

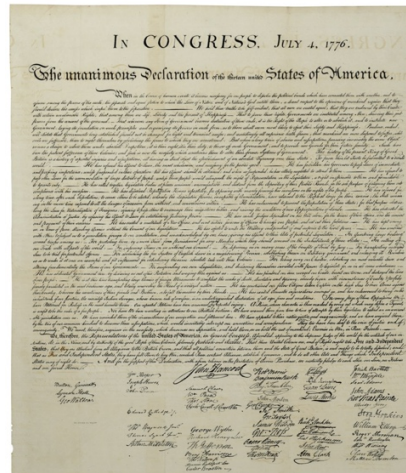
## A Reason to Celebrate



This article was originally published as a weekly message on Day 9 of Month 4 of the Creator's calendar, otherwise known as July 5, 2025 on the Roman calendar.

Yesterday was July 4, 2025, and in America, people celebrated the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, although it was actually signed over a period of time.

In fact, while it was adopted on July 4, 1776, most signed it on August 2, 1776. Nevertheless, it is the Fourth of July weekend, and most Americans are celebrating the birth of a nation, as if a nation was born in a day.



While the holiday commemorates the signing of a document, that document did not actually provide them with independence.

It famously declared “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

It then detailed a long list of grievances and was essentially an indictment against the King of England. It described him as a tyrant and provided the justification for separating from the monarchy by establishing an independent governmental system.

Needless to say, it was not received very well by the king. A revolution would be required to give any weight to that piece of paper.

The declarants had to act upon the declaration that they made. It was words followed by action.

Indeed, the document would have had no impact at all if they had simply published the declaration and taken no further action.

Fighting alone was insufficient. They actually had to win the war. Those words would have had no effect if they had lost the Revolutionary War.

If the British won, the king would have just burned the Declaration of Independence after he hanged all of the signers, and it would have been added to the ash heap of history.

Instead, that piece of paper became one of the founding documents for the most powerful Nation in history, which was essentially an amalgamation of people from many different Nations.

We often talk about the importance of the Nations in the Plan of Elohim, and there is no doubt that Britain and the United States have played a significant part in history.

The traditions surrounding the Messiah's traveling and visiting the lost tribes with Joseph are intriguing, as are those involving the so-called Stone of Destiny, also known as the Stone of Scone.<sup>1</sup>



The fact that, to this day, the British monarchy claims a connection with Jacob is nothing short of profound, especially in light of the fact

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<sup>1</sup> It is asserted that the Stone of Scone is the actual stone (אֶבֶן) that Jacob slept on and anointed at Bethel, and that Joseph later took possession of.

that most people are entirely oblivious to that claim. That stone (אבן) is placed under the throne during coronation ceremonies.



Some suggest that the origin of the word Britain is “Brit Am,” which means “covenant people” in Hebrew. Indeed, the Scottish people actually previously entered into a National Covenant on a piece of paper in protest against the King of England’s attempts to control their faith. They made a covenant with each other and with their God.

So, there is something interesting about these people from Britain, and there is speculation as to whether Britain represents the older brother Manasseh and the United States of America represents the younger brother Ephraim.





Now I'm not espousing British Israelism, but there is no denying the significant impact that these English-speaking nations have had on colonizing the world, implementing English as the lingua Franca, and then spreading Christianity throughout the planet.

The process was not always pretty or perfect, but written Bibles have been brought to every corner of the planet and subsequently translated into diverse languages. That process has occurred, in large part, through these Nations.

When I used to travel to Africa, I was amazed that I could go and communicate with Christians in various assemblies in different countries without needing a translator, because they were once British colonies and spoke English.

And it's not just Africa. I can communicate with people in countries around the world because I share the same language as the many British colonies that were previously spread throughout the world. There is a famous quote that "the sun never sets on the British Empire because it was so vast.

Clearly, these Nations have played an important role as the plan of Elohim unfolds throughout the centuries. The fact that these countries took on the mantle of Christianity and rebelled against the authority of the Roman Catholic Church is significant as well.

For years, people have tried to find the United States in prophecy when the answer has been right under our noses, or should I say toes.

The great image of Babylon revealed to both Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel showed the flow of world empires until the final destruction by the “stone” (יָסֵף).<sup>2</sup>

That is why I find the “Stone of Scone” to be so interesting, especially considering the role that Britain has played in the founding of the modern State of Israel. I have taken both my children to Edinburgh, Scotland, to see the stone. I want them to be aware of these things that so many are not aware of. I don’t want them to be ignorant.

Well, I wonder how many Americans who are celebrating actually read the Declaration of Independence.

Do they actually know what it says?

Did they consider the relationship that was established between man and government? Did they consider the rights and responsibilities of a free people? Did they consider how far removed America is from its origins and what they may need to do in order to return?

Probably not. For most people, Independence Day means parades, picnics, fun, food, and fireworks.

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<sup>2</sup> Daniel 2:35

While most people are celebrating their independence, few likely consider how they have actually become slaves in a new developing technocracy.

In fact, while President Trump signed his Big Beautiful Bill, it was really just a symbolic gesture commemorating the transition of the Republic into a technocratic Empire that is enslaving and controlling its populace. The entire process showed the futility of the system and the divisions that exist in the country.

Of course, Americans don't have physical balls and chains attached to their ankles. Instead, they have digital handcuffs, and the Border enhancements, walls, and Golden Dome envisioned by President Trump are all destined to become a massive surveillance system.

I still remember what it was like to fly in the 80's. The process that people must go through now in order to get on an airplane is grueling, invasive, and exhausting.

All privacy is lost once you enter an airport. The TSA can paw through all your luggage, scan you and your belongings, swab you, radiate your body, fracture your DNA with millimeter wave scanners, and even frisk you if you don't want to be scanned. Guilty until proven innocent these days. Everyone is a suspected terrorist.

That social paranoia is expanding to all parts of society. It is important to remember that secure borders don't just keep people out. They keep people in as well. Just ask the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, who have been subjected to confinement, pogroms, torture, assassinations, and imprisonment coordinated through the prototype Palantir surveillance system that is scheduled to come to America.

This is all the Hegelian Dialectic in operation. Previously, terrorism was the basis for the Patriot Act and starting to control society. Now, open borders and mass illegal immigration, are getting us to the next step. It's going to be important to finish the wall and monitor every part of our society to protect people, because the terrorists and unaccounted illegals are already in and mixed among us. It was all planned and intentional.

We are also going to need mass detention centers to lock people up. But it's all going to be for your protection. There is always a reason to justify the diminishment of people's rights and privacy.

That reminds me of a quote from Benjamin Franklin: "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

So, the irony is profound that people are blissfully and ignorantly celebrating their independence while they are being put deeper into debt, subjugation, and enslavement.

This is all happening because the masses are completely distracted by all of the excitement and entertainment associated with their holiday, and modern society. They have utterly failed to heed the warnings of those who originally declared their independence from tyranny.

Here is what they wrote in the Declaration:

"That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will



dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security."

Those words were revolutionary, and most people fail to fully comprehend their impact. If Americans today decided to heed this advice and sought to abolish the government, they would immediately be labelled insurrectionists and domestic terrorists.

When asked by Elizabeth Willing Powel: "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" Benjamin Franklin is quoted as stating: "A republic, if you can keep it."

In my opinion, the people failed to keep it. While the veneer of a Republic still exists, the Republic has been lost to an oligarchy that controls the money, information, and policies of America.

Consider the fact that America is essentially at war against Russia in Ukraine and at war against Iran without any declaration of war by Congress. The Constitution, which is another piece of paper drafted by the founders, places the authority to go to war with Congress, not the President.

Regardless, we see Presidents who freely engage in wars, assassinations, and military operations without even consulting Congress. America is doing the bidding of the modern State of Israel because the politicians are bought and paid for by special interests

and lobby groups. The voice of the people doesn't matter as much, and if they get too loud, they are typically presented with some convenient distractions to divert their attention.

I used to be heavily involved in politics in my younger years until I realized the futility of fighting for a temporal kingdom. I much prefer expending my life and energy for the eternal Kingdom ruled by a Righteous King.

All of these historical events are valuable, though. I think there are some interesting parallels with faith and religion in all of this, especially when we see the phenomenon of Christian Zionism mixing religious beliefs with political efforts. There is a faction of the Conservative Republican party that has essentially become a religious movement.

I see many different religious systems manipulating and controlling people just like governments and powers do. Ultimately, spiritual forces are working behind all of these institutions.

And sadly, there are many people in religious systems who think they have the answer. In particular, there are a lot of Christians who sincerely believe that they have a ticket to heaven, but they have actually been deceived. They have been listening to voices telling them they are free and blessed when they are actually slaves to sin, headed for destruction.

Last week, we discussed the importance of escaping all the noise and listening to the voice of Elohim.

The reason we need to listen and obey is that our relationship with the Creator is actually defined by a declaration – the declaration of a Covenant uttered by the Voice of Elohim.

Those words were later etched into stone and written down in a document.

So, we have a King Who not only speaks to us, but He has also provided us with some very special writings.

Some of those words were written on tablets of stone. We have them written on pieces of paper. Sometimes they are found in long scrolls made of animal skins. We now have them in digital form on all sorts of devices and on the internet.

אֱלֹהִים provided the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings that laid the foundations of the Covenant and described the flow of the Covenant through centuries. We also have the words of the Messiah, Who came to renew the Covenant that was broken and in disrepair.

How amazing that we have all of these words in so many forms.

It is such a gift and a blessing that we often take for granted

The notion that we can hold all of these incredible texts in our hands and read them and review them whenever we want is remarkable.

Nevertheless, those written documents alone won't save us. They can help us learn about our Creator, our Redeemer, and Savior, but the written words alone are insufficient.

They can aid us in our quest to know אֱלֹהִים and His Son, but simply holding and reading the documents does not mean we know Him or He knows us.

Did you catch that?

It's a distinction with a very important difference.

Knowledge does not equate to being known. We are not chosen because of our genetics or because we memorize the texts.

With everything that is currently going on in the Middle East right now, there is a lot of fresh discussion about scriptural Yisrael.

I am very happy to see and hear a lot of Christian commentators wake up concerning Dispensationalism and Zionism.

Unfortunately, I am also hearing a lot of the rhetoric from Christians concerning “Jesus only” and the fact that there’s nothing we can do to participate in our salvation. It’s all Jesus.

Instead of presenting salvation through a covenant relationship, most Christians remain firm in their stance that salvation is simply a decision.

Imagine if all the children of Yisrael in Egypt told Moses that they believed in אֱלֹהִים, but they weren’t going to slaughter a lamb or partake in the Passover meal, because there was nothing they could do. It’s all Jesus.

What if Abram refused to cross over the Euphrates and actually leave Babylon. After all, what’s the sense if it’s all Jesus?

The writings that אֱלֹהִים has provided actually describe numerous examples of people who obeyed and participated in the Covenant as directed. They obeyed as a demonstration of their faith.

Sadly, many Christians have been led to believe that there is no need to obey, just believe in their hearts.

That is why we see many Christians going to church in order to get entertained through music, festivities, and “fireworks,” kind of like a weekly Fourth of July celebration. It makes them feel good, and it reinforces the illusion of their belief system.

We live in a world full of distractions that attempt to tear our attention away from a relationship with אֱלֹהִים. That is why we must listen closely to His Voice.

Last week, we examined the still small voice spoken to Elijah on the Mountain, and I believe the message was intended to prepare us to listen to a voice from a man, the voice of אֱלֹהִים spoken through His Son.

Yisrael received the “fireworks” at the Mountain, and they still worshipped a golden calf. אֱלֹהִים was going to do a new thing. That was the message conveyed through Elijah.

Thankfully, we have the words written for us that have been passed down through the centuries in various languages and documents.

Now let’s take another look at some of the words recorded of that voice on a mountain that I heard all of my life. That still, small voice eventually helped wake me out of my slumber.

It was part of a larger teaching of Yahushua that He spoke on a mountain, and the voice began with what are known as “The Beatitudes.”

Yahushua was up on that mountain teaching His disciples about the Kingdom, and toward the end of the teaching, He provided some cautionary words as follows:

*“<sup>13</sup> Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup> Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. <sup>15</sup> Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by their fruits you will know them. <sup>21</sup> Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness! <sup>24</sup> Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” Matthew 7:13-27*

So, after explaining the ways of the Kingdom, Yahushua told His disciples that the way to life is narrow and difficult.

That’s not something you typically hear from Christian evangelists. In fact, most will tell you that it is easy . . . very easy. Just say a prayer or simply raise your hand.



Once saved, always saved. It's great if you read your Bible and go to church, but it's completely optional because you can't lose your salvation.

It's interesting that Yahushua then proceeds to warn against false prophets and the importance of fruit.

That is perfectly consistent with the fact that Yahushua cursed the fig tree because it was not bearing fruit. Of course, that tree represented the House of Yahudah, and Yahushua stated that it would never bear fruit and that the Kingdom would be taken from it and given to a Nation bearing the fruits of it.<sup>3</sup>

In fact, He stated that *"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."*

By no coincidence, that was the same warning given to John the Immerser to the Yahudim.<sup>4</sup>

And that is exactly what happened to the Yahudim who refused to repent and turn.

Now, after Yahushua gives specific warnings about bearing "good fruit," He then describes a group of people whom He will reject.

These weren't people who just raised their hands, made a decision for Jesus, and then fell back asleep.

They were actually doing things, and by the sound of it, amazing things. They were prophesying, casting out demons, and performing wonders, all in the name of Jesus.

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<sup>3</sup> Matthew 21:43

<sup>4</sup> *"And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."* Matthew 3:10

In fact, they were doing the same things that Yahushua and His disciples were doing. That all sounds like good fruit, but there was a problem.

Yahushua says He doesn't know them.

It doesn't seem to make sense. They are shocked, and I was confused when I read this passage in my youth.

They were doing things. Powerful and exciting things. How can He not know them? Why would He tell them to depart?

It sounds like certain Pentecostal Churches that I attended in the past. You would leave the service feeling pumped and energized. It seemed certain that the Holy Spirit had been there. How could there be a problem with that?

Well, the problem is that despite all the "fireworks," many people in those charismatic services are going to find themselves in the shoes of those many who get rejected by the Messiah.

Why exactly does Yahushua reject them?

Well, He specifically says: *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."*

So, it's not what you say, but what you do, and you need to do the will of the Father for Yahushua to actually be your Lord.

In other words, you can call Him Lord all you want and do a bunch of things in His Name. You can even operate in the spiritual realm, but none of it matters unless you are actually doing the will of the Father.

And what exactly is the will of the Father?

It is the Torah, which is the Declaration of Independence through a Covenant, given to the Covenant Assembly at the Mountain of Elohim.

The will of the Father is provided through the words of the Covenant that we are not just supposed to read, but we are supposed to live. And through those words watering and fertilizing us, we then can bear fruit – good fruit.

This takes us all the way back to the Garden.

Remember that אָדָם was the One Who planted the trees, not Adam.

אָדָם decides what is good fruit and what is bad fruit.

If we want to be planted in His Garden, then we need to be bearing the fruits that He desires in His Garden.

Do you remember the verse from Isaiah 61 that Yahushua read in the Synagogue in Nazareth? I've mentioned it many times in the past.

Yahushua revealed that it applied to Him and that passage specifically states that He came *"To console those who mourn in Tzyon, To give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of אָדָם, that He may be glorified."* Isaiah 61:3

You can only be a tree of righteousness if you are bearing the fruits of righteous behavior.

The problem with the many Christians that Yahushua ends up rejecting is that they aren't bearing the fruits that He was looking for.

Remember that the Torah doesn't command everyone to prophecy, cast out demons, or perform wonders.

The Torah instructs us how to live righteous lives, and how to bear the fruits of righteousness so that we can be trees of righteousness that get planted in the Garden of Elohim.

We are known by our fruits, and the way that Yahushua knows us is if we bear good fruit.

The many people being rejected by Yahushua don't really know אֱלֹהִים or His Son because they reject His ways. They don't even know His Name or His Son's Name. They were doing things, but they weren't doing His Will. They were not following His instructions. They were lawless.

Yahushua makes that point crystal clear. He specifically states: *"And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"*

Of course, these were all well-meaning people. I'm not trying to criticize them, but only point out that they got distracted and lost focus. They are the focus of my current mission, because I used to dwell in their camp. I desire to warn them before it's too late.

Yahushua concluded the teaching that began with the beatitudes and the blessings by warning the people not to simply listen to His words, but to do them.

Sadly, many people miss this very important warning. They get distracted and led astray by religion, false teachers, and false prophets.

I've seen it repeatedly throughout the decades.

People are currently spiritually starving, and they will chase signs, wonders, music, entertainment, a charismatic personality . . . anything that will satisfy their spiritual appetite.

Sadly, they end up living on a sugar diet, going from one high to another. That is why church has simply become a fix for some.

Last week, I talked about an event involving Elijah. He was, without a doubt, one of the greatest prophets ever used by Elohim. In fact, the final prophecy in our Scriptures, known as Malachi, actually promises a return of Elijah, and Yahushua mentions that John the Immerser was a fulfillment of that promise.

Elijah even met with Yahushua during that amazing event known as the Mount of Transfiguration. What a privilege.

He was clearly unique and special. Nevertheless, he was a man who made mistakes, like anyone else. Just because אֱלֹהִים uses someone, it doesn't mean they are perfect or somehow become perfect. In fact, the Scriptures are filled with great men and women used by אֱלֹהִים who made mistakes.

Those texts often specifically point out those mistakes, which should give us all hope as we see both the mercy and judgment of Elohim, who does not show partiality.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> See Acts 10:34

Consider Moses. He was, without a doubt, a mighty Prophet of אֱלֹהִים. He operated in tremendous power and had an intimate and unique relationship with אֱלֹהִים.

Even so, he was not perfect. He murdered an Egyptian before he fled for his life. He apparently had difficulty speaking, and ultimately, he was not permitted to enter into the Promised Land.

In the end, it wasn't about the signs, wonders, and prophecies. Ultimately, it came down to obedience.

Moses did not follow the instructions to speak to the Rock. Instead, he struck the Rock out of anger. That mistake cost him dearly. He was unable to enter the Promised Land.

It doesn't mean אֱלֹהִים thought any less of him. Like Elijah, he was privileged to participate in the event at the Mount of Transfiguration involving Yahushua.

He made a mistake, and he was punished. That was an example for us that we need to diligently obey. That is the good fruit אֱלֹהִים is looking for. And thankfully, אֱלֹהִים is willing to work with us in our imperfect state.

So, our pieces of paper that we compile into a codex called the Bible provide great lessons, but unless we heed those lessons, they are just pieces of paper with writing on them.

They become living and powerful when the words get inside of us and we actually do them. That is when we manifest the Kingdom into this current reality and bear the fruits of righteousness.

At some point in our lives, we all had to make a declaration of independence from sin and lawlessness.



Often, that is combined with a declaration of faith and immersion as an act of faith. It symbolizes our understanding that we must be born again. We believe in the resurrection and we recognize the need to become new creations.

It is also symbolic of the washing away of our sins.

When the Yisraelites were immersed in the waters of the Jordan, those waters flowed into the Dead Sea. Some tradition holds that the Dead Sea used to be referred to as the Lake of Fire, because burning pieces of tar used to float on top of it. That is really quite an image and a pattern.

Of course, the definition of sin is disobedience to אֱלֹהִים.

*“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness,  
and sin is lawlessness.”*

1 John 3:4

It is such a simple principle built into creation from the beginning. Obedience leads to blessings and life dwelling with Elohim. Disobedience leads to curses, death and separation from Elohim.

So naturally, if you recognize you are a sinner, that comes from acknowledging that you have not been walking with אֱלֹהִים, and obeying His commands. Repentance involves turning away from disobedience and sin, and toward אֱלֹהִים and His ways. Repentance is not simply an internal decision or a confession of words from your mouth. It involves action – doing the will of the Father. That is the proof that you actually repented.

So many Christians struggle with this concept.

They view obedience as bondage instead of freedom. That is sad, because James referred to the Torah as the perfect Law of Liberty that leads to blessings.

*“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” James 1:25*

Yahushua specifically stated: *“<sup>34</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. <sup>35</sup> And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. <sup>36</sup> Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” John 8:34-36*

Remember that the children of Yisrael were given the Torah after they were delivered from slavery. The Hebrew word Mitsrayim (Egypt) literally means “bondage.”

So, as America celebrates its rejection of a tyrant king, and the freedoms that they cherish, they should also be thinking of the eternal King Who provides true freedom.

We should all be listening and obeying the righteous King Who provides us with access to the Tree of Life that leads to liberty from the curse of death, and eternal happiness in His Kingdom.

Now that’s a reason to celebrate!

Berakhot

Todd

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