

Okay, Yahshua Died.

What Are We Supposed to Do About It?

By Lennie G

Well, here's the story. YHVH created the heavens and the earth and man in 6 days. He rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day and called it the Sabbath. It's the only day He named, you know. Look it up if you don't believe me. He and the first man, Adam, were very good friends. They walked in the garden and talked with each other. YHVH decided that Adam needed a helpmate, a companion other than YHVH Himself, so He created Eve for Adam. Now YHVH gave man a free will to make up his own mind about what to do. That's where the bad guy comes in. We call him HaSatan, or Lucifer, or just plain the devil. No matter what you call him, he's one bad dude. He thought he could be as great as YHVH so he decided to take over YHVH's creation. He tempted Adam and Eve and caused them to no longer follow YHVH's plan. YHVH had told them not to eat of the Tree in the middle of the garden, and they obeyed Him without question. But the bad dude tricked them into eating from it anyway. Then their eyes were opened to knowledge of good and evil. By the time they realized what they had done, it was too late. They tried to hide from YHVH. Not good! He knew where they were. How can you hide from someone who is All-Knowing and All-seeing. So YHVH kicked them out of the garden and told them they had to earn their way in the world from then on. Seems fair to me. Well, things just got worse from then on. Man just couldn't seem to go back to the wonderful fellowship that Adam once enjoyed with the Creator. They multiplied and multiplied and seem to forget who YHVH was. So YHVH decided to end it. But He found one righteous man and decided to start over with Noah and his family. So YHVH told Noah to build an ark and put two of each unclean and 7 pairs of clean animals into the ark with him and his family - three sons and their wives, along with Noah's wife. Then YHVH brought a flood and washed away the sin in the world. So, now when the flood dried up and Noah and his family came out of the ark, things were going to be good. Right? Wrong! Mankind is so dumb. Things got bad again. Then YHVH chose Avram and visited him. He saw that Avram was a righteous man so He made a covenant with Avram and changed his name to Avraham. When YHVH made the covenant with Avraham it went like this. YHWH told Avraham to get a

heifer, a she goat, a ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon. I kid you not. Read it for yourself. Genesis 15. Then Avraham cut the animals, but not the birds, in two and laid them out. Then YHVH put Avraham into a deep sleep and he walked between the pieces. That's the way they "cut a covenant" in those days. YHVH was saying "If I break this covenant you can do to Me what we did to these animals. If YOU break this covenant you can do to ME what we did to these animals." He walked through them twice – once for himself and once for Mankind. Wow, He really loves us! He told Avraham that he would make his descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. Now that would be quite an accomplishment since Avraham was 75 years old and his wife was 65 and they had no children. So his wife, Sarai decided that YHVH needed some help to accomplish this. Like I said before, Mankind is so dumb. She decided that since she was so old there was no way she could have a child, so she told her husband to take her maid, Haggai, as his wife so he could have the child YHVH had promised. Yep – dumb! So Haggai had a son, Ishmael, for Avraham. But guess what? He was not the "child of promise" from YHVH. When Avraham was 99 years old and Sarai was 89 YHVH visited them again and told them that Sarai would bear a son for Avraham and that he, Yitzchak (Isaac), would be the "child of promise". Yeah, sounds crazy, I know, but YHVH is the creator of everything, so causing a 90 year old woman to bear a child is easy for Him. You just gotta have faith, you know? And that's where things really started to get sticky for us today. The descendants of those two sons are still fighting it out over who is the "child of promise". Ishmael was the firstborn so he should be the "one", right? Not if he wasn't born according to YHVH's plan! Well, YHVH decided that Avraham needed to be tested, not for YHVH's sake, but so Avraham would know whether he really could be trusted by YHVH now, since he blew it before. YHVH told him to sacrifice Isaac on an altar. What? This is the "child of promise"! If Avraham sacrifices him on the altar, then how can he have descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky? But Avraham said okay. He took Yitzchak, now a grown man, up the mountain to sacrifice him. He was prepared to do as YHVH asked. Just as he prepared to kill him, an angel stopped him and he saw a lamb caught in a thorny bush. So he sacrificed him instead. Yitzchak went on to have a son named Ya'acov (Jacob) whom YHVH later renamed Israel. Ya'acov had twelve sons. The names of these sons became the names of the "Twelve Tribes of Israel". That's an important fact, that's why I put it in here, so remember it.

The descendants of Avraham, Yitzchak, and Ya'acov (Israel) ended up in Egypt. (That's a story for another time. Pretty interesting story, too. You can look it up if you want to.) After they were there for 400 years, YHVH decided it was time to bring them out and give them a land of their own to call home. Exciting stuff, huh? So He performed some miracles in Egypt and got them out of there. There were 70 of them that went in and 6 million or so came out. At least they obeyed one of YHVH's instructions – be fruitful and multiply! While they were traveling in the wilderness, YHVH took them to Mt. Sinai and gave them the "Ten Commandments". The Israelites told YHVH that whatever He told them to do, they would do it. Yeah, right! They didn't do it. Yep, mankind is so dumb!

When they came to the land of Canaan which was the land YHVH wanted to give them, they sent spies in to see if they could take the land. 10 spies came back and said "No, we can't take it" and 2 said "Yes, we can!" Once again, DUMB! Did they really think YHVH would send them in alone? He got them this far, He wouldn't abandon them now. No way! So, since they didn't have enough faith in YHWH he wouldn't let them go into the land. They wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. All the adults died in the wilderness except for the two who said "Yes, we can take the land."

As time went on, mankind went through periods of being good and not being good. They asked for a king and got one, though YHVH wanted to be their King.

King David wrote a bunch of Psalms and if you want to know what it means to be a "man after God's own heart" just read the Psalms. David went through a lot of stuff but YHVH was with him and got him through it and David wrote the Psalms to praise YHVH and also to pour out his heart to Him during the troubled times. It's nice to have Someone we can talk to who listens to us.

Anyway, back to the story. Israel didn't obey what YHVH told them and got away from his teachings and instructions. He warned them if they didn't listen to Him and obey, that He would run them out of the land. So He did. Ten of the tribes were dispersed into the world and nobody but YHVH knows where they are today.

After many years passed, YHVH put into action the plan He had from before the world was created. He knew that Mankind would not keep his part of the

covenant. So He sent His son, Yahshua, (Jesus) into the world. He was born of a human mother so He could be like Mankind. He faced the temptations and life situations that we face, but He didn't give in to them. He lived the teachings and instructions the way they were meant to be lived. Mankind had gotten so far away from the meaning of the Torah, the name for the teachings and instructions, that no one really knew what they meant anymore. So Yahshua went around rightfully interpreting (the true meaning of fulfilling) the Torah for Mankind. Then He willingly died on the stake in Mankind's place. Remember the covenant with Avraham? YHVH said we could kill Him if He didn't keep the covenant. He also said we could kill Him if WE didn't keep the covenant. Whoa! That means we are responsible for Yahshua's death. You and me! Now all we have to do is repent of the things we have done that caused Him to have to die and accept the salvation He gives us through His death.

Why am I telling you all of this history? Well, back when the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness, YHVH gave them some instructions besides just the Ten Commandments. Again, you can look it up for yourself. Leviticus 23. He set up some Seven Feasts for the Israelites to observe. They are Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits and Feast of Weeks, (also known as Pentecost), in the spring then Feast of Trumpets, Yom Kippur and Tabernacles in the fall. He also said that they are His feasts. He never said they were the Israelites' feasts. He also said they would observe them forever. That means their descendants, too. Now why am I telling you this? It's simple. Once again, you can look it up if you don't believe me. Romans 11. When you become a believer you become a part of Israel. (The Olive Tree.) Unbelievers are the wild olive tree. When you believe you are grafted into the olive tree. Therefore, you are Israel. Wait a minute! If I am a believer, I am and Israelite? Yep. Ain't is great! But, wait a minute again. If I am an Israelite, then ALL of the Ten Commandments (including number 4) apply to me. Also, all the other teachings and instructions! Wow. What a revelation! Uh, oh. That means I'm supposed to be observing the feasts as set out by YHVH. It's called OBEDIENCE . YHVH loved us so much He gave us all these instructions which are a "road map" to the blessings. The greatest blessing of course is communion with Him. But if He sets an appointment with you (the 7 feasts) and you don't show up, how is He going to communicate with you? I know that isn't the only time, but if you knew one of your loved ones wanted to meet you at a restaurant at a certain time, wouldn't you be there? Sure, you see them

other times too but you wouldn't want to miss this opportunity, would you? Well, same thing. Oh by the way, there is actually an eighth feast that I didn't list with the others. It is actually a part of the "BIG TEN". I mentioned it previously. It is number 4. Look up Exodus 20 and see what it is. You need to find some things for yourself so I'm not going to tell you what it is.

Now we are restored to the covenant with YHVH. We can go back to the way things were between YHVH and Adam. We can talk with YHVH and walk with Him. He will go with us everywhere we go. We should make our prayer everyday that we would live our life in such a way that everyone who comes into contact with us can see YHVH in us and want to get to know Him better. That is what it is all about. And that is the rest of the story.