furnishings.’ Now, for which of these friends did he have the greatest affection? Would not the second man justly feel he had been treated badly in relation to the first? Would it not be fairer to have treated both alike?”

44 “The Torah is to wear the clothes of purity, and to absorb the words of the Holy Books is to be anointed with wisdom. For the Holy Books of Wisdom are weavers preparing the garments of eternal life in glory. They are available to all and may be either accepted or ignored.”

45 “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king giving a wedding feast, who, moving about among his guests, notices a man without a wedding garment. The king says to him, ‘My friend, why did you come here attired like this, when it makes you completely out of place?’ The man can make no answer, so the king calls his servants and says, ‘Turn him out, for he does not fit in here.’”

46 “Let all men be just and merciful towards one another, for all who are will not be overlooked in the life to come. But those who act otherwise shall surely suffer. Those who pander to people in high places, or who distort the Torah of Yahuah to suit their own ends or twist them to serve unintended purposes, shall not be overlooked at the accounting.”

47 “There are those who interpret the Torah narrowly, so that, while not taking the clothes from the widow’s back, they will take her house and milk cow and drive the fatherless children from their home. They justify themselves by saying, ‘This is the Torah. And was not her husband a debtor?’ Many are the devious roads followed by the hypocrites, for this is a wrongful interpretation of the Torah.”

48 “The Holy Books of the Yahudiym say that an eye shall be taken for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, but the words of the Torah must be interpreted with justice. For if an eye be taken from he who put out another’s, or a tooth from someone who has knocked out the tooth of another, is the loss made good in this manner? Or if a one-eyed man causes him with two eyes to lose one, shall he be made blind and so suffer a greater loss? Or if a man with two eyes causes a man with one eye to be made blind, shall he lose both?”

49 “Henceforth, let the loss be made good in silver or through labor, for now the law of revenge shall be overruled by the law of retribution. All laws shall now be administered under the rule of recompense. All these things I give you that they may be established and added to the Torah, so that henceforth they be used in judgments among the just.”

50 “I come to open the blind eyes of ignorance, to rescue the captives confined in dungeons of delusion, and to free men from the shackles of the flesh. I come to quicken the dead in ruach, to heal the wounds of worldly woes, and to comfort the despairing.”

51 About this time, some of the Parashiym who inclined towards Yahusha came to warn him that certain men of Herod sought to do him harm, advising him to leave.

52 Yahusha said, “If anyone intends to report my whereabouts to Herod, let him do so. But I will not leave until the third day, when my work here will be complete.”

53 He then went with his disciples to Allon, where he rested among the trees for seven days, teaching them the secrets of hidden things.

54 On the seventh day, men of Qodesh came out of Yahudah, and Yahusha said, “Beware of these, for they betrayed their own fathers and pollute whatever is clean.”

55 Then Yahusha and those with him departed.

CHAPTER 17

1 The disciples and followers of Yahusha began to assemble in Capernaum to make arrangements for the journey to Yerushalayim. When Yahusha and some of the twelve who were with him came to the city, it was the twelfth month. And the collector of taxes came to Kepha and said, “Is your Master liable to pay the dues?”

2 Kepha replied, “No, for he pays the tax imposed on strangers, but he will not make issue over the matter.”

3 So, three of the disciples went down to the waters and caught several large fish, which they sold in the market. Then Kepha took the money to the collector of taxes, who tested the pieces and found them good.

4 Yahusha was standing nearby, and, noticing how adulterated money and coins below weight were rejected, he said to his disciples, “Be like the honest coin testers, though testing men instead of money. Weigh all things with care, using a fair set of scales. Reject all which is impure or not what it should be, keeping only that which is good.”

5 “As there are counterfeit coins, so are there counterfeit deeds, and they are equally hard to detect. Take people as you find them, but reserve judgment until they have been tested. All men are friends in a boat sailing before a fair wind, but when a squall comes and it sinks, the true are divided from the false.”

6 A man stopped Yahusha in the street and said, “They say you know the will of Elohim. What does he require of me?”

7 Yahusha said, “Did not your father Mosheh say, ‘Hear, my people, for this is what your Elohim requires of you: that you honor Him, following His path and loving Him, serving Him with all your heart and soul, and keeping His divine utterances and Torah’?”

8 About this time, Reuben, son of Jaros, who had followed Yahusha since the healing of his sister, came to him and said, “Master, my heart is troubled. For I wish to marry, and if I do this, I cannot remain with you.”

9 Yahusha said, “Life is a race where every day the hurdles of decision have to be jumped. You must decide one way or the other, and with finality, having no regrets later. It is well you spoke, for the sun should never set on an indecision. When marriage and duty oppose each other, then a man must choose duty and a woman marriage. But, when marriage can be combined with a diminished obligation to duty, this course is not denied to a man.”

10 “However, marriage is not the least of life’s crosses, and any who enter it thinking otherwise fall beneath the unexpected burden. If your wife is chosen wisely, you will possess a treasure beyond price, but if foolishly you are condemned to a burden of sorrow. Go with my blessing. Have many children and bring them up in the Light. Thus, you will serve best, and I leave my cause in good hands.”

11 Yahusha said to some disciples later in the day, “In the Holy Books it is written, ‘Bearer of good tidings, go into the mountains and lift up your voice with power, crying through all Yahudah and Yerushalayim: Hail your Elohim and your Deliverer.’”

12 Yahusha and his followers took a boat and came to the outlet of the waters, where the others stayed seven days while Yahusha fasted. After he returned, the disciples said, “Master, we are concerned, for you spend too much time in solitude and fast too long; surely this will harm you.”

13 Yahusha replied, “When fasting is properly undertaken it can do nothing except good. Also, the body is like a pitcher which, containing water, must be emptied before it will hold wine. So it is with the Ruach Ha’Qodesh. Did not Mosheh fast for forty days, during which time the Ruach Ha’Qodesh flowed into him so his face shone before the people like a great light? Such is the nature of the power, and because of its

brightness he had to veil it. Likewise with Eliyahu, who fasted forty days. Do you think those two suffered harm? Or did they benefit through a strengthening of the ruach?"

14 "This you must always remember: When the corn is ripe for cutting, the harvesters come, and it is gathered in; but though it die, many ears have ripened on the stalk, and from these will spring other plants. You are the ripening grain; go forth and sow the field in which will grow plants bringing the Rule of Elohim into being. For then men will be ruled with justice and goodwill, the rich serving according to their endowments, and no man will be idle or wasteful."

15 "Now, the wickedness of men is like a canopy over a garden, shutting out the fertilizing rain so it cannot nourish the plants beneath; therefore, they wither away. If the canopy remains, the ground becomes bare and barren, yet it needs only the removal of the canopy to make the ground blossom forth into fruitfulness. Such is the nature of the power of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh."

16 One of the disciples said, "We have seen that the power is a miraculous thing, but the effort is beyond many of us."

17 Yahusha said, "That is the hair in the dough; apathy must be overcome and effort expended."

18 Kepha said, "We go to Yerushalayim. What if the people call on you to lead them into battle? Surely you will not ignore their cry."

19 Yahusha said, "Oh Kepha, so long with me, yet still confusing the ways of Yahuah with those of men. Taking up the sword is the easy way, for it is more difficult to peacefully change the hearts of men than to impose a change by violence. Those who must resort to violence are lesser men than those who convert through example and teaching."

20 "Is it not written in the Holy Books, 'Those who seek wisdom as

others seek riches will certainly come to an understanding of the ways of Yahuah, and this knowledge delivers them from the darkness of ignorance'?"

21 During the heat of the day, Yahusha was invited into a rich man's house. And the man of many privileges asked him, "Why do you prefer to speak in the alleyways and among the poor? Surely it would be better to convert the influential people."

22 Yahusha said, "I speak to those who listen, and they are found among the poor. The rich are so busy acquiring worldly wealth and chasing fleeting pleasure that they have no time for more important things. They are fattening geese waddling through lush pastures, simply eating and sleeping in content, unconcerned for the coming day when they themselves will be consumed."

23 The rich man said, "Where is the Kingdom of Heaven, and how do I get there?"

24 Yahusha said, "The road starts within yourself, but to find it you must abide by the Torah as written in the Books of Wisdom. For knowledge of the Torah provides a true and clear picture of yourself. Just as a mirror reflects back a true image, so does the Torah when studied diligently. Let this be your guiding light: Take no thought for tomorrow, whether it bring good or bring evil; the cares of the day are sufficient, and the Torah will sustain you."

25 The man said, "Would it not be more profitable if you showed how to extend our days?"

26 Yahusha said, "What benefit would a longer life bestow? For the tyrants, it would mean more time to oppress the weak. For the evildoers, it would mean more time to indulge their wickedness, while the hypocrites would spawn more sorrow. The money seekers would have more time for exploitation, and the indolent more time to rest. A longer

life could only add to the misery of the world. Life as it is suffices for those who wish to use it profitably. If men cannot find the road to righteousness during the time they have, then they never will.”

27 After this, Yahusha and the disciples set out for Yerushalayim, passing through the borders of Yahudah and over the Yordan by way of Peria. Yahusha led the way with six of the twelve, but as they proceeded, many of those who followed became afraid and held back.

28 Noticing what was happening, Yahusha called all the twelve to him and said, “We will soon be arriving in Yerushalayim, and there I must undergo the ordeal I am taking upon myself for the sake of mankind. I am the sacrifice to their apathy, but I depend upon you to play your parts, spreading the message of hope and the coming Rule of Elohim among men. For now, I come as promised; surely the people will no longer doubt.”

29 Then the brothers Yacob and Yochanon requested a favor of Yahusha, saying, “Permit us to sit one on either side of you when you reach the state of glory.”

30 Yahusha said, “You do not understand what you ask, or the consequences. You cannot drink from my cup of sorrow or undergo my ordeal. I must carry my cross alone, for there is none with whom I can share the burden of my heart.”

31 When they insisted that they would be ready for anything, Yahusha said to them, “If you remain steadfast in the cause, you will drink from the same cup and undergo much suffering. But whether you share my future state is something over which I have no control. Not all are drawn into the same companionship.”

32 As Yahusha approached the city gate at Yericho, a large crowd gathered, among which was a humble and honest person named Mikah, who worked hard to support a large family. He was anxious to see

Yahusha but being rather short and unable to see over the heads of the people, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree along the route.

33 When Yahusha came to the tree, he stopped underneath and called to Mikah, “Come down, for today I will be your guest.”

34 The man climbed hastily down and welcomed Yahusha with pleasure. But those standing by expressed disapproval, saying, “We expected this to be a great and good man, yet he associates with men like this who are poor and not notorious for good deeds.”

35 Yahusha said, “The conscientious physician goes among those requiring his care and attention, not among those who have no need of him. If you ordered your lives according to this principle, they would be more beneficial to you in the long run.”

36 After resting in the city during the heat of the day, Yahusha left Yericho with his disciples, followed by many people. Outside the gate of departure, a blind beggar sat in the dust by the roadside. And hearing the name Yahusha on the tongues of the people, he cried out as Yahusha went by, “Son of David, have pity on me.” Many of the people, hearing this, tried to silence him. But the beggar would not stop and continued shouting and oft repeating the words “Son of David.”

37 Though he had passed, Yahusha stopped and sent a disciple back to bring the beggar to him. When they came, the disciple leading the beggar, Yahusha said to the one who had been shouting out, “What do you expect me to do for you?”

38 The beggar replied, “Great Healer, if you would only help me to see again, I would be happy.”

39 Yahusha said, “Unfruitful happiness cannot be made an end in life, but your affliction has served its purpose.”

40 Then Yahusha placed his hands over the man's eyes and told him to sit no more by the roadside, but to walk with the people.

41 About two miles from Yerushalayim they came to a place called Bethany, close to the Mount of Olives, where there were many fig trees. Calling two of his disciples to him, Yahusha said, "Go into the village just ahead, and there, at the first house, you will see a man standing by his doorway with a pitcher beside him. Go and ask him for a drink of water, and say, 'The Master comes.' He will then give you a colt which is tethered nearby. And two men will ask you who it is for, and you must answer, 'It is for Yahusha.'"

42 When the colt was brought to Yahusha, some cloaks were laid over its back, and Yahusha mounted. Then, some men having gone before, the people strewed the road with flowers and brushwood.

43 And many shouted, "The Mashiach comes. Hail to he who represents Elohim. Hail to the day that witnesses the one who will rule in the name of our father David." Many others cried, "Behold the Deliverer," while other people shouted, "Come and see the vindicated king."

44 Among the crowd were some who said, "This is not a fighting man mounted on a warhorse, but a humble man on a female colt." Many mocked, while some said, "It is only a sorcerer on a mare."

45 That was the manner in which Yahusha came to Yerushalayim. But night being close, he sought shelter at a house just outside the city.

46 The following day, Yahusha went to the Great Temple of the Yahudiym and, going around it, came to the part where a fire was always maintained for the burnt offerings, and payment was made for its use. Here was the place where the father of Yochanon had been slain. Outside this was a hall where money was changed for those going in, the Parashiym not permitting this to be done within the courtyard.

47 Seeing some men carrying vessels, Yahusha said to them, “Surely you know it is written that the Temple shall not be made a thoroughfare.”

48 They turned on him, saying, “Where have you been, and who are you to rebuke us?” whereupon there was an outbreak of fighting between those with Yahusha and others.

49 Yahusha also overturned the tables of the moneychangers, saying, “You are just as bad, for you turn the House of Elohim into a marketplace.”

50 When the Temple guards came to restore order, they said to Yahusha, “We should kill you for this.”

51 Yahusha replied, “Destroy this Temple and in three days it will rise again.”

52 They, not understanding, answered, “The Temple has stood for long and took forty-six years to build. If you say it could be built in three days, you are a fool.” They did not know Yahusha referred to a Temple not made by hands.

53 Going outside to the place of healing where many lay under the trees, Yahusha went among them. And because of the great power which was in him, he excelled all other healers.

54 Seeing this, some young men shouted, “Praise Yahuah our Elohim who has sent us the Son of David.”

55 Hearing this, a number of priests came to Yahusha and said, “Are you going to cause some disturbance? Put a stop to these things they are saying.”

56 Yahusha answered, “Words of wisdom will issue from the mouths of babes. This is written in the Holy Books. Read them and you will learn much more.” He then returned to Bethany.

57 The priests and lawscribes held a long discussion about Yahusha, for they knew the mood of the people and foresaw trouble. There was much dispute as to who he was and what he claimed to be, some saying one thing and some another.

CHAPTER 18

1 The next day Yahusha returned to Yerushalayim with three of the apostles, and while within the precincts of the Great Temple some scribes and counselors of the Temple came up to him and said, “By whose authority and by what right do you behave as you do?”

2 Yahusha said, “Before answering your question, let me ask you one. When Yochanon baptized in water, was this divinely inspired, or did it originate in the minds of men?”

3 This was not a question they could answer, for if they replied, “It was divinely inspired,” Yahusha could justly say, “Why then did you not listen to him?” If they replied, “It originated with men,” it would arouse the hostility of the people who believed Yochanon to be divinely inspired.

4 When they declined to answer, Yahusha said, “Neither need I answer you.”

5 A priest said to Yahusha, “Tell us who you really are.”

6 And he answered, “I am the Son of Elohim and the Servant of Man who, of himself, can do nothing, but being filled with the power of Him who overshadows me, one to whom all things are possible.”

7 The priest said, “The Son of Elohim is not unknown to us, and the Servant of Man will not come as you have done, though we cannot understand this name. Some of the people say you are the Mashiach who will deliver us and reign over us, but he will come with manifest power.”

8 Yahusha said, “This is a night of ignorance, and I come declaring the Way of Light. Whoever believes in me does not serve me but serves with me. He is my brother in the cause of Elohim. He who sees me sees the reflection of He who inspires me. I am the Light of the World. If

anyone hears my words but chooses to ignore them, I am not his judge, for I am not come to judge men but to guide them. The Light will not be with you for long, so hasten to it, lest you be left in darkness.”

9 The priests said among themselves, “Perhaps he is harmless.”

10 Going into the courtyard where many people were gathered, Yahusha stood in a corner and spoke to any who would listen. And it was here he told this parable:

11 “A man planted a vineyard, equipping it with all things necessary for winemaking. Then he leased it and left to live elsewhere. After the vintage season, the owner sent a servant to the tenants to collect the rent. But they laid hands on him and, after beating him up, sent him on his way empty-handed. The owner sent another, who was treated even worse, while the third man was killed.”

12 “When no one else would go, the owner decided to send his eldest son, reasoning that the tenants would respect his authority. However, when the eldest son came, the tenants decided that if he were dead, no one else would dare to come. So, they killed him and threw the body into a pit. Now, do you think the tenants’ reasoning was sound? Of course, the owner came with those who meted out justice and, having put the tenants to death, gave the lease of the vineyard to others.”

13 Yahusha also told other parables, and when the self-righteous ones and false Parashiym realized that most were directed against them, they considered ways to silence him. But as he was popular with the people, they decided it would be better to leave him alone.

14 Yahusha taught that the greatest enemies of man and the greatest opposition to the coming Rule of Elohim were not the obvious evildoers and criminals, but the hypocrites, self-deceivers and self-centered. Those are the true enemies of men - the festering evil in their midst. Yet, they

cannot see themselves for what they are and have many ways of justifying themselves.

15 For Yahusha said of those, “They sit before well-filled tables, condemning the crimes of those who are hungry. They sleep on soft beds and wallow in worldly luxuries, but their hearts are closed, and their faces hardened towards those who steal and even murder. Yet I tell you, their own thoughts conceive and engender much greater wrongs. Neither are those who associate with them free from guilt.”

16 Going to an open space beyond the Great Temple, Yahusha addressed those who believed in his cause, saying, “Abiding by the things I have taught you will bring knowledge of Truth, and Truth will set you free.”

17 Some replied, “We are of the stock of Abraham and have never been enslaved to any man. How can you state we will be made free?”

18 Yahusha said, “Anyone following an evil course is a slave. There are men who are enslaved to their desires, and others enslaved to unnatural cravings. There are those enslaved to their weaknesses, and others to their fears and doubts. That is why I say I come to set you free.”

19 “I know you are from the stock of Abraham, but you do him no credit in seeking to kill those whose teachings disturb you. Why must you listen only to those who tell you pleasing things, when there is greater benefit to be gained from those who tell things which disturb or displease? I have no time to go around praising the good; there is too much badness to be exposed.”

20 The people said, “We know our fathers and are of their blood, and we know our Father who reigns in Heaven.”

21 Yahusha said, “If Yahuah were your Father, you would all love me as a brother. Can you understand the things I say, or are they beyond your grasp?”

22 Not all the Parashiym were opposed to Yahusha, only a few allying themselves with the Herodians because of him. One of the latter came to Yahusha trying to trap him by asking, “Master, your sincerity is established, and your impartiality known. Help us, for this is the time of taxing. Shall the Temple tax be paid to Elohim or to Caesar?”

23 Yahusha said, “Show me the coins you use to pay the tax.” And one was given to him. Yahusha held it up and asked, “Whose likeness and inscription appear on the coin?”

24 They said, “It is Caesar’s.”

25 Yahusha said, “Do not give to Elohim the things which are rightly Caesar’s, nor to Caesar the things which are rightly Elohim’s.”

26 The next question was asked by one who believed in bodily renewal after death. And he said, “Master of the Torah, Mosheh handed down laws to govern our lives, and one states that when a man dies, his brother should marry his wife, providing she is without child. Now, if there are seven brothers, the first marries and dies, and so his brother marries the widow, she being childless. The same happens down through all seven, so when the last dies, she is still left childless until she too dies. Now, when all rise to life at the resurrection, which one can rightfully claim the woman as wife, when she has been legally married to all seven?”

27 Yahusha said, “By believing in bodily renewal, you start with a false premise and have no understanding of the nature of the ruach. Where death is overcome, marriage does not conform to earthly laws, which are made to mitigate the weaknesses of men. Tell me, with which one did the woman’s ruach blend, and with which was there only a union of flesh?”

28 Yahusha said, “Concerning the awakening of the dead, do not the Holy Books declare there is only a Elohim of the living? This is true, and those who believe otherwise are in error. When all life is supported by the arm of Yahuah, how can he be the Elohim of the dead?”

29 Many people believed in Yahusha and had faith in his teachings, for they said among themselves, “Would the Mashiach show us any greater proofs than this man?”

30 Because of the things said and done by many concerning Yahusha, those who held power, fearing a disturbance, sent guards to seize him.

31 But he said to the captain, “I am here for a few days, and then I must go, following the path of my obligation. Seek me then, for I will be in a place beyond your reach. I follow a chosen path, and none may follow. We each have a duty, but you have discretion whether to take me or not. My frailties say, ‘Go with him,’ but my heart calls me to duty.”

32 The captain of the guard said, “Whom do you serve so dutifully?”

33 Yahusha replied, “I serve Yahuah.”

34 Then the captain said, “The priests serve Yahuah, and you are not a priest. And it is said you call yourself the Servant of Man, but who is he?”

35 Yahusha answered, “The service rendered by priests is meaningless unless it also serves man. For service in the cause of Elohim is likewise service in the cause of man. Can your sword arm serve one master and your shield arm another?”

36 The captain said, “Master, I can see you are a man dedicated to duty. Whether your cause be just or unjust, whether you be friend or foe, it is not within my understanding to know. But a man whose heart is ruled by

the demands of duty I can understand. I will tell those who sent me that shortly you leave for a distant place where none can follow, and they will leave you alone.”

37 When those who sent to have Yahusha taken heard this, they said, “Perhaps he goes to the Greeks or the islands in the sea, therefore we will ignore him.”

38 Yahusha went and rested among the columns of Solomon, and, while there, some people came and asked why he did not declare himself and reveal he was the Mashiach and Yahuah’s anointed, the Promised One from the stock of David.

39 Yahusha said, “My works and words declare me and establish my title. Those who heed my message enter the proper fold, and a good shepherd protects his flock, seeing none goes astray or is taken by wolves. Though these are my first care, I seek to bring all men into the fold best suited for them. And I am prepared to die if thereby I can bring men into the fold leading to the fields of everlasting life.”

40 “The deeds whereby men save their lives on Earth may cost them a life in glory, but whoever lays down his life in the cause of Elohim shall surely know eternal life. I come to sow strife among men, so they may be roused from the sleep of apathy. I come to strengthen the poor, so they may take heart and throw off the yoke imposed by the privileged.”

41 “This is my message for the wealthy: Enjoy your ill-gotten goods, console yourselves with comfort, and buy the fickle goodwill of men. Make merry while you may, close your eyes to the harshness of reality, for the day will surely come when your body weakens, the pleasures pall, and you glimpse the dark doorway ahead. Be certain that the only welcome you will get on the other side is from ruachoth of darkness who will escort you to a proper place in their dismal abode.”

42 Because of his condemnation of the rich who misused their wealth -

and nearly all of them did - the priests were angry with Yahusha, for they depended on rich patrons. They said, "Who are you to revile your betters when you are no more than a loud-tongued beggar?"

43 Yahusha said, "Is it not written in the Holy Books, 'Disregard outward appearances, for these may conceal either treasure or garbage; only Yahuah knows what really lies within. The body is only the outer covering shed at death. What matters is the likeness of the ruach it clothes'?"

44 One of the priests said, "You claim to save through baptism - a cleansing by fire and water - but, while these are both great purifiers, how can they deliver man from sin?"

45 Yahusha said, "Water and fire are purifiers of earthly things, but I tell you that unless men be cleansed in the waters of contrition and tested in the fires of adversity, they cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

46 The priests said, "Where, then, is the Kingdom of Heaven?"

47 Yahusha answered, "Beyond Earth lie the Dominions of Ruach, and therein are the Kingdom of Heaven and the Principality of Evil - places of light and glory, and of darkness and despair."

48 Another priest said, "Tell us about the ruach."

49 Yahusha said, "A vintner asking for wine! Does mine so much excel yours?"

50 Then he continued, "Men understand the things wherein they place their hearts - if it be in worldliness, they know worldly things; but if it be in spirituality, they know things of the ruach. He who is ever watchful of the wind never sows, and he who fixes his eyes on the clouds never reaps. The wind blows where it will, and, though recognizing its sound, no man knows from whence it comes or whither it goes."

51 “For the best advice on worldly matters, I would go to a worldly-wise man; but I am a spiritually-wise man. Thereof cannot you take notice when I talk of things I know? That I gain nothing from my teachings is obvious, for my clothes and manner of life bear witness to this.”

52 Nearby, a rich man stood listening. And now he said, “Have you never bought a tree for silver and having worked it, sold the product of your hands for gold? If a man has seed, should he let it rot? Is it not better to plant the seed so it yields an increase? And is not the sower entitled to this?”

53 Yahusha said, “The laborer is worthy of his hire, and he who sows is entitled to reap the increase. But remember, the sown seed does not grow through human effort alone. It requires rain and sun, and the soil must give up its goodness. These things come from Yahuah as gifts to man. Why, then, should man deny Elohim’s participation? Yahuah says, ‘As my share is above my needs, give it to my little ones,’ and should not the sower do the same?”

54 “Therefore I say, he who fails to support the underprivileged in obedience to Yahuah’s wishes defrauds Elohim of His rightful due for what He has done. For cannot even an earthly partner decree what shall be done with the profit from this participation? I assure you; no man has ever yet made a profit wholly through his own efforts. And fraud perpetrated on the Most High Elohim will not be overlooked.”

55 The rich man said, “Your words sound well, but the Holy Books say the ass is loaded according to its strength. The more I give in charity, the more I am harried by beggars. Even if I gave all I have, it would fail to satisfy.”

56 Yahusha said, “If your wealth is so burdensome, then sell all you have and give the proceeds to good causes. It is not wholly good to give

charity, for this is like cutting the thornweed which quickly springs up again from the root. It is more worthy to dig up the root of poverty.”

57 Then rich man said, “Having my responsibilities and a large household, I am caught between the millstones. For is it not said in the Books of Wisdom, ‘No man should disregard his responsibilities’?”

58 Yahusha said, “The Torah brings all things to a balance of moderation. Does it not say, ‘It is sufficient to feed and clothe the womenfolk modestly, caring for their needs but ensuring they are not spoilt by idleness’? It suffices to provide your sons with learning and skill, and your daughters with their dowries. There is nothing more you can give them, for above this you harm them with luxury. A poor man cannot spoil his family with overindulgence, but precautions against this are not the least of the rich man’s burden.”

59 When it was close to eventide, Yahusha was in another place. And he said to a few people who were gathered about him, “I am the Fountain of Life. If any thirst, let him come to me, and his thirst will be quenched. For is it not written, ‘Streams of living waters will pour out from springs within him and overwhelm the seats of the deceitful’? The same waters will strengthen the ruach and wash away falsity.”

60 Yahusha was referring to the power of the Ruach which filled him as no other man had been filled.

61 Some of the people said, “Surely, this is the Mashiach,” while others said, “Yes, he is Yahuah’s Anointed.” There were many disputes concerning him.

62 Yahusha said, “You are betrayed by those who preach one thing and practice another. They delight in being seen in prominent places and think the misguided adulations poured on them signify greatness. Foolish people follow their ways and copy their pretensions. These people are not least among the hidden woemakers.

63 “You are deceived by hypocrites and the self-righteous and led into error by the self-justified. Those who should watch over you set snares for your feet. And many are those who say, ‘Heed my words but not my deeds.’ Those who set themselves up over the people or who attain positions of authority freely eat the fruits of success but avoid the responsibility of setting an example of goodness. I tell you, cast these people out.”

64 “Instead of standing aside, wringing your hands and crying, ‘Woe, for the world is all wrong,’ bestir yourselves. For I tell you, Yahuah will not do things you are too apathetic to do for yourselves. They who desire to be with me in my kingdom must stand firm, holding fast to my cause through tribulation and trial.”

65 Just then, some Parashiym came by, and Yahusha knew them to be false to their declared beliefs. So, he called out, “Hear me, you hypocrites and deceivers. Are you not among those declaring that any man swearing by the Temple is not bound by his oath, but any swearing by the Temple gold is bound? Fools, which is the greater - the gold or the Temple containing it? Or you say that those swearing by the altar are not bound by their oath, but those who swear by whatever is upon it are bound. Which is the greater - the offering or the altar consecrating it?”

66 “You concern yourselves with selling incense and the small profits from herbs and perfumed candles, while overlooking more important matters. These petty things can be delegated to others. Or do you find weightier aspects of the Torah - such as mercy, justice and truth-finding - beyond your abilities? If so, then you deceive the people. Your minds are fixed on little things and cannot grasp greater ones. You strain a fly from the wine bowl but leave the wasp.”

67 The next day, Yahusha spoke outside the Gate of the Gentiles, and, while there, a lawscribe asked him, “Which is the supreme commandment?”

68 Yahusha answered, “None is supreme for all men. But for you the supreme one is, ‘Listen, Oh people; the Elohim whom you worship is the sole Elohim. Love Him with all your heart, all your mind and all your strength.’ The next one is, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

69 The lawscribe said, “You speak well and speak truthfully in saying there is only one Elohim having no equal. I believe that if a man loves Him wholeheartedly, and his neighbor as himself, it serves Him better than all the burnt offerings which go up in smoke.”

70 Yahusha said, “If these are not empty words, you will know the glory in the Kingdom of the Ruach.”

71 One of those there said, “I pray thrice daily, fasting on the second and the fifth days. Does this prove my love of Elohim?”

72 Yahusha said, “Words alone or deeds done which benefit no other or purposeless restrictions do not indicate true love of Elohim. They are sops to weakness. These, being easy, deny such love its true expression. Show your love of Elohim by working in His cause and making the world a better place. Do something requiring action where you may risk unpopularity or scorn.”

73 Two dignitaries of the Temple stopped to listen, and Yahusha, pointing to them, said, “Beware of those who ostentatiously display themselves, seeking the acclaim or homage of others. From whence does their wealth come? They prey on widows and enrich themselves at the expense of others. Hardship, providing it passes their door, is their friend. Yet these hypocrites put on a great show of righteousness, but one day they will be seen for what they really are inside.”

74 Entering the Temple, Yahusha stood near one of the offering chests, watching as people dropped money into the chest of their choice. Many rich people contributed large amounts, but most did this so all could see. Then a poor widow came, and she gave only two small brass coins.

75 Seeing this, Yahusha said to one of the disciples beside him, “Did you see what the poor widow gave? Surely there is a lesson here. I can assure you that the offering of this woman is more acceptable than any of the others, for she gave all she had, while others gave only a fraction of their wealth. Tonight, they will eat well, but she will go hungry.”

76 “Giving is meaningless unless it entails some real sacrifice. What the rich gave were only sops to their consciences. When arriving in a town hungry, weary and travel-stained, do we seek food and shelter from the rich or from the poor? Is it not the rich, who have so much to give, who turn us from their doors, while the poor, who have little, provide hospitality?”

77 Later, one of the apostles said to Yahusha, “When will all the evil be purged from the Earth?”

78 Yahusha said, “When it is no longer spawned in the hearts of men. There is nothing wrong with the Earth that men cannot put right. Do not expect help from Elohim, but be men enough to fight your own battles. No easy time lies ahead of you, for wherever you go, your loyalty to my cause will bring the hatred of men upon you. Nevertheless, remain steadfast through all the trials and tribulations lying ahead, and you will be glorified in immortality.”

79 The apostles said, “Master, can such things indeed happen to us?”

80 Yahusha said, “Be sure they will.”

81 They said, “Surely our tree of suffering will not bear bitter fruit or even prove fruitless.”

82 Yahusha answered, “No; the sapling will grow strongly. From the tree will arise another teaching and, out of this, a confusion of beliefs, each striving for its own advantage. There will be unprofitable doctrines

and viciousness, cruelties and intolerance, with many persecutions, all done in my name. They will corrupt and falsify my teachings to serve their own ends. Hypocrisy will rule the hearts of men, and few will follow even the beliefs of their own hearts. These things must be, for they reside in the natures of men. But under the Rule of Elohim, they will be changed.”

83 Yahusha said to those with him, “I will be slain as were Yochanon and his father, for I am feared because I may claim a right to rule from the kings who were before David. The burden of my death lies heavily, but it is undertaken with purpose so men can be saved from evil. And what I do will speed the day of their deliverance.”

84 “I do not ride the winds, but have mapped the road ahead. No man can ever enter Heaven unless wearing the clothes of Heaven. The world knows the ways of the world and welcomes worldly things, but the ruach knows the ways of the ruach and welcomes spiritual things. Serve one or the other; no man can serve both.”

CHAPTER 19

1 When Yahusha spent the days in Yerushalayim, the nights were spent on the slopes of Mount Olive. And the disciples built shelters close to a place where there was an oil press.

2 However, one day at eventide, Yahusha went to the house of Shimon the Pure, where some women who were followers of his were living. Though the disciples were given food, little was said to them; for, they being strangers, the people in the house were suspicious, and Shimon lay on a cushion across from Yahusha.

3 After they had eaten and were talking together, a woman came from a house nearby. She was veiled and carried an alabaster jar. Now, this was Mary of Magdala, whose father had been a merchant, but he disowned her, for she had lived with a centurion serving in the army of Rome. When he returned to his lawful wife, Mary had kept herself by singing in the taverns of Galilee.

4 The woman unsealed the jar and poured a sweet-scented oil over the head of Yahusha, seeing which some of those present were indignant, saying, "What a waste, when this could have been sold for a lot of money which would have benefited the poor."

5 Yahusha said, "Leave her alone. There is little point in being angry with her when all she has done is to honor me. You can help the poor whenever you like, but I will not be here much longer."

6 Turning to Mary of Magdala, he said, "Why do you pay me this honor? For the cost to you must have been great."

7 Someone said, "The price was easily obtained."

8 *[Mary said to Yahusha, “Sire, I am she whom you saw in Paneas, for when women reviled me, I came to you and said, ‘Forgive my sins.’ When you asked wherein I had sinned, I said, ‘By loving while unwed.’ Thereupon you said, ‘That of itself is no wrongdoing and demonstrates greater love than that of many who say, “The price of my love is marriage.”’ You said I gave the greatest form of love any woman can give, for, being virgin, I went to my love without the security of marriage, seeking in no way to bind the man.”]*

9 *Yahusha said, “With this man you did no wrong, and though your love was unblest in the eyes of men, providing you loved truly, it was pure and sanctified in the sight of Elohim. The man, however, is not without sin in this manner and will surely be called to a proper accounting. And though since leaving him you have done wrong; he bears his portion of the guilt. You chose freely not to be a woman reserved for marriage - a choice you could rightly make. Only should you now seek marriage, saying, ‘Though I love you too, now I have my price,’ would you be doing wrong, this being committed against Elohim, love and your husband.”]*²⁵

10 Mary said, “Sire, I have been a sinner but have not sinned this last year, nor shall I again. Should I love once more, I will not now claim the rights of marriage which I once repudiated.”

11 Yahusha said, “Love is a blending of spirits, and not a union of flesh. Woe to those whose love compounds discord in the place where love is fulfilled. If these things confound you, read the Books of Wisdom.

12 During this time, those in positions of power were taking counsel as to how they might take Yahusha by guile and deliver him to the

²⁵ *It is our belief that this passage of italicized text likely could have been altered or added to the original manuscripts, as it seems to contradict the rest of the work.*

Romans. For they feared a rising of the people during the Great Festival²⁶ of the Yahudiym.

13 Now, Yahudah of Iscaroth, son of Shimon, who had followed Yoceph the Just before coming to Yahusha and becoming one of the twelve apostles, sought for the Messiah who would deliver the Yahudiym. This he now believed to be another, not Yahusha; and he therefore sought to have Yahusha held during the festival. Yahudah, unlike the other apostles, was a Yahudiym; therefore, he was unrestricted.

14 Yahudah went to the Council and said, “My Master performs signs and fulfills prophecies which speak to the hearts of the people. Therefore, might they not proclaim him in the coming days?”

15 The Council said, “The people are ripe for revolt, and troublemakers are many. We will take this one also. Reveal him to us, and we will hold him. And for the service you will be paid in silver.”

16 One who sat in the Council sent a warning to Yahusha, saying, “Leave Bethany and go to Ephraim.”

17 But Yahusha returned a reply which said, “Things are as they should be, and the prophecies will be fulfilled.”

18 On the first day of the festival, when lambs were being sacrificed, the disciples came to Yahusha and asked where the Pesach meal should be eaten. Yahusha chose two of these and sent them away with this instruction:

19 “Go down and cross the stream flowing eastward from the city, at a place where there is a covered well. There you will see a man seated with a water pitcher beside him. Say to this man, ‘We thirst but need

²⁶ Pesach or Passover

more than water.' He will then arise, saying nothing, and you must follow him at a distance. And when you see him enter a house, go in also, giving this message to the owner: 'We come from the Master.' He will then show you a room where you must make preparations."

20 Now, the house belonged to Obed, who was nigh four score years of age, whose brother was Barnabas the Elder. In an upper room, the disciples prepared the Pesach meal. And when it was evening, Yahusha came with the twelve apostles and three others, but only thirteen ate with him.

21 After he had taken his place at the table and all were seated, Yahusha said, "I have very much wanted to keep this Pesach with you because it is the last before my ordeal. And I tell you, I will not share another with you until my purpose is fulfilled."

22 Then he took the cup before him and drank, saying, "Blood is the life of men, while this is the life of the grape sacrificed for men, so it is a fitting and worthy symbol of he who offers his life for men. I will not taste wine again until the Rule of Elohim is established."

23 He then passed the cup to Yochanon, and, taking the bread, he gave thanks and broke it, saying, "This represents my body, which will be broken as an example to the sons and daughters of men; for all must freely sacrifice for others. As you eat of the bread, which is sacrifice, so shall you eat the Bread of Eternal Life. For without sacrifice, there is no life. Henceforth, call it Remembrance Bread and Remembrance Wine; when meeting afterwards, do this and remember me. But remember also the sacrifices which must be made for the cause of Elohim."

24 Yahusha said, "The sacrifice is ready. The hand of the betrayer rests upon this table and dips in the bowl. But this is as it should be. Take the cup and drink again; let it seal a new covenant signed with

the blood of one who is dedicated to the cause of men and their salvation from darkness into life eternal.”

25 Those about the table began to speculate among themselves as to who would do such a thing. But Yahusha bid them be silent, saying, “There is no evil lacking some seeds of goodness which, if extracted, can be nurtured into great trees. A man, finding his storebag of seed grain is moldy, does not throw it out, but searches to find the good grains; and from these he grows a crop which ripens to goodness.”

26 They then began disputing among themselves as to who was first in precedence among them. And Yahusha said, “Those with worldly authority derive satisfaction from declaring themselves benefactors of the people, but the benefit they seek is that accruing to themselves. Let this not be so among you, the ones seeking least for themselves and giving most being those taking precedence.”

27 After a while, Yahusha said, “My friends, I shall be with you only a short time now.”

28 Kepha said, “Master, where do you go? Are you deserting us? Can we not come with you?”

29 Yahusha said, “You cannot follow me immediately on this path, and to accompany me would serve no purpose. But later on you can follow me. Do not become fainthearted, for if you believe in what I have taught you, believe also that I will be guided and strengthened.”

30 “I shall prepare a place for you in the Kingdom of Yahuah and wait there to welcome you. Where I will be, you shall be also; and where you are, there too I will be. You know the way to where I am going and can follow, for the Torah and the Books of Wisdom are the Way, the Truth and the Light. I have brought you a light to show the way; follow it and you will not go astray.”

31 “Later you will understand that I am united with the Father. And as I am united with Him, so you are united with me. Though we are many, let us stand as one. And those who serve I will serve.”

32 “To he who believes in my teachings I will manifest. For what I do is done to prove to men my own convictions, that they will come to accept my teachings and follow the road of salvation. The people yearn for the fulfillment of the prophecies and will surely follow one who fulfills them.”

33 Thomas said, “Are you going to manifest only to us?”

34 Yahusha answered, “If anyone care for me and my cause, I will speak to him through the power of the Ruach Ha’Qodesh, and it will come to him also. Those who do not care for me or my cause will ignore my teachings, but do not fear them. Be on guard against those who pay lip service only. While I am with you, I can speak as men speak; but when I am gone, the Ruach Ha’Qodesh will bear messages in my name, clarifying your minds so you recall all I have taught you.”

35 “In the Kingdom of the Ruach there are many splendid places, and I assure those who remain steadfast that they will be in the best of these. For when men die, each is drawn to the place whereof he is worthy; even to each one is prepared a place for his soul.”

36 “I will go down in the flesh to arise again in the ruach with power to manifest to men. I will demonstrate what man can do; and as I do, so can all men. I am a sacrifice to the misguided beliefs of men, that, in the fulfillment of those beliefs, they might turn to the path of their salvation.”

37 “I am the vine, and He who is above me is the cultivator; you are the branches, and the sap in me flows out to you. The sap is my teachings, severed from which you will be like a branch cut from the

vine, only suitable for burning. I am the vine, and you are its fruit; and if the vine is sound, surely its fruit will be sound also.”

38 “This is my last instruction to you: Love one another as I have loved you. For there is but one greater love than that of a man who would sacrifice his life for his friends, and that is sacrifice of a life for a cause where he serves those unknown to him. I have said, ‘Love one another,’ for you will be strengthened in the knowledge of that love.”

39 “If the world hates you, it has hated me first. If you were to remain part of the world, it would accept you as its own and love you. But because I have severed you from the world, setting you apart, it will hate you. For it is in the nature of worldly men to hate those who are different. And not only are you different, but you also seek to point out their wickedness.”

40 “If I chose an easier path, your burden would be so much greater, and the fruit of the vine might fall on barren ground. As they have persecuted me, so they would have persecuted you. As they have spurned my teachings, so they would have spurned yours. And as they rejected me, so they would have rejected you.

41 “I have much more to say, but you cannot receive it now. Later, the Ruach of Wisdom will come when you are ready and guide you truthfully. It will speak to you with a voice of its own, but will convey to you what comes from above. Soon now you will see me no more in the flesh, but you will behold me in a new and glorious form.”

42 Those with Yahusha did not understand the meaning of what he said, and discussed it among themselves, saying, “What does he mean by ‘soon’?” Others said, “What can he mean when he says, ‘Soon you will no longer see me, but then you will behold me’?” The others said, “We just cannot tell.”

43 Yahusha, knowing what they were saying and what was in their thoughts, said, “You are wondering about the things I have said. I can assure you that while you sorrow, the world will rejoice, for its hopes are fulfilled. A woman becomes afraid just before she gives birth, but once the ordeal is over, she no longer recalls the labor pains but rejoices in her child. So too you will grieve for a while, but I will manifest to you, and then you will rejoice in your hearts.”

44 “The Father’s will is that the things I teach should be given to the people, but they will not listen, arguing among themselves as to who I am. Therefore, I must drain the bitter cup of life to its last dregs. Then they will say, ‘This is he,’ and heed my words. This I do for men, and none can say I have not faced up to the tests of life or I have shirked its supreme trial.”

45 The disciples then drank the reeling cup, and Yahusha said to Kepha, “I depend upon you to carry the burden among the brethren.”

46 Kepha said, “Master, I am ready to go anywhere, to follow you to prison or even to death.”

47 Yahusha said, “Before the cock’s crow in the morning, even you, the most loyal of men, will desert me. Must I undergo the ordeal friendless?”

48 Then all the others assured him of their loyalty.

49 Yahusha said, “When I sent you out with few possessions, did you ever go short of anything?”

50 They said, “No.”

51 Yahusha then said, “Things are different now. Those who have a purse of money had better take it with them and keep a pack prepared for flight. Whoever is without a sword, let him sell his cloak and buy

one. For I can assure you I will fulfill all that the Holy Books say. And is it not written, 'He was classified as an outlaw'? Yes, truly all that is written will be fulfilled in me, and men will find salvation through this fulfillment."

52 One of the disciples said, "Look, Master. We have two swords among us."

53 Yahusha said, "That is sufficient."

54 Kepha said, "Master, are you going to lead us against the kingdom of evil in arms?"

55 Yahusha said, "The battle is for the immortal souls of men. Feast your eyes on me, for the hour draws near when I shall no longer be with you in body."

56 Then he said to Yahudah, "Go, spend whatever money is needful, but make haste." No man there understood the meaning of this saying.

57 When Yahudah had gone, Yahusha said, "Upon me has fallen the obligation for fulfilling the hopes of men. Now I give you a last command: Stand by one another. For if you remain loyal to my cause and to each other, all will know you are true men of Yahuah. Do not worry overmuch; have faith in the goodness of Yahuah and in me. In the Kingdom of Heaven there are many places, and had it been otherwise, I would have told you. I go first and will prepare a compatible place for all who are with us."

58 "Do not fear because of the destruction of the body. Remember all I have told you. But be staunch and steadfast, for as they have persecuted me, so will they persecute you. Remember, I have overcome the fears of the flesh; this is my conquest. I will now reveal the secret of my glory: It is dedication to service. And that glory is the heritage of all men."

59 When they had finished, Yahusha went out with his followers and, passing over the stream of Kidron, went to a place called Gethsemane because of an oil press there. He took eleven, as Markus the Yahudiym, who was a priest, did not go, Kepha being jealous of him. This Markus had been a follower of Yochanon of the Wilderness and was a friend of Yahudah.

60 When Yahusha departed with the eleven, Markus did not return to his mother's house in Ophal, but stayed with Lazarus and the others. After Yahusha had gone, men came to take him, and Markus, snatching a cloak, dashed out to warn Yahusha.

61 Though knowing what should be done for the Messiah, Yahudah went to the captain of the Temple guard and said, "I am one of those who follow Yahusha the Galilean, but I fear what he intends to bring about. Therefore, let him be held as the Council has decreed."

62 When Yahusha reached the chosen spot in Gethsemane, he turned and said to those with him, "Pray that you may be spared the test."

63 He then took Kepha, Yacob and Yochanon and withdrew with them about a stone's throw away. Yahusha was depressed and filled with foreboding.

64 And he said to the three, "I am going apart to pray for strength to do what must be done. You stay here and keep watch. Perhaps the cup of bitterness will pass me by, for with the Father all things are possible. But I fear there is no other way for me but to abide my destiny."

65 Yahusha went just a short distance and lifted his face to the stars and red-glowing moon above. Yacob heard him pray,

66 “Father, everything is in Your hand. Let it not be as I would have it, but according to Your will; I leave it in Your hand. But let not the ordeal be too much for me. The hour is at hand. Strengthen the Son whom you have glorified with the power of Your Ruach, that he may bring to fruition the task you have set him, leading men to the path of eternal life. Is there no other way?”

67 He then came back to the three, and the sweat stood out redly on his brow. And finding two asleep, for they were heavy with wine, he said to Kepha, “Shimon, could you not stay awake even at a time such as this? Be vigilant and watch, praying you may be spared a greater test.”

68 “In days to come, men will lift up their eyes to Heaven and say, ‘Blessed was he who came in the name of Yahuah, bringing us the light of salvation.’ My soul is very sorrowful because of the things I must endure and accomplish, that the aspirations of men shall not be denied a response. Tarry, therefore, a while longer, keeping me company so I do not weaken. The ruach is willing, but the flesh is weak. It is a dreadful thing I must do.”

69 Then he went away again, but what he prayed no man knows.

70 When he returned, all three were asleep, for the wine had befuddled them. Yahusha said, “Still sleeping. Now it is enough, for the hour has come, and the Servant of Man is betrayed into the hands of his enemies. Let us wait no longer, for here they come.”

71 Yahusha was now quite calm and strengthened.

72 Now, the place where Yahusha had gone was known to Yahudah, who arrived accompanied by the Temple guards carrying torches, staves and cudgels. Seeing them, Yahusha stood up and said, “Whom do you seek?”

73 Yahudah went up to him and said, “Master, I am here.”

74 He kissed Yahusha to let him know he came with friendly intentions, but it also identified him. For though those who came knew Yahusha by sight, the Torah required that some other identify him. But he was not taken according to the Torah, but by the Temple guards.

75 Yahusha said, “So the Messiah has been selected for sacrifice by a kiss.”

76 But Yahudah said, “No, Master; there will be no sacrifice.”

77 When the Temple guards seized hold of Yahusha, one with him drew a sword and wounded one of them. Another said, “Shall we smite with our swords?”

78 But Yahusha forbade this, saying to the captain of the guard, “Were my kingdom of this world, I would order my followers to take up arms. But my kingdom is not of this world, and evil cannot be vanquished by evil.”

79 He rebuked them with the words, “Did you expect to find a dangerous criminal who had to be overcome with weapons? I have been among you many days, and you left me alone. Still, what has to be done will be done, so do as you must.”

80 The captain of the guard said, “If this were left until tomorrow, many would die.”

CHAPTER 20

1 Yahusha was brought privately before Annas, son of Seth, who, after questioning Yahusha, sent him to the Supreme Council of the Yahudiym, which was assembled. He also sent a message saying, "This man is deluded but nonetheless dangerous, and these are troubled times."

2 When Yahusha was taken away, Shimon Kepha followed at a distance. And after Yahusha was brought from the residence of Annas, he followed and came to the forecourt of the Temple, but could not go beyond because of the disturbance. Servants lit a brazier of charcoal and stood warming themselves - for the night was cold - and Kepha stood with them.

3 While he stood there, a relative of the High Priest - named Yoceph but called Yochanon, a follower of Yahusha in secret - came and spoke to the woman at the door and went into the chamber hall. He also spoke to Kepha.

4 Then a maidservant came and spoke with the woman at the door, who came over to Kepha and said, "You are one of the Galilean's followers." But Kepha said, "I am no friend of his. You must be mistaken."

5 However, the woman persisted, saying, "Your speech betrays you." Then she cried out to those about the brazier, "Beware, here is one of the Galilean sorcerer's followers."

6 Then the men clustered about Kepha and said, "Certainly you are a Galilean." And some said, "We have seen him with this rebel." Then they said to Kepha, "Did you not cause trouble in the Temple? We have seen you there."

7 Then the men said, "The woman is right, you are a Galilean. Your

speech witnesses against you.” Others said, “He is just a Galilean,” and laughed.

8 Kepha then became angry and shouted, “Why do you pester me? I do not know the man. I have heard about him but not seen him.”

9 Then the other disciple came out and told the men to leave Kepha alone. He took him by the arm and went out through the gateway. As they went, a cock crew, for the fowls were in the city. And Kepha wept bitterly, for he had failed the test. The other had compassion on Kepha because of the weakness of the flesh. And Kepha said, “I will make amends.” Then the disciple took Kepha to a safe place nearby.

10 The Supreme Council had assembled that night in the Chamber of Hewn Stone within the Great Temple. Though the Roman law did not permit men to sit in judgment during the night hours, the Supreme Council was afraid because of the mood of the people.

11 When Yahusha stood before the Council, he was asked, “Are you the Mashiach - Elohim’s Anointed who will deliver us?”

12 Yahusha replied, “I could deliver the people if you would let me do so.”

13 The High Priest, son-in-law of Annas, sat with the Council. And he said to Yahusha, “Are you a Galilean?”

14 When Yahusha replied that he was, the High Priest said, “Surely you, being a learned man, know that no prophet will come from that place.” Yahusha made no reply.

15 Then a man named Nicodemus said to Yahusha, “The Torah does not condemn any man without trying to understand his motives. Tell us why you do these things.”

16 Yahusha answered, “Is it not written that if the people are to be saved, there must be a Suffering Deliverer who will also be the Anointed of Yahuah?”

17 Nicodemus then said to the Council, “If this man is what he claims, he is harmless. For he brings suffering to none except himself.”

18 Then another councilor said, “I myself have heard him say he comes, not to suffer, but to bring a sword to free the people.”

19 Yahusha stood calm and serene.

20 One of the elders said to him, “Is it true you were born of fornication, and, when born, your father Yoceph and Miryam, the woman who gave birth to you, had to flee from the anger of the people?”

21 But twelve of those present witnessed for him that he was not the child of fornication, but of a rightly married mother.

22 Though many of the elders tried to make out a case against Yahusha, they failed. For though there were witnesses who gave false evidence against him, others spoke in favor of Yahusha. Then a lawscribe came forward and testified with the others he had heard Yahusha declare that the Temple was only a man-made structure which he would destroy in three days. However, there was no agreement among the witnesses as to what had been said or what it meant. Some held Yahusha to be a sorcerer who spoke of magic, while others held him to be a madman whose talk was not rational. Many remained silent and thoughtful.

23 One of the leading men among the elders stood up and said to Yahusha, “Can you not speak for yourself and answer the accusations?”

24 Yahusha said, “Are the charges not being fully argued out?”

25 The High Priest said, “I ask you, in the name of the Most High Elohim, tell us - for we do not wish to make any mistake - are you the Mashiach who will deliver us?”

26 Yahusha answered, “You ask this because others, witnessing what I do, say this is so. If I say I am the Deliverer, I do not lie. I am the true Son of Elohim, standing at His right hand, ready to obey His will, and I speak with divine authority. I am the One destined to bring down the whole structure, replacing it with a new rule.”

27 Upon hearing this, the High Priest said, “We need no more witnesses, for we have all heard him blaspheme. The evidence for treason has been given by his own mouth. He is convicted through words from his own lips. What more is required before your verdict?”

28 But there was no little dispute among the elders, for some said, “It is no crime to say, ‘I am the Mashiach who will deliver.’” Others said, “It is no crime for a man to be misguided and deluded, for will not the Deliverer be disclosed by deeds which this man has not performed?” It was also said, “Is he not fulfilling the prophecies? Therefore, be wary in judgment.”

29 One of the elders said, “Let us set the good this man does against the other. And is it not well known that he has a power of healing not in other men? What wrong has he done? He has not called men to arms against Caesar.”

30 The High Priest then stood up and said, “If we allow this man to go free at this time, he will stir up trouble, the people being ripe for revolt. Then Caesar will send his legions against us, and the nation will be destroyed, for the hand of Caesar is heavy. We cannot set the life of one man against the lives of many. And those who would set him free are no friends of Rome, neither can they be friends of our people.”

31 Then some said, “His crime is against Rome, and not against us.” But others said, “What? Shall we deliver him to Roman cruelty?”

32 The High Priest said, “This can be no concern of ours. We are shepherds of the people. Let those who speak against Caesar stand before Caesar’s judgment seat. Let our judgment be that we found him guilty against Caesar, and then leave him to Roman mercy. We have no power to condemn him.”

33 Therefore, it then being daylight, they bound Yahusha and delivered him to Pilate with the verdict, “He is guilty against Rome.”

34 It was now, for many, Pesach Eve - not all keeping it at the same time, for this was in dispute. Therefore, many who could have spoken for Yahusha, being righteous men, went to make their preparations for the festival. Some thought he would be set free when it was over, but most knew in their hearts he would not be released.

35 When Yahusha was brought before Pontius Pilate, Governor of Yahudah, who sat upon the judgment seat, the lawscribes testified to the charges, saying, “This man stirs up the people to revolt against Caesar by taking the title ‘Son of Elohim,’ thus claiming to be King of the Yahudiym. He says he brings swords and will purge the land with fire. He blasphemes against Caesar and seeks to bring a new rule of law into the land. He rides into the city proclaiming himself the Deliverer fulfilling the prophecies. From whom can we be delivered?”

36 Pilate said to Yahusha, “There are many serious charges against you. Have you any defense against them?”

37 When Yahusha remained silent, Pilate said, “Tell me, if ‘Son of Elohim’ is a kingly title, are you the King of the Yahudiym?”

38 Yahusha said, “Do you ask this for yourself, or are you being influenced by the things said about me?”

39 Pilate answered, “Am I a Yahudi, to know these things? Your people have handed you over, for, according to their interpretation, you have made kingly claims. What have you done?”

40 Yahusha said, “Is an earthly king most worthy to be called the Son of Elohim? Surely it is goodness and not kingship that counts. I am the Son of Elohim, and this title I rightly claim, but if I have a Kingdom, it is not of Earth. Had it been otherwise, my followers would not have permitted me to be taken.”

41 Pilate said, “You are, then, a king of some kind.”

42 Yahusha replied, “As you say, I am a king, but I do not come to rule, for I was born into the world to testify of the Truth. And all who honor Truth listen to my words.”

43 Pilate said, “Who knows what is Truth or what it means? One man’s Truth is another man’s deception.”

44 Yahusha answered, “No man can know Truth, for it is not of Earth, which is a place of deception. But Yahuah knows Truth, and it is with him alone.”

45 Pilate said, “Does not Caesar know Truth?”

46 To which Yahusha replied, “No man knows truth.”

47 Pilate said, “Is the Truth with you or with Caesar?”

48 Yahusha said, “Caesar’s heart is in fornication, not in Truth. And this you know to be true. Would you condemn me for speaking Truth?”

49 Pilate said, “Say no more.”

50 Yahusha said, “See how those who uphold Truth are judged by those holding authority.”

51 Then a man who was guardian at the Temple testified, “This man stirs up trouble in the land so the people are ripe for revolt. And his doctrine is not contained in Galilee, but is spreading all over Yahudah.

52 Hearing this, Pilate asked whether the man before him was Galilean, and, being told he was, Pilate said, “This man should be tried before Herod.”

53 Therefore, Yahusha was sent to Herod, who, being in Yerushalayim at the time, was residing nearby, for he was under the protection of the Governor. Herod was pleased for the opportunity to see Yahusha and questioned him at length, hoping to see some miracle performed, but he was disappointed in all things. Though many testified against him before Herod, Yahusha remained silent on such matters, for it was his duty and destiny to fulfill the prophecies in the Holy Books.

54 Herod found Yahusha guilty of blasphemy and treason, and returned him to Pilate, saying, “He has committed treason in Yahudah. Let him be tried for that. It has not been fully proven before me, but this I know surely: If he is released, there will be a revolt. For the people are inflamed, and your army is not large.”

55 When Pilate had taken his place on the judgment seat and Yahusha was before him, he said, “I am told you are a just man. Can goodness father crime?”

56 Yahusha answered, “Hypocritical goodness fathers many crimes. The people live in a night of ignorance; I come to lighten the darkness.”

57 Pilate said, “If the light is put out, does that help the people? Is it not better for the light to shine? Even a faint glow is better than none.”

58 Yahusha said, “Do with me as you will. I will light a flame which will consume the world, and darkness will be no more.”

59 Pilate said, “These things I do not understand, for your people have devious minds and make great issues over things of little importance. What else have you to say?”

60 Yahusha replied, “I came to men to manifest the love Yahuah has for them. As one of their brothers, I have undergone the trials and tribulations of men, overcoming the claims of the flesh so the ruach within shines forth with strength. I have pointed the way whereby men may rise to greatness, for such is their destiny.”

61 Pilate then said to the elders and some Levites who witnessed against Yahusha, “I am not a Yahudi, nor am I bound by the laws of the Yahudiyim. If this man has blasphemed against your Elohim, then let him be tried by your law; but do not mention it to me, for I only listen to the law of Rome.”

62 They said, “Do you say that a man who blasphemes against the divine Caesar is not worthy of death?”

63 Pilate said, “Such a man should die.”

64 They said, “This he has done. Also, in proclaiming himself King, he speaks against Caesar and Rome. Had he not done wrong to Caesar, we would surely not have delivered him to you.”

65 Pilate said, “You are a troublesome people and tire me with these things. What would you have me do with your King?”

66 They answered, “These are his words. We have no king except Caesar.” Someone said, “And acknowledge no other Elohim.”

67 Then one of the elders stood up and said, “Many have testified concerning his offenses. We know what should be done, but the power is with you. It is not lawful for us to put this man to death, therefore deal with him as seems best in your eyes.”

68 Pilate said, “Why have you been spared the wrath of your Elohim?” Then Pilate said to those in the chamber of judgment, “Who else wishes to testify against this man?”

69 One of the elders, a lawscribe of the Council, said, “This man has claimed before the people that he is heir to the throne of David, but he is an impostor. He blasphemes the Holy One of our people by saying he is His Son. If these things inflame the people so they revolt, then Rome pays the price. He comes forth from among the poor and disinherited, arousing the people so they seek to overthrow the stability of established authority. If his intentions are put into effect, we are all lost.”

70 “He proclaims himself King and declares he will pull down the Temple. He blasphemes against Caesar and says he will supersede Caesar’s rule. He slanders Caesar and calls him a fornicator and liar. Under our laws, which you must also uphold, he deserves to die, and, if you are not against Caesar, also under the laws of Rome.”

71 Pilate said to Yahusha, “The balance weighs against you. Have you anything to say?”

72 When Yahusha did not reply, Pilate asked him where he really came from. But Yahusha remained silent. Pilate then said, “Have you nothing to say to me, who have the power to condemn or release you? What shall I do with one such as you?”

73 Yahusha then said, “The power of Rome rests in your hands, but it gives you power over nothing except my body. Do with that as you will. It is not you, but those distorting the face of Truth, who are to blame.”

74 Pilate said, “If I deal with you one way, the people will say the authority of Rome supports your teachings and is not against the things you declare. They will say your claim to kingship is upheld and may even say you are preferred to Caesar. If I do this, I will certainly be called to account; for am I not the hand of Caesar whom you blaspheme and decry?”

75 Yahusha said, “I call men to a kingdom which is not yet of Earth.”

76 Pilate said to Yahusha, “No one is compelled to speak on his own behalf.” Then to the others there he said, “Clearly this man is not guiltless concerning Caesar, but will any here speak for him?”

77 Then one of the Parashiym stood up and said, “Many could speak for this just man but have decided their duty lies elsewhere. We are an unbending people, sometimes over-concerned with righteousness; but mercy and justice are not least among the things we uphold.”

78 “What wrong has this man done to Caesar? He has uttered words, which are no more than a breeze from the lips. And surely one so great as Caesar can withstand even the greatest tempest. If Caesar be man, then words would hurt him; but we are a people knowing nothing man can do will harm the highest divinities. Therefore, we could be less cautious than others. The greater they are, the more they tend to overlook the many weaknesses and failings of men. You, who know the greatness or smallness of he for whom you are the mouthpiece, can incline towards one less knowledgeable in such matters. If you are a worthy representative of Caesar, you will uphold his greatness and reveal his indulgence to us. As to whether this man be the Mashiach or

the Deliverer, such questions can only be meaningless to Rome, for even we Yahudiym are not in accord as to who they are or what they will do.”

79 Pilate said, “You are a perverse race, over-concerned with unworldly things and ensnaring yourselves in your own net of goodness. You cannot even agree on the dates of your own festivals or the nature of your Elohim. Instead of heroes you have saints, yet your saintliness makes you unsaintly. You all agree to seek the Truth but dispute which path to follow and so get nowhere. You agree to follow your Elohim, but some say, ‘We go this way,’ and others say, ‘We go another.’ What you say today about this man you said yesterday about another. Your laws are a maze which I will not attempt to negotiate. Your thoughts are devious, and your hearts an unreadable scroll. I am unfortunate in my governorship.”

80 Now, a man named Barabbas had also been brought forth to be judged. And Pilate continued, “I know not one man from the other; who is godly and who is ungodly I cannot tell. You yourselves do not know which of these two men has said and done these things, or which is your king. All I know is that there must be a strife. The rights of Caesar must be upheld, and justice must be done. The rest I leave in your hands.”

81 “No two men can suffer for the same crime unless they be in association; but if no association is proven, only one may suffer. Therefore, decide among yourselves which man is to die. Both claim to be the Son of Elohim, both are deliverers, both have blasphemed against Caesar and your Elohim, and both have struck against Caesar. One has killed, the other has not. Clemency is mine to give at this time, but clemency overruling justice is weakness.”

82 “If both these men be killed, then surely the whole of the people will rise in revolt. Already the streets are thronged, and much wine is being drunk. But if one is released, those rejoicing will restrain those who sorrow. It will also divide the people who otherwise might act in accord.

If one is truly the Son of Elohim, then the Father will not desert His Son; so, it would not be wrong to condemn him, for thus two will be saved.”

83 “Responsibility for restraining bloodshed now lies with you. And already the people outside are in riotous mood. Therefore, choose between the two men. Both have the same name, but one is called Barabbas, and the Other Barharet. Choose which shall be condemned for these crimes and which shall be released. Then announce it to the people.”

84 Pilate said, “I will condemn the one claiming to be King of the Yahudiym, for this is a crime against the peace of Caesar. You tell me which he is.”

85 So all the elders of the Yahudiym went out and consulted among themselves and sent heralds among the people. Yahusha remained calm and unshaken, though he had been three hours in the judgment chamber. When consulting among themselves, one of the elders said, “One dies and one is saved. Let us be sure we save the one who will deliver us.”

86 A Parashiym said, “It is not for us to choose which of these is the Mashiach of Elohim, for both are equally deluded. Neither should we choose according to their goodness or their teachings, or even by what they have done. This is a time of turmoil. Therefore, what is the life of one man against the lives of thousands? For surely this number will die if there is a revolt. Which will appease the people by his release, and which will cause less strife if he dies? May the Most High Elohim help us to choose wisely, and may He show compassion on the one who must die. Whichever dies is the savior of many, and so who are we to condemn him otherwise? Let the other be the bearer of our sins, and we will cast him out from among us.”

87 Then some Levites went and addressed the people thronging about, and they shouted, “Crucify the king, save the Deliverer.” But all were

not in accord, and there were many disputes. Then the elders went back to Pilate and said, "Release Barabbas."

88 Now, when Yahudah saw what had happened, he was exceedingly troubled. For he had hoped neither Yahusha nor the other would suffer more than confinement over the festival period. He was therefore filled with remorse. He sought to return the silver to the Temple treasurers, throwing it before them, saying, "I have betrayed the innocent."

89 They said, "It means nothing to us. Be it on your head, not ours."

90 When they told the High Priest about the matter, he said, "This money is tainted and cannot be put into the Temple coffers."

91 So they used the money to buy a plot in the clay field used by potters, and it was used for the burial of strangers having no kindred. Then, after putting his house in order, Yahudah hanged himself from a ledge.

92 Pilate ordered that Yahusha be scourged after the custom of Rome and delivered him to the army for crucifixion. And it was then about the sixth hour. The soldiers took him to a small court where, by custom, men gathered who took pleasure in tormenting the condemned. They danced before him, spitting and mocking. A victor's crown was plaited from thornbush, and he was beaten with burning weeds. Placing a soldier's scarlet mantle about his shoulders, they bowed before him in mock homage, saying, "Hail, you Great King of the Yahudiym." Others covered his eyes and struck him, saying, "Now, Sorcerer, tell us who hit you then." He was pricked with reeds, and the mockers made sport with him in many ways.

93 When the cruelty was over, the soldiers stripped off the scarlet mantle and replaced his tunic, taking him away to the place of execution. Because of the scourging and other sufferings, Yahusha was unable to bear the crosspiece he carried. And a man named Shimon the Cyrene, a

stranger from Africa just come by way of Joppa, was forced by the soldiers to carry it.

94 A crowd followed, among which were many lamenting and wailing women. Yahusha turned to them and said, “Daughters of Yerushalayim, do not be sorrowful because of me, for I approach the door of a greater life. Weep instead for yourselves and your children, for the day comes when you will have much greater cause for sorrow. If these things are done while the tree is green and full of life, what would they not do if it were old and dry?”

95 Coming to the place of execution, which was where the skull of Adam lay buried, the soldiers fastened Yahusha to the crosspiece and raised it up into its slot. Then his feet were fastened to the rest. After this, they divided his clothes among them; but the mantle, being woven without a seam, was given to one selected by lot. About his neck was hung a plaque, written in Latin, which read, ‘YAHUSHA BARHARETS, KING OF THE YAHUDIYM.’”

96 The Yahudiym protested to Pilate about this, but he said, “This is written by my authority.”

97 Two others were crucified with Yahusha, one on his right and one on his left. People passing along the road mocked and abused him, shouting, “Come down and rule over your kingdom.” Some said, “Where is your all-powerful Father now?” and, “If you are what you claim to be, get yourself out of this.” Many laughed, saying, “He came to save us, but cannot save himself. Savior, save yourself first.” The witnesses who stood about the cross also mocked him. They said, “Oh Deliverer, now deliver yourself.”

98 At the ninth hour, the sky darkened with cloud, and there was thunder and lightning. Thus, the prophecy was fulfilled which said, “In the valley of decision, on the day of the Deliverer, the sun and the Earth will be darkened.”

99 Then Yahusha began to speak the words of David and later said, “My Elohim, do not let your power drain away from me.”

100 Some standing nearby said, “Listen, he is calling on Eliyahu.” Another said, “Let us see if Eliyahu will come and take him.”

101 A man came with a sponge soaked in vinegar and duwed and raised it to the lips of Yahusha, but he turned his head away. Then some said, “He is ready to give up the ruach.”

102 Yahusha opened his eyes and said to those who stood near, “It is nearly over.”

103 Manilus, the centurion who stood facing Yahusha, said, “Truly this is a man.”

104 Then someone shouted, “It is over,” and there was an outbreak of wailing from the women.

CHAPTER 21

1 A number of women stood off watching from a distance, among them being Mary of Magdala - also called Mary of Bethany, Marmaryam, and Miryam the mother of Yacob the Younger and Yoceph - and Salome, who had followed Yahusha, administering to his needs in Galilee.

2 There were also others who had come to Yerushalayim with him, but the only disciple there was Yacob.

3 When the women wept with pity, he said to them, "I see now what I was blind to before. Let us not waste tears in futile pity, but strengthen our hearts so his sacrifice is not in vain. He did this to change the hearts of the people. Let us be worthy of him."

4 Then Yacob left, for he received word that the disciples were being sought, it being feared they would set fire to the Great Temple, or arouse the people so there was a revolt. There had been disturbances in the city, but because of Barabbas, only three were killed.

5 Miryam, the mother of Yahusha, was taken to the house of Yochanon, and Markus and Yoceph also came there. It was in that house that the first words of this gospel were written.

6 Many of the disciples had deserted Yahusha and were in hiding. Others went about not knowing what to do, their hearts full of misery and sorrow. They lacked the influence needed to save Yahusha from the common pit of criminals. And Miryam, his mother, did not claim the body, though the arrangements made were unknown to her.

7 Now, one of the elders of the Supreme Council was a man named Josias, called Yoceph of Arimathea - son of Yoachim, son of Nathan, son of Eleazar, son of Eliyahu, son of Yakim, son of Zadok - who lived on the Merchant's Road, a day's journey from Yerushalayim. He also owned an estate northwest of the city. He had a brother-in-law named

Nikodius, and both were secret followers of Yahusha. Yoceph of Arimathea, the wise Commander, had been present at the Council when it sat in judgment on Yahusha, and he supported him, but many more who could have done so were absent because of the hour.

8 When evening drew near and Yahusha had been four hours on the cross, Yoceph of Arimathea, being a man of status and authority, went to Pontius Pilate without fear, for they were friends. He requested the body of Yahusha, his kinsman, saying, "It is written in our law that the sun shall not be permitted to set on the body of a murdered man."

9 The Governor said, "You are an upright man, and I will not deny this to you."

10 But he was surprised to hear Yahusha had died so quickly, and he sent for the centurion in charge of the execution, a man known to Yoceph, who assured Pilate that Yahusha was undoubtedly dead.

11 On hearing this, Pilate granted the Commander custody of the body, and though some Yahudiym present objected, wishing Yahusha to be buried in the criminals' pit, they had to submit to Roman law. Yet the Yahudiym's law also stated it was the duty of the nearest relative to dispose of the body, irrespective of how death occurred.

12 Now this being the Shabbat Eve, the bodies could not remain upon their crosses after nightfall. Therefore, the Yahudiym requested of Pilate that the legs of the condemned men be broken, allowing the bodies to hang free so they quickly died. So, the soldiers took mallets and broke the legs of the other two, but when they came to Yahusha, the centurion said, "He is already dead."

13 Yoceph the Commander took his son Yoceph, Nikodius and one other and, having already purchased a linen shroud, went to the place of execution and removed Yahusha from the cross. Wrapping him in the sheet, they carried Yahusha through the darkness to a tomb already cut

out of the rock. It was a two-chambered cavern northwest of the city, having a ledge running around the inside, and the entrance faced eastward towards the place of execution. It was the north end of a garden planted with cabbages, and the gardener was also custodian of the tomb.

14 When Yahusha had been placed inside, a great stone was rolled across the entrance, and two men were left on guard beside it. Now, things happened on the Shabbat which may not be written, for they are in the secret of Yahuah, known only to the elect of the House of Elohim, which is in the Isle of Departure.

15 Those who guarded the tomb, when questioned regarding these things, said, "The disciples came early and carried him away for burial in a proper manner at another place. For he was laid here only because of the Shabbat, and it was not his tomb." None questioned them further, for this was proper. And the guards were only placed to protect certain bodies from those who would work evil sorceries on them, those who improperly tampered with bodies being put to death.

16 After the Shabbat was over, some women came with spices and oils to deal with the body of Yahusha. But when they came to the tomb, they found that the great stone had been rolled aside. The guards were gone, but a young man was seated just inside the entrance, and he said to them, "Do not be afraid of me, for I am a friend. Yahusha, whom you seek, is not here. But go and tell Kepha that he will be with him as promised." The women were very much afraid and left in haste.

17 When they had gone, Marmaryam came with another and stood outside the tomb weeping. And as she did so, a voice behind her said, "Why do you weep?" Turning, she saw the gardener and said to him, "They have taken Yahusha away, and I have no knowledge of what has happened to him." Then the gardener told her to go to Yochanon, the son of Annas.

18 Kepha and two others were also making their way to the tomb when

they met the women coming away. The women told them what they had seen and heard. And Kepha, thinking they were talking wildly through sorrow, sent one of his companions to go with them. Then he hastened to the tomb, arriving to find it empty and no one there. So, being perplexed, he sat down outside while the other went in search of the gardener. While seated there, he saw a shining figure in the gloom within the tomb and knew it for an angel. And he heard a voice saying, "Yahusha has fulfilled the promises and is truly the Mashiach, Yahuah's Anointed."

19 Then the other returned with the gardener, who told Kepha to go and meet Yochanon, the son of Annas, at Emeras, about nine miles distant. And they went to that place, which was a village not far from the house of Yoceph of Arimathea.

20 Arriving there, they found Yochanon, the son of Annas, and another Yochanon, and Yacob and Yoceph, the sons of Yoceph by Anna (his first wife, the fair stranger), his son by Miryam, and Mark, his adopted son. Nikodius was also there with Lazarus, and they were all in the house of Hosius. Later, a number of apostles came.

21 Then, while they were seated at a table, Yahusha came among them and said, "Let us take food together and rejoice, for the prophecies have been fulfilled regarding the Mashiach as it is said in the Holy Books. The Servant of Man is arisen from among those who sleep, for death has not claimed him. But these things, while fulfilling the promises, will not bring about the Rule of Elohim, for this will not come while men sit waiting for signs. The people have been given that which fulfills their hopes and aspirations. Now surely, they will believe in my cause and arise to sweep evil aside. Now the Ruach of Truth dwells among you, though it is still out of place in a world under the rule of man."

22 Then Yahusha told of all the things which had been written in the Holy Books concerning these things, and how the Mashiach, Yahuah's Anointed, would be disowned by men, would suffer for their willfulness and arise from among the dead to appear on the third day. Then he said,

“Are not all these things fulfilled in me?” Then he departed.

23 Some days later, all the disciples who were the chosen of Yahusha met in a secret place. And Yahusha joined them and proved himself to those who still disbelieved. And they said, “Master, forgive our disbelief and forgive us for doubting the things you taught concerning yourself.”

24 Yahusha said, “This is the day of the coming of Yahuah, who will rule the Earth. Yet is it not written, ‘This will be a day of darkness, and not of light’?”

25 Then Yahusha spoke these words: “I go to a place far away beyond the world, where you may not follow. For I fulfill the hopes of all men. Now, you go out, carrying the message that the prophecies have been fulfilled and the time is at hand when the Rule of Elohim should be established among men. For, the promises having been fulfilled for the people, surely, they will now believe and rally to the cause of good, sweeping wickedness and evil from the face of the Earth. Say to them, ‘That has been done that had to be done.’”

26 “Now you must take up the burden, for if you would become children of Yahuah and reclaim your lost heritage, you must prove yourselves worthy heirs. Let not all the suffering be in vain.”

27 Then he told them secret things concerning the Rule of Elohim, and how men should be freed from trouble, distress and pain. He explained how each man could be freed of all sickness and see beyond the range of the eye. These and many other things were explained, and also many things concerning the Dominion of the Ruach.

28 He said, “Follow my teachings, and the power of the Ruach Ha’Qodesh will come to you, enabling you to do many great things causing wonder among others. Yet all these are the rightful possessions of men, if they will but establish their worthiness.”

29 “Think not that Yahuah will descend from Heaven to do the work of men. The world is yours, but life is with Elohim; in the end, there is the accounting. Man must be responsible for his own destiny, so seek no divine intervention while men remain apathetic. Yahuah comes to the aid only of those who strive, who surmount the difficulties and obstacles of life.”

30 Having said these things, Yahusha revealed himself to them in his form of glory, so they might know Truth had been established in him. Then they were all bedazzled and astonished at what man could become and the extent of his powers awaiting development. Then they knew Yahusha was all he claimed to be and hailed him as Mashiach, the Anointed by Yahuah. For in him the Ruach of Mashiach was manifested as in no other. After this, Yahusha left.

31 Now, rumors of strange events came to the ears of certain Yahudiym who were Herodians and Sadducees. Then they were exceedingly angry with those in power who had inclined towards Yoceph, the wise Commander. He said to those who raised their voices against him, “Why do you seek to stir up trouble? Those in high places, holding positions of power, did only what they thought best and complied with the Torah. What else could they do? I received the body of my kinsman because this was my duty, and I dealt with it decently, letting it rest in my private tomb over the Shabbat.”

32 Despite his authority, there was evidence against Yoceph, and he was imprisoned, being kept under constant guard. One Shabbat, during the night hours, the Ruach of Yahusha was projected to Yoceph so he was comforted. But the guards, seeing it, fainted with fear. Then Yoceph was brought before Pontius Pilate, but the Governor found no fault in him, and he was released.

33 Later, Annas and his son-in-law, who were then the High Priests of the Yahudiym, came to the house of Yoceph, bringing with them the

Holy Books written on scrolls within their box. They requested that he swear upon it in the sacred name of Elohim, but he made oath only that he had done no wrong or broken no law. The wise Commander remained in his house for many days, after which he went about undisturbed.

34 Then, when Pontius Pilate returned to Rome, Yoceph departed from his home shores, coming to Setnadoin, from whence he moved to a well at the foot of a hill. He brought with him a clay cup which had been set in silver by a silversmith, and this was that cup used by Yahusha.

35 Some say Yoceph of Arimathea married Miryam, mother of Yahusha, after the death of his wife, but this is a known heresy put about by those in ignorance of what is written, for his wife was not that Miryam.