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Nailed to the Cross

If you have not viewed our teaching titled "The Lost Sheep," we encourage you to do so, as you will find these two teachings go hand in hand.

Colossians 2:13-14

> And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

These are some difficult verses for some to explain. Many, however, use these two verses as "proof text" in saying that Jesus, his Hebrew name being Yeshua, did away with the Law, but is this really possible? Is this really what Yeshua nailed to the cross? Is this really what Paul is referencing in his letter to the Colossians?

Paul lived in obedience to the law according to Acts 21 verse 24.

Acts 21:24

> "...Then everybody will know there is no truth in these reports about you, but that you yourself are living in obedience to the law."

And, he agreed with everything in the law and the prophets as mentioned in Acts 24 verse 14.

Acts 24:14

> "... I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets,"

Knowing this, we can't let our interpretations of Paul's writings make him out to be a hypocrite - doing one thing, yet saying another. Paul was once a Pharisee, and though the Pharisees were steeped into their traditions, they studied the Word. Paul did as well. Paul's writings were deep (very deep), so much so that they created confusion for many. In fact, he was falsely accused of preaching against Moses. Consider…

Acts 21:21

> They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or live according to our customs.

An accusation that is still being spread about Paul to this day. Knowing that Peter warned against those who misrepresent Paul to mean lawlessness, can we really hold to ***ANY*** interpretation of Paul's writings that say that he opposed the law? Remember, his own words declare that he agrees with everything in the law and the prophets.

Acts 24:14

> "... I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets,"

With this in mind, knowing his history as a Pharisee in teaching and that he lived according to the law, doesn't it make sense that Paul would use illustrations and examples ***from*** the Law and the prophets? Could it be possible that this verses in Colossians 2:13-14, are actually a reference to something IN the Torah?

Colossians 2:13-14

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross

Could this be one of those verses that many use to misrepresent Paul? All the while, he could actually be reinforcing his argument in favor of the law.

As mentioned in our "The Lost Sheep" teaching, Yeshua was also called the living Word. He had to die in order to remarry the lost sheep of Israel since God divorced them. Please see our The Lost Sheep and What is the Gospel teachings for further details on this topic.

However, that was specifically so God could remarry and unite His Bride (the twelve tribes) because a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. But what of the bride who was divorced (the Northern Kingdom)? What was her penalty for adultery? Was it just being divorced, or was there something more to it? Could this be what Paul is referencing here in Colossians? Is this something that refers to the bride who was divorced?

Let's begin our study and see what we find regarding these verses in Colossians 2. Consider the following regarding Yeshua on the cross.

John 19:28-29

> Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus (Yeshua) said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' (Yeshua's) lips.
>
> **"and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus (Yeshua) said, "I am thirsty."**

What Scripture would be fulfilled here? How many times did He say this when he only said it because the Scriptures said it would happen that way? As for the donkey - did he need the donkey to go into Jerusalem? Of course he did not, but he did it because the Scriptures said it was going to happen that way. Those things that were prophesied which required action on His part, He had to make sure they happened so that those around would have no excuse for not seeing prophecy taking place right before their eyes. Yet, other prophecies that required action on the part of others were clearly orchestrated by the Spirit. For example, consider the verses surrounding 28 and 29.

John 19:24

> "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did.

And...

John 19:34-37

> Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' (Yeshua's) side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

But why here in verse 28 and 29? What Scripture needed to be fulfilled that he should have a need to drink something? We believe quite possibly that we have the answer. What was He given to drink? He was given wine vinegar from a sponge - in essence that which was bitter. What's the Scripture that needed to be fulfilled? Consider this account in Numbers chapter 5.

Numbers 5:11-24

> Then the LORD (YHWH) said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'If a man's wife goes astray and is unfaithful to him by sleeping with another man, and this is hidden from her husband and her impurity is undetected (since there is no witness against her and she has not been caught in the act), and if feelings of jealousy come over her husband and he suspects his wife and she is impure — or if he is jealous and suspects her even though she is not impure —then he is to take his wife to the priest. He must also take an offering of a tenth of an ephah of barley flour on her behalf. He must not pour oil on it or put incense on it, because it is a grain offering for jealousy, a reminder offering to draw attention to guilt. "'The priest shall bring her and have her stand before the LORD (YHWH). Then he shall take some holy water in a clay jar and put some dust from the tabernacle floor into the water. After the priest has had the woman stand before the LORD (YHWH), he shall loosen her hair and place in her hands the reminder offering, the grain offering for jealousy, while he himself holds the bitter water that brings a curse. Then the priest shall put the woman under oath and say to her, "If no other man has slept with you and you have not gone astray and become impure while married to your husband, may this bitter water that brings a curse not harm you. But if you have gone astray while married to your husband and you have defiled yourself by sleeping with a man other than your husband" —*here the priest is to put the woman under this curse of the oath* — "may the LORD (YHWH) cause your people to curse

and denounce you when he causes your thigh to waste away and your abdomen to swell. May this water that brings a curse enter your body so that your abdomen swells and your thigh wastes away." "'Then the woman is to say, "Amen. So be it." "'***The priest is to write these curses on a scroll and then wash them off into the bitter water***. He shall have the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and this water will enter her and cause bitter suffering.

Verses 26 and 27 reiterate it again.

Numbers 5:26-27

The priest is then to take a handful of the grain offering as a memorial offering and burn it on the altar; after that, he is to have the woman drink the water. If she has defiled herself and been unfaithful to her husband, then when she is made to drink the water that brings a curse, it will go into her and cause bitter suffering; her abdomen will swell and her thigh waste away, and she will become accursed among her people.

This is what is referred to as the law of jealousy.

Numbers 5:29

This, then, is the law of jealousy when a woman goes astray and defiles herself while married to her husband,

Why is this of any significance? Consider this.

Exodus 34:14

Do not worship any other god, for the LORD (YHWH), whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

Deuteronomy 4:24

For the LORD (YHWH) your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

Remember, as shown in *The Lost Sheep* teaching, the Northern kingdom was divorced because of her adultery. God considered himself a husband to Israel.

Jeremiah 31:32

It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD (YHWH).

And ...

Isaiah 54:5

For your Maker is your husband — the LORD (YHWH) Almighty is his name — the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth.

The scroll mentioned in Numbers 5:23 (*The priest is to write these curses on a scroll and then wash them off into the bitter water*.) contains the "handwriting of ordinances." It was these ordinances in the handwriting on the scroll that was contrary to us or against us. It was these written ordinances that was

washed off the scroll into the cup and then was nailed to the cross through Yeshua. He had to drink the cup as prescribed in the law for the wife accused of adultery. THIS is why he had to drink the bitter water. THIS is why He said "I thirst." THIS was what needed to be fulfilled. Now we understand why Yeshua prayed in the Garden.

Matthew 26:39

> Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this ***cup*** be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Compare again verse 14 in Colossians.

Colossians 2:14

> Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

THIS is the handwriting of ordinances. ***THIS*** was the curse as mentioned in Numbers 5:21 that He took away from us. So, here we see that Yeshua not only died so he could remarry his divorced bride, but he took the place of her judgment, nailing that judgment to the cross. He had to drink from the cup - the cup of bitter water that was to be given to the wife accused of adultery. He knew ***what*** the outcome of this cup would bring, and thus He prayed for it to be taken away.

Consider this verse regarding the curse in Numbers 5.

Numbers 5:21

> may the LORD (YHWH) cause your people to curse and denounce you when he causes your thigh to waste away and your abdomen to swell.

"may the LORD (YHWH) *cause your people to curse and denounce you..."*

Now consider...

Matthew 27:39

> Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads.

They cursed and denounced him at the very timing of the curse going forth, and what time is that?

Again...

Numbers 5:21

> may the LORD (YHWH) cause your people to curse and denounce you when he causes your thigh to waste away and your abdomen to swell.

The time of His "thigh wasting away" and His "abdomen swelling." First, His thigh. The thigh is representative of an individual's word or credibility or even authority. It was used in matters of keeping one's word. This is why we see that oaths were given while a man's hand was under the other's thigh. For example.

Genesis 24:9

> So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.

And....

Genesis 47:29

> When the time drew near for Israel to die, he called for his son Joseph and said to him, "If I have found favor in your eyes, put your hand under my thigh and promise that you will show me kindness and faithfulness. Do not bury me in Egypt,

Thus, the thigh wasting away would be representative of one's credibility being useless. When Yeshua did not give the proof that the crowds demanded of Him for being the Son of God, His credibility meant nothing.

Consider this.

Matthew 27:40-43

> and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, ***for he said***, 'I am the Son of God.'"

He held no credibility with them, and yet, there will be no mistaking His word, credibility, or authority at His second coming. His thigh will make it very clear.

Revelation 19:15-16

> Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his ***thigh*** he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

It's interesting to also note that some say according to certain definitions, the strongest muscle of the body is usually said to be the quadriceps located in the thigh. Though on the cross his strength appeared as weakness, there will be no question to His strength at His second coming. Though a spiritual understanding of the thigh is enough to get one's attention, how did his thigh physically waste away while on the cross?

It was the thighs that one used in raising themselves up in order to breath when being crucified. After all his suffering and torture that happened before ever seeing the cross, and then after several hours of constantly lifting himself up on the cross just to struggle to breathe, His thighs finally gave way.

Perhaps I should say "wasted away." This supports the many who contend that He actually suffocated

after saying, “It is finished,” because, truly, His thighs could lift Him no more. There was no strength left. He suffocated as a result of His thighs wasting away. *This is why the two thieves next to Yeshua had their legs broken. It was so they could push themselves up no more and would indeed suffocate.* But what of His abdomen? For it says...

Numbers 5:21

> ... “may the LORD (YHWH) cause your people to curse and denounce you when he causes your thigh to waste away ***and your abdomen to swell.***

We all have taken big breaths to fill our lungs with air. It’s a big strong breath that we take in. A strong breath is when your chest is forced out, but what about a relaxed breath? Does your chest rise, or does your stomach? Your stomach rises, of course. The lungs can only expand so much because of the ribs. And, just as electricity travels best in the paths of least resistance, likewise, our lungs expand toward the least resistance given. In a relaxed state, that expansion is downward. Normally, our abdomen rises just as much, if not more, in relaxed breathing. However, this is not what caused His abdomen to swell on the cross. Stay with me here. Let’s think about it for a minute. Our savior had been up all night in a mock trial. Plus, we know that he was stressed, as it is recorded that his sweat was mixed with blood the night of praying in the garden.

Luke 22:44

> And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became as it were great drops of blood falling down upon the ground.

It’s not like He entered this day with good night sleep on a nice mattress. So He’s been up for over 24 hours. After being smacked around from the Pharisees and having his beard pulled, he gets beat up by the Roman soldiers. Then, presented to His people with a crown of thorns. Then, he gets flogged to the point of hardly having any human recognition, according to Isaiah.

Isaiah 52:14

> Just as there were many who were appalled at him — his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness —

THEN, he has to carry his own cross. He falls under its weight, unable to go any further. To say He has any strength to breathe strong while on the cross is pushing it. His body is spent, exhausted. Every breath taken is in weakness, not strength. But, He wasn’t only unable to breathe strong. Most all who have studied the science behind the crucifixion of Yeshua agree that His lungs, in fact, filled with fluids while He hung on the cross at the hands of the Romans. The sheer weight of the fluid filling the lungs would be enough to pull down on the lungs and push the abdomen out - not much different from filling a water balloon. No matter how small, the more you fill it, not only does it get bigger, but it also stretches and pulls down from the weight. Plus, what little breathing He was doing that His lungs could take in, that is, was only pushing the stomach farther down. This, in turn, forced our savior’s abdomen to swell out, just as it is written in the curse, as given in Numbers chapter 5 to the unfaithful wife. Plus, verse 27 adds an element of “bitter suffering.”

Numbers 5:27

> If she has defiled herself and been unfaithful to her husband, then when she is made to drink the

water that brings a curse, it will go into her and cause ***bitter suffering***; her abdomen will swell and her thigh waste away, and she will become accursed among her people.

I think there can be no argument that Yeshua endured bitter suffering on the cross. Thus, He took the punishment of the unfaithful spouse. He was brought before the Sanhedrin just like the woman was to be brought before the priest. No witnesses for proof with Pilate, and Pilate found no fault and declared it.

Luke 23:4

Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."

Thus the need for Him to drink the cup - to prove the guilt.

Compare again verse 23 and 24.

Numbers 5:23-24

"'The priest is to write these curses on a scroll and then wash them off into the bitter water. He shall have the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and this water will enter her and cause bitter suffering."

He took the curse as mentioned in verse 23 and nailed it to the cross. He took the curse of Numbers chapter 5 that applied to the unfaithful wife and nailed it to the cross through His death just as mentioned in Colossians 2.

Colossians 2:14

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Now, completely enabling His divorced wife to be wiped clean of her guilt and to be remarried at the same time. She can now be justified.

Justified: Declared or made righteous in the sight of God.

Justified: Just-if-I'd never done it.

Romans 3:23-24

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are ***justified*** freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

He takes our sin and removes it through His death.

Romans 6:3-11

Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus (Messiah Yeshua) were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall be

also in the likeness of his resurrection; knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away, that so we should no longer be in bondage to sin; for he that hath died is ***justified*** from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him; For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ***In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus (Messiah Yeshua)***.

He removed all barriers that prevented the northern kingdom from coming to Him through His death on the cross. We must remember that the law was never a barrier that kept anyone from Him. It was the *sin* of the Northern Kingdom that kept them from Him. The curse that resulted in not obeying the Law, the Torah, His perfect instructions. The law has never stood opposed to anyone. The law itself is neutral. It blesses and it curses totally depending on one's obedience or lack thereof. Thus, our obedience produces blessings, and our disobedience produces the curses. Yet, He removed all barriers so ***all*** can come to Him in faith; so all can come into covenant with Him as before.

Galatians 3:22

But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

But, let us not forget that faith by itself is dead according to James.

James 2:24

You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

If we are truly reunited with Him by way of His covenant, whether you want to call it "new" or "renewed," the proof will be in us walking according to that covenant as given in Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

Jeremiah 31:33

"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares (Yahweh) the LORD (YHWH). "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

However, there is one more element to Numbers chapter 5 that needs to be considered.

Numbers 5:31

"The husband will be innocent of any wrongdoing, but the woman will bear the consequences of her sin.'"

Again, we are emphasizing, "*the woman will bear the consequences of her sin."*

She will bear the shame of her sin before her people. The shame of her sin will ever be before her - the shame. Yet, He took the shame on the cross for us.

Hebrews 12:2

> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning ***its shame***, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Note the emphasis on, *"scorning its shame."*

Consider this also.

Isaiah 45:17

> But Israel will be saved by (Yahweh) the LORD with an everlasting salvation; you will never be put to shame or disgraced, to ages everlasting.

He took that shame so that we don't have to.

1 Peter 2:6

> For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

And also

Romans 10:11

> As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

In Messiah, the shame is removed. Yet, in all this, we see nothing in Numbers 5 that shows a need for the death of the woman. Was there a judgment of death given to the northern kingdom together with the law of the jealous husband? Actually, yes there was. Consider this.

Ezekiel 16:38

> I will sentence you to the punishment of women who commit adultery ***and*** who shed blood; I will bring upon you the blood vengeance of my wrath ***and*** jealous anger.

But why the punishment of bloodshed? Consider...

Ezekiel 16:20-21

> "'And you took your sons and daughters whom you bore to me and sacrificed them as food to the idols. Was your prostitution not enough? You slaughtered my children and sacrificed them to the idols.

So, not only did He bear the northern kingdom's judgment of the adulterous wife but also of the judgment for murder as well, and thus, His death on the cross. It's utterly amazing how all this ties alltogether to bring everyone to His covenant in which He desires all to be. As He provided the needed atonement.

Consider this in the same chapter of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 16:62-63

> So I will establish my covenant with you, and you will know that I am (Yahweh) the LORD. Then, ***when I make atonement for you*** for all you have done, you will remember and be ashamed and never again open your mouth because of your humiliation, declares the Sovereign (Yahweh) LORD.'"

He made atonement. He had to die for the lost sheep in the way that He did in order to pay the price for her sins. Yet, at the same time He was releasing himself from the marriage law of Deuteronomy 24 so that He could be married to her again, as detailed in The Lost Sheep teaching. The lost sheep of the northern kingdom, while married to Him, became adulterous. Yet, AFTER the divorce she continued in her ways. It was at this time that the Lord himself quotes Deuteronomy 24 to the northern kingdom.

Jeremiah 3:1

> "If a man divorces his wife and she leaves him and marries another man, should he return to her again? (THE ANSWER IS NO) Would not the land be completely defiled? (THE ANSWER IS YES) But you have lived as a prostitute with ***many*** lovers — would you now return to me?" declares (Yahweh) the LORD."

He's basically telling them that ***even*** if they wanted to return to Him, His own law forbid it. It would defile the land. He continues in showing her all of her ways.

Jeremiah 3:2-5

> "Look up to the barren heights and see. Is there any place where you have not been ravished? By the roadside you sat waiting for lovers, sat like a nomad in the desert. You have defiled the land with your prostitution and wickedness. Therefore the showers have been withheld, and no spring rains have fallen. Yet you have the brazen look of a prostitute; you refuse to blush with shame. Have you not just called to me: 'My Father, my friend from my youth, will you always be angry? Will your wrath continue forever?' This is how you talk, but you do all the evil you can."

Verse 5 shows how she talks repentance as verse 1 alludes that she wants to return, and yet her heart is far from it. Yet, in this same chapter He calls to her to come back, knowing He had the provision ready by way of His son on the cross to release Himself from the marriage law of Deuteronomy 24.

Jeremiah 3:12-15

> Go, proclaim this message toward the north: "'Return, faithless Israel,' declares the LORD (YHWH), 'I will frown on you no longer, for I am merciful,' declares the LORD (YHWH), 'I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt — you have rebelled against the LORD (YHWH) your God, you have scattered your favors to foreign gods under every spreading tree, and have not obeyed me,'" declares the LORD (YHWH). "Return, faithless people," declares the LORD (YHWH), "for I am your husband. I will choose you — one from a town and two from a clan — and bring you to Zion. Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.

Notice how He declares Himself her husband again in verse 14 even though this is ***AFTER*** the divorce.

Jeremiah 3:14

> "Return, faithless people," declares the LORD (YHWH), "for I am your husband. I will choose you — one from a town and two from a clan — and bring you to Zion.

But again, the divorce has already taken place. How can this be? It is because He speaks to those things that are not as though they were. Compare.

Romans 4:17

> As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed — the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

Yet, Jeremiah not only reveals the guilt of the Northern nation BUT also of Judah. In fact, he reveals how Judah's was even worse.

Jeremiah 3:8-11

> I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. **Yet** I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery. Because Israel's immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood. In spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with all her heart, **but only in pretense**," declares the LORD (YHWH). The LORD (YHWH) said to me, "**Faithless Israel is more righteous than unfaithful Judah.**

Therefore, YHWH said that the northern kingdom was more righteous than Judah. That's pretty big! Yet, He only divorced the Northern Kingdom, which would imply that Yeshua's fulfillment of Numbers 5 was just as much for Judah. This also makes sense as we see Paul saying in Galatians

Galatians 3:22

> But the Scripture declares that the WHOLE world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ (Yeshua the Messiah), might be given to those who believe.

Even Judah as a whole needed to be redeemed by the savior because of their harlotry, which is also mentioned in Malachi 2.

Malachi 2:11

> Judah has broken faith. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the LORD (YHWH) loves, by marrying the daughter of a foreign god.

The need of BOTH being redeemed is actually referenced in John 11.

John 11:47-52

> Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. If we let him

> go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." **He did not say this on his own**, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus (Yeshua) would die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one.

They wanted Him to die as a "false prophet" in the eyes of the people in order to unite the kingdom. Little did they know just how His death truly would unite the two nations, as a whole, back together by taking their place. Only through Yeshua can one return. For those not in Messiah, this curse and shame remains. Those who accept his forgiveness and choose to walk after him, the curse of sin is removed because he took the curse for them in taking their place. But, if they reject His word, the curse remains. His atonement for them will not cover them if they refuse to accept it and walk in His ways.

John 3:36

> Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

Consider this also.

Philippians 3:18-20

> For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as ***enemies of the cross of Christ.*** Their destiny is destruction, their god is their ***stomach***, and their glory is in their ***shame***. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Paul again refers to the curse of Numbers 5 here in verse 19.

Thus, they remain in their unfaithful/prostitute ways in their love for the world, remaining and even glorying in their shame in a prideful, boastful type manner. They are making the cause of their swollen stomachs the very god they continue to follow, that of prostitution with the world - the very purpose that God divorced his people to begin with. Yet regarding the marriage law of Deuteronomy 24 that God himself quoted to his people in how it applied to them at that time (though He provided a way of return for them through Yeshua), wouldn't this law be as applicable for his people today as it was back then?

If it applied then, and He had to provide a way through His Son to be reunited with them, what if this happens after the cross? Here is the meaning of this. If one chooses the Lord and then turns away from the truth to follow after another, can he come back? The law of Deuteronomy 24 prohibits him to come back, literally saying it is impossible. So, does it apply today? Is the Law of God truly forever? Is there a New Testament verse to validate this for us? Something that compares to that of Deuteronomy 24? Yes, there is. Consider this.

Hebrews 6:4-8

> It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the Word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they

are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

So, it is clear. The marriage law of Deuteronomy 24 stands even today for those who choose to walk away from the faith, but why does the author here in Hebrews refer to land in verse 7 and 8 after saying this? Because it also ties with Deuteronomy 24.

Compare...

Deuteronomy 24:4

then her first husband, who divorced her, is not allowed to marry her again after she has been defiled. That would be detestable in the eyes of the LORD (YHWH). ***Do not bring sin upon the land the LORD*** (YHWH) ***your God is giving you as an inheritance.***

Yet, chapter 10 confirms it for us again.

Hebrews 10:26-29

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?

This is confirmation again that God's law is truly eternal, and yet there's another.

Matthew 5:13

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

Being in the Truth and then willfully walking away truly has eternal consequences. This also parallels with that of the unpardonable sin, that being blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. For further details on that, please see our teaching titled "The Unpardonable Sin". Some have alluded to the belief that Yeshua, being our High Priest, cannot marry one who was divorced or given to prostitution. This is said because of Leviticus 21.

Leviticus 21:7

They must not marry women defiled by prostitution or divorced from their husbands, because priests are holy to their God.

While this is most definitely true, we cannot forget the one who is in Messiah is a ***NEW*** creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Galatians 6:15

> Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.

Please consider Romans.

Romans 6:4

> We were buried, therefore, with him through baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

In closing, we'd like to give you another thought to ponder. Not only are we referred to as the bride, but we are also considered His children. Remember, even in Ezekiel He said that they slaughtered HIS children.

Ezekiel 16:21

> You slaughtered my children and sacrificed them to the idols.

Additionally, we are all children of Adam. Thus, we are all truly children of God. With this in mind, who performed the first sacrifices? It was God himself, in the Garden of Eden. He made atonement for the sin of Adam and Eve, thus clothing them in covering their nakedness.

Genesis 3:21

> The LORD God (YHWH) made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

As a result, He was the first High priest. This means that we are all the children of the first High priest. Knowing that we are referred to in the feminine gender for the bride, I can't help but wonder if we are all considered in the feminine gender in as being children as well. For example, when the Northern Kingdom committed harlotry, she did so with other gods just as the other nations were doing. This means that the other gods were the masculine gender for all, thus implying all mankind in a feminine gender. IF this is the case, please consider this.

Leviticus 21:9

> If a priest's daughter defiles herself by becoming a prostitute, she disgraces her father; she must be burned in the fire.

IF we are indeed all (and I mean all humanity), considered children of the first High Priest, and IF we are considered as such in the feminine gender, would we not see something of a parallel to this judgment in Leviticus 21 at the end of all things for those daughters of the first High Priest who committed harlotry? Yes, we would, and yes, we do.

Revelations 20:15

> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

May we never forget that Yeshua took our place on the cross. He nailed the curse of the law to the cross. Don't stay dead in your sins any longer.

Colossians 2:13-14

> And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, ***nailing it to his cross***;

Walk in the freedom of the covenant into which He has enabled ***ALL*** to enter.

Jeremiah 31:33

> "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD (YHWH). "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

AND …

Ezekiel 36:26-27

> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Walk with Him in His eternal covenant today.

We hope you have enjoyed this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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