

# The Weapons of our Warfare

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Over the last couple of weeks in the Shabbat Newsletters, I have talked about the importance of prayer. How to pray. What to pray.

The most important thing is that we pray in the will of the Father.

As we look at the chaos ensuing all around us, sometimes it is hard to know the will of the Father, and therefore we don't always know what to pray. Clearly the dark powers are using the excuse of viruses, and the now endless cycle of variants, to control the world population.

While the concerns of our life may seem overwhelming at times, it is important to remember that there is a vast Kingdom in operation, and we are each a very small part of it. We can either get in synchronicity with the Kingdom through the Commandments and participate, or we can simply get in the way.

Prayer is one of those areas where people can definitely get in the way, if they are not operating through the guidance of the Ruach.

Now we know that the context of our present condition involves a struggle between light and dark.

I began every one of the Walk in the Light series books with the first chapter titled “In the Beginning”. I did this specifically so that the reader could understand how things began, and what went wrong. Only then can we fully understand the Covenant purpose and plan of restoration that YHWH has in store for this world.

We all have a choice to make, whether to build our own kingdoms, or participate in the restoration of the Kingdom of YHWH.

The fall of mankind involved deception from a powerful spiritual entity called “the nachash,” often referred to as “the serpent.”

The man, Adam, was given a purpose to work (abad) and to watch (shamar) the garden. (Genesis 2:15) He was surely given instructions on how to fulfill his purpose. The word “garden” is “gan” in Hebrew, and it represents a protected or enclosed space.

I have discovered that in Texas you don’t try to grow anything, or raise any livestock, without putting up a fence. There are fences everywhere because fences keep unwanted things out, and wanted things in.

The nachash somehow gained entry to the Garden, but he didn’t physically attack the man or the woman. Rather, he tested whether they would obey the Commandments, specifically the one given to the man regarding a certain tree.

*“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”* Genesis 2:15

It seems very simple and very clear, yet this is the Commandment that led to the fall of mankind, the expulsion from paradise and the

struggle for control of this planet that we currently find ourselves in the midst of.

Here is how it happened.

*“<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent (nachash) was more cunning than any beast of the field which YHWH Elohim had made. And he said to the woman, Has Elohim indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’? <sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; <sup>3</sup> but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, Elohim has said, You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die. <sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For Elohim knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like Elohim, knowing good and evil.”* Genesis 3:1-5

The interchange began with a question, intended to strike up a conversation with the woman. That was her first mistake. She engaged with the nachash.

Then, we can see that the woman actually misquoted the Commandment. She added to the instruction.

Now we don’t know if she added to it, or if she was given the wrong instruction by Adam. The point is that when she was questioned by the nachash, she didn’t give the correct answer. That led to her being deceived and ultimately disobeying the simple instruction.

We could analyze this event all day long. We don’t even know how the nachash got into the Garden when it was supposed to have a hedge.

What I think is important to recognize is the fact that she was in a battle and she didn’t even know it. No shots were fired. No swords

were swung. It simply involved cunning and subterfuge, and the woman didn't even know what hit her, until it was too late.

She probably thought that she was in an interesting "midrash" concerning the Torah and the dietary instructions. She was not prepared to enter into a discussion with the nachash, and that led to her downfall.

One of my favorite quotes from the 70's came from Dirty Harry – "A man's got to know his limitations." How true it is, and so does a woman.

We know that we are in a battle involving powerful spiritual forces. People are currently focused on pandemics, viruses, vaccines, food shortages and lockdowns. That only involves their physical existence.

What we are witnessing is all just a distraction from the bigger battle, the one for people's souls (nefesh). That is why we need to stay focused, and keep our "eye on the ball" – so to speak.

There is no doubt that we are in the midst of an epic struggle. It's the same battle that has been raging since the first volley was lobbed, and that probably occurred prior to the Garden event. In fact, we may be witnessing the culmination of the ages very soon.

Once we understand the battle, it begs the question of whether we participate and how we participate.

I was pawing through some boxes several years ago, and I found the outline for a "Spiritual Warfare" series that I was writing when I was in college.

While I was surprised to remember that I had the desire to write books way back then, I'm so happy that the project was never completed. It was riddled with traditions and ideas that I had inherited from sermons and books, but not necessarily the Scriptures. I would have needed to retract so much of the contents, because I was simply spewing things that I had learned or read.

Most of us are in the process of trying to "unlearn" many of the paradigms that we learned in Christianity.

Consider the Sabbath. It was changed by the Catholic Church from the Seventh Day to the First Day of the week. Nevertheless, most Protestants, who allegedly "protested" against the Catholic Church still carry the mark of the Catholic Church. They still honor the Venerable Day of the Sun – Sunday sabbath.

That's an easy one to recognize and change.

The harder ones are the Jesuit derived preterist and futurist prophetic doctrines that intend to distract and deceive people – just like the nachash did in the garden.

How about the modern State of Israel, established by the Illuminati and the forces behind the New World Order? That has most Christians convinced that the Promised Land is for the Jewish People, while they are Spiritual Israel destined for Heaven.

There are so many others. I came out of a diverse range of Christian denominations and in my search for truth I was confronted with a plethora of traditions, lies and deception.

While I always understood that I was in the midst of a spiritual struggle, I was taught that I needed to engage in spiritual warfare and "bind the devil".

I have talked on many occasions about the Christian misunderstanding of “binding and loosing”. This concept comes from an encounter between Yahushua and His disciples that likely occurred near a “Gate of Hell” at Banias, in the region of Caesarea Philippi.

*“<sup>13</sup> When Yahushua came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? <sup>14</sup> So they said, Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. <sup>15</sup> He said to them, But who do you say that I am? <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Messiah, the Son of the living El. <sup>17</sup> Yahushua answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My Assembly, and the gates of hell (hinnom) shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:13-19*

Hell is known as hinnom in Hebrew, and the place where the dead go is known as the “grave” or rather “sheol.” Our physical bodies are put in the ground after we fall to “sleep.” This is the fate of all mankind after Adam and the woman partook of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

The gates of hell hold all of the dead, unless someone holds the key and releases them through a resurrection.

The context of this event reveals that Yahushua is the Messiah, the One Who can release us from the grave. Upon our release from the grave, we can then enter into the Kingdom of Heaven through the Covenant renewed by the blood of the Messiah.

So, this is all about exiting the cycle of death that began in the Garden, and getting on the path that restores us back into Eden, which means “Paradise.”

We reach the Kingdom of Heaven through the Covenant, and the keys help us get through the door. That is why the blood of the Passover Lamb, the Lamb of Elohim, is placed on the doorposts.

The Scribes and Pharisees literally “*shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men*” through their oral torah and their traditions. Matthew 23:13 Yahushua said they were not getting in, and they were blocking the way for others to get in.

That is how He gave His disciples the keys to the Kingdom. He taught them the Torah, which provided the way into the Kingdom. That is also why He described Himself as the Door and the Way. By His shed blood, we can all enter into the Kingdom through the Renewed Covenant.

Binding and loosing is a Hebrew idiom that is misunderstood by most Christians. It has nothing to do with so-called ‘spiritual warfare.’ I discussed this in a teaching that I did at Banias many years ago titled “*The Gates of Hell*.”

Binding and loosing involves interpreting the Torah. Binding literally refers to what is prohibited according to the Torah and loosing involves determining what is permissible according to the Torah.

It is about interpretation and application of the Torah. The Pharisees and Sadducees claimed that authority, but Yahushua had previously referred to that claimed authority as “*the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees*.” Matthew 16:1-12

Again, their interpretation was keeping them out of the Covenant, along with others under their authority. This is no different than what we see going today in the Pharisaic derived religion of Rabbinic Judaism.

So, binding and loosing is about the authority to interpret the Torah. The Pharisees and the Rabbis do not have it. Period!

Yahushua gave that authority to His disciples. This is confirmed in Matthew 18 when discussing how to resolve a dispute between brethren.

*“<sup>15</sup> Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ <sup>17</sup> And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the assembly, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, I am there in the midst of them.”* Matthew 18:15-19

This is another Scripture that is taken way out of context. I hear people use this passage to claim that as long as two or three agree in prayer, then the prayer will be granted. That is not the case at all.

Here again, it is clear that binding and loosing has nothing to do with spiritual warfare, but rather correcting a person who has sinned and determining the truth when testimony conflicts.



Yahushua is applying a Torah Commandment found in Deuteronomy 19:15: *“One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.”*

This involves judging a controversy, and if a false witness arises against someone, YHWH states that they stand before Him when they stand before the priests and the judges – He is in the midst of them. (Deuteronomy 19:17)

So, when we bind and loose, we are interpreting and applying the Torah. We are not going around storming the gates of hell and attacking the enemy. Instead, we are commanded to tend our garden and keep watch, just like the man and the woman were supposed to do.

I used to regularly put on the “whole armor of God” using Ephesians as my guide.

*“<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in YHWH and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of Elohim, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of Elohim, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of Elohim.”* Ephesians 6:10-17

This passage reinforced my belief that I was a soldier in the fray of battle. Every day, I had to suit up and join the fight.

The problem with my understanding was that it gave me the impression that I was to spiritually dress up like a Roman soldier, which fits perfectly within the paradigm presented by Roman Christianity. But notice that even in this passage, the armor was so that you can stand – not go on the offense binding the devil and demons.

That metaphor used by Paul actually derived from Isaiah concerning the Messiah. *“<sup>16</sup> He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; and His own righteousness, it sustained Him. <sup>17</sup> For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.”* Isaiah 59:16-17

This passage in Isaiah is all about the Messiah accomplishing what no man could.

So, instead of dressing like Roman soldiers, we are better off putting on priestly attire – white garments. I would much rather carry the Ark, and let YHWH fight the battle.

Another passage from Paul in 2 Corinthians is used to support spiritual warfare beliefs. Here is the statement: “For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in Elohim for pulling down strongholds.” 2 Corinthians 10:4

The context of this passage has nothing to do with binding the devil or demons. Rather, it is Paul defending himself against accusations that he considered to be false.

Here is the statement in context.

“<sup>1</sup> Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Messiah - who in presence *am* lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. <sup>2</sup> But I beg *you* that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. <sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in Elohim for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of Elohim, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Messiah, <sup>6</sup> and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.” 2 Corinthians 10:1-6

That is the problem with categorizing Paul’s letters as Scripture, and the word of Elohim. This is clearly him arguing in his own defense, and would be better suited as historical information. While it has nothing to do with spiritual warfare, it does make a distinction between the things of the flesh, and the things of the spirit.

We need to cast aside thoughts and arguments that exalt themselves against the knowledge and truth of Elohim. For instance, the idea that Yahushua abolished the Torah, or we are not subject to the Torah because of grace.

While our flesh often does not want to obey, we must be strong in spirit, and keep watch over our thoughts so that we obey Messiah. Indeed, I discovered long ago that our obedience to the instructions is intimately involved with the battle.

Let’s consider the Garden again. It had a hedge, and the hedge was intimately connected with obedience to the Instructions. Obedience

keeps us within the hedge, and the nachash was therefore trespassing.

Adam was instructed to watch over the garden. He had authority, although he did not exercise the authority. Instead, the nachash was allowed to enter and remain in the Garden. He and the woman then interacted with the nachash, believed the nachash and then followed the advice of the nachash, which was disobedience.

The nachash wants to convince you to disobey the Commandments, so that you will fall under a curse. This was the doctrine of Balaam. (Revelation 2:14)

The realm of obedience to the Commandments is where the spiritual warfare really takes place. Most Christians would do well to heed the advice of Paul and understand that “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in Elohim for pulling down strongholds.”

One of those strongholds is that the Torah was “nailed to the cross” and done away with. It has led people into lawlessness, just like the man and the woman were led into lawlessness through the lies of the nachash.

As a result, they were sent out from within the hedge, and into the wilderness.

The man was originally given dominion and authority in the Garden, and all he had to do was resist by quoting the Commandment of Elohim and obeying.

We read in James: “*Submit to the authority of Elohim. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*” James 4:7 Amplified Bible

When you understand that YHWH Elohim is El Most High, you do not ever question His authority – you simply submit to it whether or not you fully understand it.

By allowing the nachash to question YHWH, and even call Him a liar, the woman allowed seeds of doubt to be planted. Aside from fear, doubt is one of the greatest weapons of the enemy.

It is important to understand this truth and follow the advice of Peter.

*“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled (serious) and watchful (sober-minded) in your prayers.” 1 Peter 4:7*

We must carefully consider our thoughts and actions and make sure that our prayers are acceptable and consistent with truth.

This spiritual struggle we find ourselves is all about authority - who has it, and how is it exercised.

We don't attack ha shatan, we resist him and his lies and deceptions. We don't bind the devil; we rebuke him in the Name of YHWH.

The text of Jude made a point about understanding a respecting authority. It used an example of when Michael contended for the body of Moses.

*“<sup>8</sup> Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. <sup>9</sup> Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ‘YHWH rebuke you!’ <sup>10</sup> But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. <sup>11</sup> Woe to them!” Jude 8-11*

The powerful being named Michael did not act arrogantly or with pride. He rebuked the devil in the Name of YHWH.

Now consider Yahushua. He was tempted in the wilderness, because he needed to pick up where Adam left off.

We read how ha shatan with authority making offers to Yahushua. This is similar to what occurred in the Garden.

Here is the account from Luke.

“<sup>1</sup> Then Yahushua, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the devil said to Him, If You are the Son of Elohim, command this stone to become bread. <sup>4</sup> But Yahushua answered him, saying, “It is written, *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of Elohim.* <sup>5</sup> Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to Him, All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours. <sup>8</sup> And Yahushua answered and said to him, Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, *You shall worship YHWH your Elohim, and Him only you shall serve.* <sup>9</sup> Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the Temple, and said to Him, If You are the Son of Elohim, throw Yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup> For it is written: *He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you,* <sup>11</sup> and, *In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.* <sup>12</sup> And Yahushua answered and said to him, It has been said, *You shall not tempt YHWH your Elohim.* <sup>13</sup> Now when the devil had ended every

temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.” Luke 4:1-13

So, Yahushua had a direct confrontation with ha shatan (the adversary) in the wilderness, and the first test dealt with food.

While He was in a state of hunger and weak in the flesh, He was “filled with the Set Apart Spirit”. That is a critical factor if you are going to successfully pass the tests.

Remember that food was the issue that led to the demise of the man and the woman. The forbidden fruit was very attractive and appealing. Also, recall the tests that Yisrael failed, because they did not trust YHWH to feed them.

Yahushua first quoted Deuteronomy 8. We only read Him quoting a short portion, but that was meant to carry the weight of the passage in Hebrew thought.

*“<sup>1</sup> Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which YHWH swore to your fathers. <sup>2</sup> And you shall remember that YHWH your Elohim led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. <sup>3</sup> So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of YHWH. <sup>4</sup> Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. <sup>5</sup> You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so YHWH your Elohim chastens you.” Deuteronomy 8:1-5*

His use of this passage was a direct correlation to the tests in the wilderness, and the purpose of those tests. The focus was on keeping the Commandments, and it included a warning that YHWH would indeed chasten us, to see what is in our hearts and whether we will obey Him.

In the second test, the devil offers Yahushua all authority if He will simply worship him. Of course, authority was the key and Yahushua came to obtain the authority back from the devil, but through death and suffering – not worshipping the devil.

That is why Yahushua specifically proclaimed “Get behind me Satan.” The Command is to have no other gods in His face. (Exodus 20:3)

Yahushua then responded by quoting Scriptures again – this time in Deuteronomy 6.

*“<sup>13</sup> You shall fear YHWH your Elohim and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His Name. <sup>14</sup> You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you <sup>15</sup> (for YHWH your Elohim is a jealous Elohim among you), lest the anger of YHWH your Elohim be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.”* Deuteronomy 6:13-15

In the third test, the devil actually misquoted Psalm 91:11-12. He left out the words “in all your ways.”

Here is an accurate rendering.

*“<sup>11</sup> For He shall give His angels (messengers) charge over you, to keep you **in all your ways**. <sup>12</sup> In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.”* Psalm 91:11-12



The message was not meant to allow people to jump off of buildings with the assurance that angels would swoop down and catch them before they hit the ground. The Psalm revealed that YHWH would provide protection for the intended “path” or “way” (derech) that was purposed for an individual. You can’t just start jumping off of buildings to test YHWH.

Yahushua called him on that distortion by, yet again, quoting Scripture. He quoted from an additional portion of Deuteronomy 6. Here is the full passage.

*“<sup>16</sup> You shall not tempt YHWH your Elohim as you tempted Him in Massah. <sup>17</sup> You shall diligently keep the commandments of YHWH your Elohim, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. <sup>18</sup> And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of YHWH, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land of which YHWH swore to your fathers, <sup>19</sup> to cast out all your enemies from before you, as YHWH has spoken.”* Deuteronomy 6:16-19

What an amazing passage, and how appropriate for Yahushua to quote is after passing the tests and exiting His 40-day wilderness experience.

Did you realize that the Children of Yisrael were only supposed to spend 40 days in the wilderness? They crossed the Sea on Day 21 of Month 1, and then began their journey into the wilderness the next day on Day 7 of the Omer Count. They then arrived at Sinai around Day 46 of the Omer Count. They set up camp and rested on Shabbat and then started preparing for the Wedding at Shavuot on Day 50.

Yahushua was fulfilling the Covenant where Yisrael had failed in the wilderness. He was tested, and the fate of mankind hung on the result. Now that was spiritual warfare!

Notice that He did not enter into a duel of wits with ha shatan, and He didn't bind the devil. He simply quoted the Scriptures.

He won the battle by speaking the truth delivered by His Father in the Torah.

Consider that for a moment. The victory was accomplished by quoting passages from the Torah, called the Old Testament by most Christians.

Imagine then, all of the Christians who attempt to engage in spiritual warfare, with the mistaken belief that the Torah is old and done away with – nailed to the cross. They are destined for failure, because they are using a failed strategy, and they are shooting blanks if they think quoting Paul is going to save them.

Notice also, that ha shatan departed “until an opportune time.” He wasn't finished. The enemy will wait attack during an opportune time, which is generally a time of weakness, when our “guard is down.”

Now the confrontation with ha shatan was different from Yahushua's interaction with demons, because demons are not the same as ha shatan and other fallen angels.

According to I Enoch, demons are the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim offspring. All of the hybrid beings that were judged and killed by YHWH had spirits that did not go to sheol.

They wander the earth looking for a body to inhabit. They have no right to inhabit a being that YHWH created unless that being grants them permission or leaves an open door.

Yahushua clearly treated demons differently than He did ha shatan.

What did He do? Did He bind them?

No. He cast them out. He did not engage them, and His words were few. Sometimes He just said "Go!" (Matthew 8:32)

You see, they were trespassing, and Yahushua exercised authority to evict them.

Spiritual warfare is about authority. Who has it, and how to exercise it. Demons are not the same as angelic beings.

Sadly, I have seen Christians claim authority to dispatch angels, in the same fashion that witchcraft dispatches demons through spells and incantations.

I wonder where they think that they actually have the authority to do such a thing? I witnessed some elders do this in a Charismatic Church that I attended in college, and I promptly left that Church. The last I knew, angels were messengers that took their directives from the Throne Room.

This is an area that I suggest you consider very carefully. Before you garb up to do battle with the devil. I suggest that you understand spiritual authority.

You might want to start off by making sure your hedge is secure.

Are you obeying the Commandments? Do you even know the Commandments that apply to you?

The brethren at HalleluYah Scriptures developed a terrific resource called [\*The Torah of YHWH\*](#) that actually breaks down the Torah

instructions and categorizes them. It is a very valuable exercise to actually examine the specific Commandments that apply to you.

Speaking of our brethren at the HalleluYah Scriptures – they are in the thick of things at the moment. Australia and New Zealand are accelerating the plans of the enemy, and headed straight into the fire. I ask that you pray for all of our brethren in Australia and New Zealand, and even Austria.

My prayer is that YHWH give His angels (messengers) charge over them, to keep them in all their ways. I pray that He grants them wisdom and supernatural provision as their governments attempt to starve and isolate them into submission. And I pray that YHWH fortifies their hedge of protection, and provides great miracles for them.

We are actually given specific commandments to remind of us the hedge that He provides through our obedience.

Our protection comes from YHWH when we obey His Commandments. That is why He gives us the Commandment of the Mezuzah.

*“<sup>6</sup> And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> **You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**”*  
Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Sadly, the mezuzah itself has become a religious relic for some who miss the point.

It is not a container with a scroll that provides protection, it is the Commandments written on the doorposts that we are reminded of that keep a hedge around our properties and our homes.

The same holds true with the tzitzit. Wearing colored threads does not protect us. They remind us of the Commandments that protect us - like a shield and armor.

Did you notice how so much of the focus of the mezuzah Commandment is what goes on inside your homes? That is why the Commandments go on your house doors, and the gates to your property.

These are the entry points and as you watch over these spaces you must guard what goes in. Do not let the enemy in.

If you are inviting the enemy into your home through sin, television, music, etc. - then it is like granting the nachash into the Garden. Don't expect anything good to come from it.

Likewise, people get possessed because they open the gates in their lives through various sinful conduct involving their eyes, their ears, their mouths, and their hands.

We must treat our homes like Adam was supposed to treat the Garden.

You have authority over your homes, and you must watch and serve YHWH in and through your homes. You need to guard your gates and your person by obeying the Commandments.

Now that does not mean that you will never be tested or sifted.

Consider Job for example. He was the target of an authorized attack from ha shatan (the adversary) himself – not some rogue demonic entity.

The text of Job indicates that ha shatan appeared before YHWH when the Sons of Elohim congregated for the divine council. YHWH gave ha shatan permission to afflict Job, but he could not take his life.

When Job was sifted what was his response? At first it was perfect.

"YHWH gave and YHWH has taken away, blessed be the Name of YHWH . . . Shall we receive good at the hand of YHWH, and shall we not receive evil?"

As time and testing dragged on, some dross appeared that needed to be brought forth and removed from Job. It ended up being an incredible refining experience for Job, and a lesson for us all.

So, in this instance, we see that ha shatan was given authority, and he exercised authority to act against a righteous man. Job did not try to bind the devil. He accepted his fate and ultimately repented.

While we guard our gates, we will still be tested to see what is in our hearts.

If we claim to follow YHWH, then we should expect to be sifted. When that happens, we don't panic because we are under "spiritual attack," and we don't start binding the devil. Instead, we should pray that our faith is strengthened.

There was a time that ha shatan asked permission to sift Peter. Read what Yahushua stated regarding that request.

*“<sup>31</sup> And Master said, Simon, Simon! Indeed, ha shatan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren. <sup>33</sup> But he said to Him, Master, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death. <sup>34</sup> Then He said, I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.” Luke 22:31-34*

We all know that Peter was actually sifted and he failed, even though he thought he was ready. The incredible thing is that Yahushua knew he would be sifted and didn't try to stop it, even though He knew Peter would fail.

Even more incredible is that Yahushua did not give up on Peter. He knew that the sifting was necessary to prepare him for his future mission to tend and feed the lambs and the sheep. (John 21:15-18)

When we are sifted, our response is not to bind the devil. Instead, we need to bless YHWH and repent, if needed.

Now there are certainly times when we may need to confront the dark forces. Consider for example, when David confronted Goliath.

It was a physical situation with spiritual implications.

Goliath was a giant, a Nephilim offspring. He was not the devil being dispatched to sift David. He was actually trespassing in the Land granted to Yisrael.

As a result, David exercised authority of the Name of YHWH

*“<sup>45</sup> Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the Name of YHWH of hosts, the Elohim of the armies of Yisrael, whom you have*

*defied. <sup>46</sup> This day YHWH will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a Elohim in Yisrael. <sup>47</sup> Then all this assembly shall know that YHWH does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is YHWH's, and He will give you into our hands." 1 Samuel 17:45-47*

When David faced the giant, what did He do? Did he bind him? Did he exercise his own authority? Did he rely on his own strength and abilities? No. He didn't even wear any armor!

He approached a fully armed giant, clad in armor with only the implements of a shepherd. But he had a secret weapon - the Name of YHWH of Hosts. Now that's a good tactic to remember.

He specifically stated that the battle was YHWH's to fight, and claimed the promise of the Covenant that YHWH would fight for His people.

In fact, the blessing and curses are specifically spelled out in the Torah. The problem is that most Christians erroneously believe that the Covenant is "old" and done away with.

As a result, many Christians are suffering under a curse because of their disobedience, and they view that curse as an attack from the devil. They then partake in spiritual warfare to get rid of curses when they may simply need to repent and obey.

After His resurrection, Yahushua was given incredible authority.

*"And Yahushua came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Matthew 28:18*



He didn't say that He gave us all that authority to use as we see fit. Instead, He told His disciples to go into the nations and tell them what happened, teach them and immerse them. (Matthew 28:19-20)

He imparted the Spirit to them in John 20:22, and later in Acts 2. He had already given them authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and over the power of the enemy to accomplish their mission. (Luke 10:19) The point was not to go around attacking the devil. The authority was so they could preach the Good News, just as was Promised in Psalm 91:11-12.

So, we have authority to spread the Good News, teach the Commandments and immerse people into the Name of Yahushua. We also have authority to cast out demons and heal, among other things.

The point is to understand that our authority is limited, and we need to understand those limitations in order to stay within the Master's will.

It is also critical to understand that the forces of evil have also been given authority, particularly in the end of days.

*"<sup>1</sup> Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. <sup>2</sup> Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. <sup>3</sup> And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. <sup>4</sup> So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him? <sup>5</sup> And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and*

*he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. <sup>8</sup> All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. <sup>9</sup> If anyone has an ear, let him hear. <sup>10</sup> He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the set-apart ones. <sup>11</sup> Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup> And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. <sup>13</sup> He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. <sup>14</sup> And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. <sup>15</sup> He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. <sup>16</sup> He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” Revelation 13:1-17*

Did you see all of that authority given to the beasts? Who do you think gave them that authority? Obviously, the One with all of the authority.

The authority was granted for a purpose, and it will result in the testing of all mankind and the sifting of Yisrael. It is all part of the plan.

So, it is important that you understand the battle, and who has authority.

When we operate within His will, we can exercise authority in the Name of Yahushua. We cannot snatch that authority from Him and exercise it haphazardly to accomplish our own will.

I see many people who like to call themselves prayer warriors, and sometimes that can involve arrogance and ignorance of understanding powers and principalities.

I have heard people claim that they will “take on the devil,” and they make all sorts of provocative claims with no Scriptural precedent.

Here is a reality check - angels (messengers) are powerful spiritual beings not to be trifled with.

When David sinned, YHWH sent a destroying angel that killed 70,000 people in Yisrael over a three-day period. (2 Samuel 24:15-16) The Angel took instructions from YHWH, not David.

Imagine if David tried to command that Angel to stop the plague?

That is exactly what some people do when they claim to be conducting spiritual warfare. The problem is, they may end up working for the wrong side.

One Angel was recorded as killing 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night. (2 Kings 19:35, Isaiah 37:36)

Take a moment and read the account of the messengers that YHWH sent to mark and seal the righteous, and then destroy the wicked in Jerusalem. (Ezekiel 9)

The truth is that even righteous men and prophets grow faint and fall on their faces in the presence of certain celestial beings. We are all currently stuck in these weak fleshly bodies that are going to return to dust. Our only hope is in the resurrection, and the atoning work of Yahushua.

We are utterly weak and helpless without Him. Thankfully, all authority is now His, and He commands armies of powerful beings.

Just because He chooses to save us does not mean that we can use His Name and His authority to do whatever we please. Our job is to be obedient by serving and watching, so we are ready for His return.

We need to stay out of His way, and some people are getting in His way.

The battle is not ours. The battle belongs to YHWH.

*“YHWH is a man of War! YHWH is His Name.”*

Exodus 15:3

He gives the orders and we follow them.

When He delivers His people through an Exodus, it is important to remember that *“YHWH will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”* Exodus 14:14

Here is the promise for the captive daughter of Tzion, those who belong to YHWH, and await His deliverance will be delivered by His Hand.

*“<sup>1</sup> Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For the uncircumcised and the*

unclean shall no longer come to you. <sup>2</sup> Shake yourself from the dust, arise; sit down, O Jerusalem! Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Tzion! <sup>3</sup> For thus says YHWH: You have sold yourselves for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money. <sup>4</sup> For thus says Adonai YHWH: "My people went down at first into Egypt to dwell there; Then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause. <sup>5</sup> Now therefore, what have I here," says YHWH, That My people are taken away for nothing? Those who rule over them make them wail," says YHWH, And My Name is blasphemed continually every day. <sup>6</sup> Therefore My people shall know My Name; Therefore they shall know in that day that I am He who speaks: Behold, it is I. <sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Tzion, "Your Elohim reigns!" <sup>8</sup> Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, with their voices they shall sing together; For they shall see eye to eye when YHWH brings back Tzion. <sup>9</sup> Break forth into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem! For YHWH has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> YHWH has made bare His set apart arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our Elohim. <sup>11</sup> Depart! Depart! Go out from there, touch no unclean thing; Go out from the midst of her, be clean, You who bear the vessels of YHWH. <sup>12</sup> For you shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight; **For YHWH will go before you, and the Elohim of Yisrael will be your rear guard.** <sup>13</sup> Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. <sup>14</sup> Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men; <sup>15</sup> So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, and what they had not heard they shall consider." Isaiah 52:1-15

So, our job it to wake up, shake the dust off, get clean and stay clean. We prepare for the coming salvation.

I highlighted last week how the world events are intimately connected to Joseph and the House of Yisrael. In past weeks I have quoted Amos 9, as it relates to the restoration of the House of Yisrael. Now consider that passage in the context of our present discussion on spiritual warfare.

*“<sup>4</sup> Though they go into captivity before their enemies, from there I will command the sword, and it shall slay them. I will set My eyes on them for harm and not for good. <sup>5</sup> Adonai YHWH of hosts, He who touches the earth and it melts, and all who dwell there mourn; All of it shall swell like the River, and subside like the River of Egypt. <sup>6</sup> He who builds His layers in the sky, and has founded His strata in the earth; Who calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out on the face of the earth - YHWH is His Name. <sup>7</sup> Are you not like the people of Ethiopia to Me, O children of Yisrael? says YHWH. Did I not bring up Yisrael from the land of Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir? <sup>8</sup> Behold, the eyes of Adonai YHWH are on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth; Yet I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, says YHWH. <sup>9</sup> For surely I will command, and will sift the House of Yisrael among all nations, as grain is sifted in a sieve; Yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground. <sup>10</sup> All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword, who say, The calamity shall not overtake nor confront us. <sup>11</sup> On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; <sup>12</sup> That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Nations who are called by My Name, says YHWH who does this thing. <sup>13</sup> Behold, the days are coming,” says YHWH, When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. <sup>14</sup> I will bring back the captives of My people Yisrael; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. <sup>15</sup> I will plant them in their*

*Land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the Land I have given them, says YHWH your Elohim.” Amos 9:4-15*

The House of Yisrael will be sifted as part of the future regathering. The sifting is so that the Bride can be made ready.

As with Job, the enemy has been given authority to do the sifting. That is evident from Revelation 13.

So, it is important to understand that what is currently happening is being permitted, and we were warned about it. Not so that we can fight or resist the will of YHWH, but so that we can plan and prepare ourselves.

When we are being sifted, our response is not to bind the devil or conduct spiritual warfare. We must first examine whether we have stepped out of the hedge of protection, or whether there is something that we must repent from.

There is a spiritual battle raging around us, but you must understand your purpose and role in the Kingdom if you want to survive.

When considering the weapons of our warfare, I suggest that the best offense is a good defense - and that is obedience. Our belief, demonstrated by obedience is counted as righteousness, just like with Abraham. (Genesis 15:6)

The reason is that He defines His Torah as righteousness. That places us within the protective hedge of the Renewed Covenant, when we have received atonement and washed clean by the blood of Yahushua.

When attacked and tempted, we resist the enemy and turn to YHWH, understanding that He brings some of His people through the fire, so that they can be refined.

*"I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My Name, and I will answer them. I will say, This is My people; and each one will say, YHWH is my Elohim."* Zechariah 13:9

Berakhot

Todd

[www.shemayisrael.net](http://www.shemayisrael.net)

Many people have been asking about Janet's mom. Mary Jane passed away this week peacefully.

Thank you all for your prayers, especially for Janet, during these difficult times. She was a devoted daughter who spent so much of her life attending to the needs of her parents. Of course, with every loss there is sadness, despite the hope and assurances that we know her mom believed in Elohim all of her life. We are thankful that we can take comfort in the fact that she knew His true Name and loved Him. Now she sleeps, awaiting the sound of the shofar.

Shema Yisrael (Hear O Yisrael) are the words that Yahushua spoke when asked what was the First Command.

*"The first of all the Commandments is: 'Hear, O Yisrael, YHWH our Elohim, YHWH is one.'"*  
*Mark 12:29*



*"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*  
Matthew 11:15