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Last month (July 2024), I talked about the fact that the world witnessed a Presidential assassination attempt in a month named after the assassinated leader of the Roman Republic Julius Caesar.

Well, this month was named after the adopted son of Julius Caesar who was actually the first emperor of the transformed Roman Empire. His name was originally Octavian, which means "eight," although he later changed it to Augustus.

That is why the month of August is the eighth month, and interestingly, the number eight typically represents “new beginning.” Rome definitely experienced new beginnings as it morphed from a Republic into an Empire under the rulership of Octavian.

The change was not so apparent to the common man, especially to the citizens of Rome who continued to get his or her daily bread from the Republic and then from the Empire.

Here is a brief overview of the daily bread provided by Rome.

“Roman Government used the term Cura Annoae (care for the grain supply) in honour to their goddess Annona and to help keep citizens happy since bread was a important item in Romans diet. A shortage of grain to make bread or a increase in price for grain could have serious uproars, riots which would impact the stability of the Roman Government and deliver serious political consequences to people in power.

Grain subsidies originally started as a grain law proposed by Gaius Gracchus that allowed adult male citizens of Rome to buy grains at a below market price in 123 BCE but later in the Republic eligibility was expanded and was converted from a subsidy to free hand out to its citizens.

Since bread was a important part of Roman Diet they had plenty of communal ovens and animal driven mills to turn grains into flour and from flour to bread thus they wouldn't need an army of bakers to make the bread.

By around the 2nd century CE the population of Rome was estimated at around 1,000,000. However, only around 200,000 to 300,000 of the poorer residents of the city of Rome would get free grain and was later changed to bread.”

The Roman government understood that if it could keep the citizens fed and entertained, then they could do just about anything – even change from a Republic to an Empire. I discussed the notion of “bread and circuses” in a previous message.

Not much is different in American society, which is obsessed with fun and entertainment. They are on the fast track to Socialism, and very few even seem to care.

Nevertheless, as I observe the politics in America, I find it incredible that Democrats, of all people, are not disturbed by the sleight of hand that just occurred under their noses.

First of all, the United States of America was founded as a Republic, not a democracy. This is a huge misconception and one of the clear failures of the United States Education system. It also demonstrates the validity of the illusory truth effect.

The illusory truth effect is the idea that people perceive repeated information as more truthful than new information. This can happen because repetition can increase processing fluency.

People repeat on a daily basis that the United States spreads democracy around the world, and thus, they assume that the United States is a democracy.

In similar fashion they parrot the notion that the modern State of Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East. American Zionists then repeat this mantra as a basis for their unwavering support of Israel. The logic goes that one democracy must support and defend another democracy, especially when it is surrounded by enemies.

Well, that's all a false paradigm and has even presented democracy as a sort of religious doctrine – one that must be spread and defended. In truth, democracy is actually a system of governance that essentially amounts to “mob rules,” and Democracy has now become a religion of the mob.

James Madison, when considering Athenian Democracy stated: "In all very numerous assemblies, of whatever characters composed, passion never fails to wrest the sceptre from reason," He argued in The Federalist Papers, "Had every Athenian citizen been a Socrates, every Athenian assembly would still have been a mob."

John Adams is attributed with saying: "Remember Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes exhausts and murders itself. There never was a Democracy yet, that did not commit suicide. It is in vain to say that Democracy is less vain, less proud, less selfish, less ambitious or less avaricious than Aristocracy or Monarchy."

James Madison and John Adams were right, and due to the fact that only two parties actually dictate the political narrative of the United States, it is essentially operating as a de facto democracy since whoever gets more than 50 percent of the votes wins the popular vote, which is supposed to mirror the electoral college.

So the Democrats carry a title that is not supposed to reflect the system of government described in the US Constitution, but that has become the reality.

Nevertheless, very few in the Democratic Party actually had a say in what constitutes the majority. The Democrats have essentially been operating as a monarchy, with former President Obama pulling the strings from behind the scenes for the past several years, essentially extending his presidency through the Biden Administration.

Long time Democrat and member of an iconic Democrat family, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. was completely shut out by his party. He was not allowed to primary against President Biden and ended up defecting so that he could run for President.

As a result, Democrats were offered no choice in their primaries for the upcoming Presidential election, and recently, former President Obama, Nancy Pelosi, and the donor class essentially conducted a coup on President Biden.

It was a political assassination without the shedding of any blood. It was clean and neat, much different than the assassination of Julius Caesar, which triggered the rapid transformation of Rome from a Republic to an Empire through Octavian, who Julius Caesar adopted through his will.

The assassins of Julius Caesar feared an Empire, and they got one anyway.

These are the same fears expressed by Democrats who warn against Donald Trump getting reelected, although their party is actually the one acting as if America is already an Empire.

Kamala Harris was selected by the very few to run for President, not the majority of Democrats. Now, she is being repackaged and remarketed as if she is going to save America after being an active participant in the disastrous and deceptive Biden Administration.

She covered and lied while the mental condition of President Biden was rapidly deteriorating. She was then intimately involved in his removal. Barely any Democrats said a peep. They all appeared relieved that Biden was out of the running, but at what cost?

Well, this is all very interesting to watch in the month named after Augustus, who is attributed as founding the Roman Empire. As stated, he was the first Roman Emperor, and his reign lasted from January 16, 27 BCE until August 19, 14 CE

While all of this may seem remote and even irrelevant to our current events, the life of Augustus is very pertinent to those who follow Messiah of Yahushua.

First of all, we are still observing a month named in honor of the first Roman Emperor, over two thousand years after his death. That in itself is amazing.

It is also interesting to note that Messiah Yahushua, the King of the Yahudim, was born during the reign of Augustus.

This is highly significant since the text of Luke provides: *“And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.”* Luke 2:1

We understand from the Gospels that the actions of Augustus actually resulted in Yahushua being born in Bethlehem. That was a fulfillment of prophecy.

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Yahudah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Yisrael, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2

While Yahushua was conceived in the Galilee of the Nations, He was birthed into the world at Bethlehem, which literally “house of bread.” He later described himself as “the bread of life.” John 6:35 and 6:48

While Rome was feeding the citizens of Rome bread that would feed them for a day, Yahushua was offering Himself as sustenance that would last forever. *“He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”* John 6:35

Of course, Bethlehem was the hometown of King David, and since Joseph was a descendant of David, he needed to register in Bethlehem. That is why he traveled there with Miryam, who was pregnant with Yahushua.

The fact that a man named Joseph adopted Yahushua has profound significance, as we consider that the lost sheep of the House of Yisrael (Joseph), scattered throughout the world, are primarily the ones who believe in Yahushua. Sadly, the enemy has been hard at work deceiving the world concerning His identity.

Remember how Joseph's brothers did not recognize him in Egypt? He walked and talked like an Egyptian. They did not recognize him until the appointed time when he chose to reveal himself.

That is when he disclosed his purpose. *"⁷ Elohim sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ So now it was not you who sent me here, but Elohim; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and master of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt."* Genesis 43:7-8

The same is currently happening as both Joseph and Yahushua, Messiah ben Joseph, are hidden and disguised until the Appointed Time.

So, Emperor Augustus was actually an integral part of the plan of Elohim and the fulfillment of prophecy involving the King that would save the Covenant people and restore the Kingdom.

In the midst of the convulsions occurring in the Roman Empire, the Kingdom of Yisrael was also seeing major events. Little did people know that Rome was simply a tool for YHWH to accomplish the objectives of His Kingdom.

That should be a lesson for us all as we observe the actions of rulers and Nations. It should also be comforting.

Instead of focusing on the political machinations of Rome, we should be praying about the Kingdom.

In my years of studying politics, I have concluded that I would much rather be ruled by a righteous King than participate in a Democracy, a Republic, or an Empire.

I don't trust the majority, the mob, or any politician for that matter - and neither should you.

Regardless, the early settlers that came to America decided to throw off the yoke of what they determined to be a tyrannical monarchy.

Sadly, over the decades that followed, what seemed like a good system to protect life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for the common man has turned into a different form of tyranny.

America has become a system of corrupted and compromised "representatives" who represent special interests that fund their campaigns rather than the citizens who elect them.

So, despite America's origins in dealing with a tyrannical monarchy, it has ultimately fallen prey to greedy, self-interested politicians and is currently in a state of severe decline and collapse. Many would describe its government as tyrannical.

America was a grand experiment, but it relied on a morally sound and fiercely independent populace willing to fight and protect its freedoms. In fact, the founding fathers built in a reset option if things went wrong.

Consider the words of The Declaration of Independence:

“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. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, - 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.”

These words are like “god-breathed” to most patriotic Americans, and they are revolutionary. They connect people’s rights to self-govern with “God-given rights.” They also give a green light to change the government if it stops serving the needs of the people.

The problem is that when patriotism mixes with religion, it is easy to get confused and lose your focus. Especially if you claim to follow the Elohim of Yisrael.

As an American who believes in Yahushua, it is easy to forget that I am a citizen of an eternal Kingdom. I already live in a Monarchy. I have pledged my allegiance to YHWH, through the Covenant renewed by His Son.

I am, therefore, a subject of the Heavenly Monarchy that rules over the universe. This portion of the Kingdom of YHWH that we currently reside in has been in rebellion, but it is about to be reclaimed by the Prince of the Army of YHWH. That is the only power struggle that we should be concerned with.

Currently, the United States has become polarized into special interest groups and factions, all seeking their piece of the pie. Forgotten are the founding principles of free speech, free and independent press, and unfettered gun ownership.

Now, only politically correct speech is tolerated. Everything else gets censored by the majority of the media outlets that are aligned with the technocratic beast system that is engulfing the planet. The next big move is to take away the guns so that the population can become completely subjugated and unable to resist.

The United States of America is no longer united, and America is a faint whisper of what it was meant to be because it has lost its course and forgotten its founding principles.

The States have succumbed to the power of an ever-increasing Federal Government, which has literally become a hammer that will beat its populace into submission and bleed them dry in order to grow in power and spend itself into oblivion.

The Federal Government then carries that hammer throughout the world to beat other nations into submission for their resources. They have been able to do this because of the dominance of the U.S. Dollars status as a world reserve currency, but that is about to change.

The land of the free and home of the brave is quickly becoming the land of the slaves and the home of the over-taxed and exhausted masses. (At least the ones who are not feeding at the government trough)

It happens to every republic, and it was inevitable to occur with the American republic, or should I say "empire."

While I stated that I would rather be ruled by a righteous King, an examination of the history of Yisrael, as provided through 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles, reveals that the odds are against us there as well.

The common denominator in the eventual devolution of governments into tyranny is man. To be specific, sinful man.

Incredibly, YHWH was originally the King of Yisrael, but the people weren't satisfied. They wanted a king, like the nations around them. They wanted a man.

This was not a surprise. YHWH foretold this would happen through Moses.

"¹⁴ When you come to the Land which YHWH your Elohim is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,' ¹⁵ you shall surely set a king over you whom YHWH your Elohim chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother." Deuteronomy 17:14-15

They went the entire span of the judges without a king. The Yisraelites coexisted as separate and independent tribes. They were supposed to stay unified through the Appointed Times by gathering at the House of YHWH three times a year. They would come and pay homage to their King at His palace, or should I say His tent.

The problem is that people stopped going. Just prior to the birth of Shemuel we read the following:

"¹ Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. ² And

he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. ³ This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to YHWH of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of YHWH, were there.” 1 Shemuel 1:1-3

The continuing account reveals that the priesthood, and the Tabernacle were corrupted. The sons of the High Priest Eli were profaning the offerings that people presented, and he did not stop them.

The people didn't want to make offerings that would be stolen and defiled. The numbers ended up dwindling, which resulted in separation from each other and separation from YHWH. The Aaronic priesthood failed YHWH and the people.

As a result, YHWH called Shemuel as a child to serve Him. He allowed His Mishkan (Tabernacle) to be abandoned. His Ark was taken by the Philistines and the sons of Eli were killed. Shiloh eventually became desolate, and some believed it was destroyed by the Philistines.

That was an abomination of desolation event, by the way.

Just like there is not simply one “Day of the Lord” event in the future, but many judgment events in the past, the same holds true with the mysterious “abomination of desolation” that many mistakenly place in the future.

There was an “abomination of desolation” event when Antiochus IV Epiphanes desecrated the Temple in 168 BCE.

Another abomination of desolation, referenced by Yahushua, occurred in 70 CE when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. Again, the Roman Empire played an important role in the

Kingdom of YHWH as it was used to punish the House of Yahudah. That's just a side note to our current discussion, but the failure to understand that fact will get people into trouble when it comes to prophetic events in the future.

Shemuel ended up being the last judge in the Kingdom of Yisrael, directly ruled by YHWH. He went out to the people, like Yahushua, and his life provides many patterns for Messiah Yahushua. It is particularly poignant that Shemuel was the prophet who oversaw the transition of Yisrael to a man.

Here is the account:

"¹ Now it came to pass when Shemuel was old that he made his sons judges over Yisrael. ² The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. ³ But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. ⁴ Then all the elders of Yisrael gathered together and came to Shemuel at Ramah, ⁵ and said to him, Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. ⁶ But the thing displeased Shemuel when they said, Give us a king to judge us. So Shemuel prayed to YHWH. ⁷ And YHWH said to Shemuel, Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. ⁸ According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day - with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods - so they are doing to you also. ⁹ Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them. ¹⁰ So Shemuel told all the words of YHWH to the people who asked him for a king. ¹¹ And he said, This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. ¹² He will appoint captains over his thousands and

captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. ¹⁴ And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. ¹⁵ He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. ¹⁶ And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. ¹⁷ He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. ¹⁸ And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and YHWH will not hear you in that day. ¹⁹ Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Shemuel; and they said, No, but we will have a king over us, ²⁰ that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles. ²¹ And Shemuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of YHWH. ²² So YHWH said to Shemuel, Heed their voice, and make them a king.” 1 Shemuel 8:1-22

Even though YHWH was their King, His priests had failed to properly represent Him, in the past. While Shemuel judged righteously, the people did not want anything to do with his sons.

Despite the fact that YHWH warned them they would be oppressed by their king, the people still wanted a man. That desire was deemed to be wicked by YHWH.

Read the account when the first king named Saul was anointed as King.

“¹⁶ Now therefore, stand and see this great thing which YHWH will do before your eyes: ¹⁷ Is today not the wheat harvest? I will call to YHWH, and He will send thunder and rain, that you may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of YHWH, in asking a king for yourselves. ¹⁸ So Shemuel called to YHWH, and YHWH

sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared YHWH and Shemuel. ¹⁹ And all the people said to Shemuel, Pray for your servants to YHWH your Elohim, that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of asking a king for ourselves. ²⁰ Then Shemuel said to the people, Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following YHWH, but serve YHWH with all your heart. ²¹ And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing. ²² For YHWH will not forsake His people, for His great Name's sake, because it has pleased YHWH to make you His people. ²³ Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against YHWH in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way. ²⁴ Only fear YHWH, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. ²⁵ But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.” 1 Shemuel 12:16-25

Now that's what I call climate change. It typically doesn't rain during the wheat harvest, and the people knew it. YHWH was not happy with them, because it was a rejection of Him.

Well, they got what they asked for. The first king, although he looked the part, ended up being a failure.

The second King David, although flawed, was a king who was zealous for YHWH, and sought righteousness.

Sadly, his son, and the majority of the kings who followed in the House of Yahudah and the House of Yisrael were evil. From a reading of the Scriptures it appears that in the combined kingdoms, out of 39 kings and 1 queen, arguably only 5 of them were really righteous.

Not very good odds.

The problem is, they got sloppy, and they acted like the kings of the other Nations.

The kings of Yisrael were given specific instructions to make them set apart from other kings.

We already mentioned that the king was not to be a foreigner. That is because foreigners served false gods, and would not be rooted in the Covenant. The King needed to be circumcised on the eighth day, and raised within the Covenant.

Here are some additional Commandments directed specifically at the kings. *“¹⁶ . . . He shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for YHWH has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’ ¹⁷ Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself. ¹⁸ Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this Torah in a Scroll, from the one before the priests, the Levites. ¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear YHWH his Elohim and be careful to observe all the words of this Torah and these statutes, ²⁰ that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Yisrael.”* Deuteronomy 17:16-20

All of these instructions for kings were intended to keep them humble and focused on the Covenant path. Imagine having a king who actually did these things. A king who studied the Torah and focused on YHWH continually. A king who diligently obeyed the Commandments and was a shepherd to his flock. A king who liberated, healed, and fed his people. It sounds almost too good to be true.

While Solomon was given wisdom, he chose to disobey these specific Commands, and his actions caused the Kingdom to be divided into two houses.

The King of Yisrael was not supposed to accumulate many wives, yet Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines! (1 Kings 11:3)

The King of Yisrael was not supposed to have horses and chariots like Pharaoh, in order to project pride and power. He was supposed to ride on a donkey. That would demonstrate that the king was a humble servant who relied upon the power of Elohim.

The Scriptures record: *“Now Solomon had 4,000 stalls for horses and chariots and 12,000 horsemen, and he stationed them in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.”* 2 Chronicles 9:25

We don't know if Solomon ever obeyed the Command to write his own Torah Scroll. It appears not to be the case because he definitely did not diligently obey the instructions for kings.

While those specific commands were directed to a King of Yisrael, we are all commanded to “diligently keep the commands,” and “diligently obey the voice” of YHWH.

As I have stated many times, the blessings of the Covenant are conditional. *“If you diligently heed (שמרע שמע) the voice of YHWH your Elohim and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am YHWH who heals you.”* Exodus 15:26

Notice the “if-then” relationship.

Obedience to the terms of the Covenant was a condition for receiving the benefits of the Covenant. This is perfectly reasonable.

If you look in the Hebrew you will read “shamar shamar” (שמור שמור) or “shema shema” (שמע שמע) in certain passages requiring “diligence.”

YHWH does not stutter. He repeats Himself to emphasize the importance of the matter. The translators understood that, so they would add the word “diligent” to emphasize the point. (see Deuteronomy 6:17 and Deuteronomy 28:1)

Remember in the past when we discussed the fact that “perfect peace” in Isaiah 26:3 was “shalom shalom.”

Well, YHWH wants us to “perfectly hear” (shema shema), and “perfectly keep” (shamar shamar) the Commands.

We all have been exposed to “greasy grace” in our Christian walks, but YHWH demands perfection.

Remember how Noah was described as “perfect” in his generation? (Genesis 6:9) We, too, should be perfect in our generation if we want to serve Elohim.

YHWH specifically provides: *“My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with Me; he who walks in a perfect way, he shall serve me.”* Psalm 101:6

The word for perfect is “tamiym” (תמיים).

It doesn't mean that you never made a mistake in your life or sinned, as most Westerners view the word.

It means “blameless” and “unblemished,” and it represents a person's heart to obey and their corresponding walk with Elohim.

It is the condition we should all find ourselves in after being washed and covered by the blood of the Messiah. (Revelation 1:5)

Sadly, so many Christians “plead the blood” and then continue in sin because they refuse to obey the Torah. Yahushua shed His blood to cleanse us, and the point is for us to remain “unblemished” (תמיים).

The way that we stay clean is by being washed by the water of the Word. In other words, we read and hear the Word. We then let it flow in, and through, and out of us by our righteous actions. We live the Word.

When we remain in obedience, we walk perfectly before Elohim. This is a hallmark of His Covenant people.

Remember what YHWH instructed Abram when He changed his name to Abraham before the Covenant of Circumcision?

“¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, YHWH appeared to Abram and said to him, I am El Shaddai; walk before Me and be blameless. (tamiym) ² And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.” Genesis 17:1-2

There's that word again – “tamiym” (תמיים). If that is what YHWH expects from the one who He entered into the Covenant with, then why would He expect any different from us? The answer is simple. He doesn't.

It was a requirement of the Covenant, and it still is. YHWH never changed His mind regarding what He was looking for in a Covenant people. He even sent His Son to heal them and cleanse them. He then

sent the Spirit to empower them. So, people today have absolutely no excuse for not walking before Elohim and being blameless.

Sadly, not many Christians are taught to be perfect. In fact, most churches are like going to an alcoholics anonymous meeting. You know the process where they stand up and describe themselves as an alcoholic, even after they have stopped drinking?

How many Christians describe themselves as sinners, even after they have supposedly been set free by Jesus?

Talk about a negative confession!

The sad part is that they are correct if they remain in lawlessness. No wonder so many Christians are enslaved by sin. They have never truly been set free because they were not taught the definition of sin and the definition of righteousness as found in the Torah.

Of course, the enemy has no problem with people flocking to Mega Churches every Sunday as long as they are not being taught what it means to repent and walk perfectly. Remember the Doctrine of Balaam? It's rampant throughout modern Christianity.

If you have repented (turned) from your sinful ways, washed clean by the blood of Yahushua, if you are walking with Elohim and following His righteous instructions, then you are no longer a sinner like the Gentiles. You are no longer of the Nations - you are Yisrael in the Nations.

That is why the Appointed Times are keyed to the "tequfot" (turns).

They remind us to "turn" (repent) to YHWH and walk perfectly before Him. They remind us when to meet with Him so that we can seek Him and serve Him while He may be found.

Through the work of Yahushua and the filling of the Set-Apart Spirit, you can walk perfectly before YHWH. The question is whether you will put in the effort.

You show up for the battle when the Prince of the Army of YHWH is there to fight, not when you decide to fight. Likewise, you show up for the Appointed Times when YHWH invites us to meet with Him, not whenever the Pharisees tell you or when you feel like doing it.

This is not about salvation by works. We cannot work our way into the Kingdom. We only get into the Kingdom by His provision, and that is why Yahushua says to all of us – “Follow Me.” Our response to His call is to diligently follow Him.

This is not a new message, but one that bears repeating. We all need to be reminded because this world wants to distract you, deceive you, and wear you down.

I sent a similar message years ago after I watched Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral in the wee hours of the morning. I was working on a book when I received a news flash that her funeral had started. I decided to put it on in the darkness and was really taken by all of the precision and, dare I say, “perfection.”

I was watching intently at every detail, looking for a mistake. I’m sure there were mistakes, but from my view, it was flawless.

It went on for hours, and I’ll be honest with you; after the conclusion of the event, I was struck to the heart. Not because the Queen was dead, but by the fact that YHWH expects that level of service from all His subjects.

If people can put that degree of effort and diligence into honoring a deceased Queen, what should we be doing for our eternal and living King - the King of the Universe?

That's something to seriously consider and ponder. Do we put any effort into our service, or do we simply go through the motions?

I wonder if any of those people involved in the Queen's funeral considered the contrast, and would be willing to apply the same effort to serving YHWH every day?

Now consider how the zealous and faithful Republicans and Democrats adore their candidates. They donate money, time and energy to serve their party and get their leader elected.

They hold them up as saviors despite all of their apparent flaws. It is incredible how people are so quick to follow, adore, and even worship a man or a woman when we already have a King - Messiah Yahushua.

I know a King Who was the Word in the flesh. He lived perfectly, rode on a donkey, and laid down His life for His subjects. We owe Him everything, but what do we give back to Him?

If you are in the Kingdom of Elohim, then YHWH is your King, and we look forward to the coronation and installment of His Son as King over all this world. YHWH and His Son are both Kings of different Kingdoms. YHWH rules the heavens, and Yahushua will rule in this physical dimension once the rebellion is put down.

As we consider the approaching Day of Blasting (Yom Teruah), did you know it was the day when the reigns of the Kings of Yahudah were reckoned from?

Remember that the coronation date is different from an ascension date. A king or queen ascends to the throne upon the death of the reigning monarch. The coronation usually takes place months later, after the mourning is concluded. For consistency's sake, the House of Yahudah used Yom Teruah as the controlling date for their kings.

That is why Yahushua was born in Bethlehem on Yom Teruah and was likely anointed by the "Wise Men" when He was a child on that date years later in the Galilee.

We are now just days away from Yom Teruah, which will begin after sunset on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 and continue until sunset on Thursday, September 5, 2024.

Last week, I talked about the key to victory and it is important to understand that victory is not simply about getting what we want. We find victory when we fall behind the Prince of the Army of YHWH as He accomplishes the will of the Father.

In order to stay focused and in lockstep with the Army of YHWH, it is important to diligently observe the Appointed Times and understand their purpose. They are not just so we can throw a party, they keep us on course and on time.

When I was in the Naval Reserve I had to learn how to follow orders and show up for drill on time. We would regularly practice our skills and undergo inspection when our commander would closely examine each individually. The point was to continually rehearse so that we would be ready when the call came.

That is essentially what we will all undergo when we pass under the rod of the Shepherd. Remember when we talked about the generation that was gathered out of Egypt but who did not make it into the Covenant Land?

Well, Ezekiel said the same thing will happen again in the future. *“³⁷ I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond (מסרת) of the Covenant; ³⁸ I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Yisrael. Then you will know that I am YHWH.”* Ezekiel 20:37-38

The Hebrew word “masoret” (מסרת) means “bond, obligation and duty.” Those who hear the call of duty need to respond and be ready to pass under the rod in order to enter in and serve the King.

Not everyone gets in. That was the pattern of the wilderness, and that was the word spoken by the Prophet. Yahushua repeatedly warned people of that critical fact throughout His teachings and parables. He warned that there would be weeping and gnashing of teeth for those who showed up late and got shut out of the Kingdom.

As America goes the way of Rome, those who are in Covenant with YHWH Elohim should be anticipating the coming Kingdom.

Ask yourself: When is the last time you prayed to the Father as the Messiah instructed?

“⁹ Our Father in heaven, qadosh be Your Name. ¹⁰ Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amein”
Matthew 6:9-13 see also Luke 11:2-4)

We need to pray this prayer and stay separate from all the noise of Rome and Babylon. After all, we don't rely on Rome for our daily bread (Cura Annoae). YHWH is our source, and He provided His Son to feed us.

We don't need a man or a woman, a Democrat or a Republican, to save us, we need YHWH and His Son.

So, as we approach the Appointed Times of Month 7, I encourage you to stay focused on the coming King and His Kingdom. Yom Teruah involves the sounding of shofars and shouting. That is the essence of the Hebrew word "teruah" (תרועה).

It should make us think of what happened at Jericho when the Prince of the Army of YHWH defeated the enemies of YHWH. Those who made it out of the wilderness were allowed to participate as long as they diligently obeyed.

When the shofar sounds and the shout goes forth on Yom Teruah, will you be found awake and obedient with oil in your lamps? Or will you be a month off schedule, working, sleeping or otherwise unprepared?

As we patiently wait and rehearse, remember the words of the Psalm - *"I will behave wisely in a perfect (תמים) way. Oh, when will You come to me? I will walk within my house with a perfect (תם) heart."* Psalm 101:2

These times call for wisdom, as we should be preparing for the coming Kingdom!

Shema, Shema – Shamar, Shamar – and Shalom, Shalom!