



By Grace Alone?



Are You Saved by Grace Alone?

PREFACE

Thank you for taking the time to read this instruction, I pray that the Ruach Ha'Kodesh (Holy Spirit) is present with you as you read and check with you own Bible the validity of its contents. The contents of this instruction are based entirely on God's word the Bible, to challenge your current beliefs in the spirit of love that Yeshua spoke of in John 13:35.

Irrespective of our current religious beliefs we can all agree that the Word of the God of Abraham is the medium by which all truth is defined and we must realise that, in its entirety, it is the ultimate source of authority. The information contained within these pages are primarily aimed at the three Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam but is not limited to these faiths. The word of Almighty God is for ALL nations and not one nation has the exclusive rights to its contents. (Genesis 22:18). If we take this attitude in our worship and are obedient to the creator of the universe we shall certainly be blessed.

If we find in our studies that what we read in His word does not fit with what we believe then the error is with us and not God's word, if we truly love Almighty God we must be prepared to adjust our way of life in order to be approved by Him, just as His friend Abraham did.

Please remember that I have no religious affiliation other than to Yeshua Ha'Mashiach and the Almighty God that sent Him, therefore I am bound by the Ruach and not by a manmade religious practice or tradition, assuring you that I have no ulterior motive other than the spreading of the truth that can only be found in Almighty God's word via His gift to us all... the Bible. I pray that this instruction will help you in your quest for truth.

Numbers 6:24-26

INTRODUCTION

There is so much confusion in this area that needs to be cleared up. As in all our studies we must be clear on the facts concerning this most important concept as it could mean our ultimate salvation. We will look into the history of the teaching from the earliest times and how it developed into the theology that is taught today by the many denominations of Christendom. The results may shock you and seem to be contrary to what you have personally been told, but we have to put aside the teachings of our particular denomination and look to the word of Almighty God Yehovah if we are to come to an accurate understanding of His purpose.

Like all the studies in this series, I do not expect you to just take my word as absolute truth, that can only be found in God's inspired word the Bible, so I strongly encourage you to read and test all the sited scriptures and prayerfully rely on the Ruach Ha'Kodesh of Yehovah to guide you into what is truth, this will always set you free of the false teachings that are prevalent in religions today.

It is a fact that, no matter how many letters precede a person's name, it does not have any bearing on the truth. If their presuppositions are based upon incorrect information, it will undoubtedly lead to the wrong conclusions with potentially life-threatening results.

It is also a fact that, during his ministry, Yeshua was well aware of the erroneous teachings of religious leaders and self-appointed scholars of his day. (Matthew 15:14; 23:24). It is quite clear that this is still the practice today, there are many 'blind guides' that teach many doctrines that, when put to a Bible test, fail miserably, leading them to bounce around scriptures, cutting and pasting scriptures as a kidnapper cuts and pasts words from a newspaper to hide their handwriting. This 'cut and paste' method has been used with much success as most people take these teachings on face value as being the truth without using the Biblical testing process to affirm the doctrinal teaching as to whether it originates with Almighty God as the Bereans did.

At the end of the day, whether you believe there is an Almighty God, a Supreme creator of the universe and all things in it or not, it is a sure fact that, at the end of the day, we will have to stand before that righteous creator and give an account for our actions during the grace period that was given to us during our lives. No one can stand for you; you will face judgement alone in front of Yehovah's righteous judge He has appointed and account for your life like the parable of the ten talents. (Matthew 25:14-30) (Matthew 25:31-46).

I feel sure that you find this study beneficial.

Shalom aleichem.

Mark Percival.

History of the Theology

Most Protestant denominations of Christendom teach that we are saved by grace alone, there is absolutely nothing that we can do as humans to work our way to salvation. No matter how many works of charity or kindness we perform during our life, it will have no bearing on the outcome of judgement at the end of days.

On the other hand, the Catholic denominations believe that the good or bad deeds we do in this life are recorded throughout our lives and we are judged by these actions as to whether we go to heaven, purgatory or hell, hence the belief in the existence of purgatory where the soul of the deceased person waits until their relatives have prayed and done sufficient penitence and/or paid enough into the church coffers (indulgence) to allow their soul to escape purgatory and go to heaven. Other denominations and sects have similar beliefs to these in one form or another.

Whatever your personal religious persuasion the basic theory is that when a person dies their “soul” moves to a different level of existence, a theory which is totally dependent on the immortal soul teaching.

Is there any truth in these religious teachings? Is this what Yehovah’s inspired word the Bible teaches? Firstly, let us define the words Grace and Works from a Biblical perspective.

What is Grace?

The online encyclopaedia Wikipedia defines grace thus: *“In Western Christian theology, grace is “the love and mercy given to us by God because God desires us to have it, not necessarily because of anything we have done to earn it”. It is not a created substance of any kind. ... It is an attribute of God that is most manifest in the salvation of sinners.”*

In the secular world grace can be exercised in financial terms when a person owes an amount of money to a lender and cannot meet a payment, the lender may decide to allow a period of grace where the person does not have to make a payment, this is usually termed a period of grace. This is very similar to the spiritual grace that Almighty God Yehovah has granted to all mankind.

Let us look at the spiritual concept of grace a little closer. As we know from the Genesis account concerning the disobedience of our first parents, Yehovah told Adam that he could eat of all the fruit of the earth with the exception of one particular fruit which was set aside for a reason that we do not know. This warning was no doubt passed down to Eve by her husband Adam. Over a period of time the Satan used a serpent to deceive Eve into breaking the commandment that Adam had warned her against and worse, she gave the forbidden fruit to Adam who also partook of the fruit thus disobeying Almighty God. The Satan lied to Eve when he told her that no one would die if they ate the fruit contrary to what Yehovah told Adam. We all know that the word of Yehovah is truth, irrespective of whatever anyone or anything tells us to the contrary, it was due to Adam and Eve’s disobedience that death entered into the world for sin is the breaking of Almighty God’s laws and death is the wages that sin pays. (Romans 6:23).

In effect, both Adam and Eve should have died there and then however, through Almighty God’s lovingkindness, He stayed their execution for a period of time so they could have

the opportunity to repent and turn away from their sinful act. The time period 3 score and 10 (Psalms 90:10), is this period of grace that Yehovah has allowed us to repent of our sins by following His law, for some this can be shorter or longer. This period of grace starts when we are born and terminates when we die. (score = 20 years).

What is Death?

Over the millennia there has been much debate concerning what death actually is, philosophers and theologians have debated this subject and arrived at many varying answers in order to support their own particular brand of theology. But the simple answer to the question is that death is the opposite to life in all respects, in other words, whatever you possess in life you don't possess in death. (See the booklet "What Happens at Death?" for more details).

What many people, including those we identify as Biblical scholars, often miss when they debate the issue of the condition of the dead is the fundamental principle of the resurrection and how it impacts the theory that after death we go on to another place or dimension, this is a direct result of the pagan immortality of the soul doctrine. The fundamental principle that flows from Genesis to Revelation is that there will be a resurrection of all that have died in history starting from the death of obedient Abel. The Bible repeatedly tells us that, at the end of days there will be a judgement on all people and it would be reasonable to assume that those people who will be judged will not be dead but fully conscious and alive at that time.

It is plainly obvious that if, after death we either went to another life in heaven, hell or some other mythical realm it would remove the necessity for the resurrection.

Principle of Salvation

When YeHoVaH spoke the universe into existence He created a wonderful order that displays His attributes so well. In the beginning God created the heaven first and He then created the earth. He then created the perfect environment to support life on the earth that He had created and He placed all his created creatures in this perfect environment. On the sixth day He created man and placed him in this paradisaic environment that He had created. He created man in His image which means that man was to be the pinnacle of His creation and giving him authority over all living things. There can be no doubt that the man had a wonderful relationship with the creator YeHoVaH, this is shown by YeHoVaH bringing each living creature to the man to hear what the man would call them, this man was given the privilege of naming all the animals.

After an undisclosed time, Almighty God saw that it was not good for the man to be alone so He created a compliment to him from the rib of the man's body and so woman was created as a complement to the man and they became male and female together in perfect harmony.

The whole universe at this point was, in the words of Almighty God "good", everything was in harmony to the will of the creator and He had created all things without flaw. We all know the story of the fall of mankind from this paradisaic environment, and the desire to disobey the laws that the creator had given in order to maintain that paradisaic environment and the consequences of that disobedience that has plagued mankind ever since.

It is not Almighty God's intention that the man He created was to die, it is a biological fact that our human bodies are designed so perfectly that they can go on in life indefinitely as they were designed to do, it is also a fact that death holds such fear for mankind because mankind was created in the image of God and is therefore not designed to comprehend the concept of death.

Compassion for mankind

It is not in Almighty God's plan for humans to die, when He created the first man it was His intention that the man live in the paradise that He had created and to be the caretaker of the earth, what a wonderful position that the man held and had such favour with Almighty God until the rebellion. We must remember that sin is defined as breaking the commandments of Almighty God and this is most important to remember for on it our salvation depends, as you will see.

The very first covenant recorded in the Bible can be found at Genesis 3:15 "*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel*". This paves the way for hope of a return to the paradisaic condition that the first humans lost when they rebelled and disobeyed Almighty God, making it possible for our redemption from the curse that was brought upon all mankind through one man, but there are obviously certain conditions that must be

observed as Almighty God does not want a repeat of what happened to mankind the first time.

The way to salvation

It is a fact that, if the first humans had not rebelled the situation in the world today would be entirely different to what we are experiencing, for one thing we would not require a written Bible. The Bible was given to us by Almighty God's inspiration by some 40 authors (35 by tradition), it contains 66 books and took around 1,500 years to produce.

The Bible is a complete library of books that guide and instruct us in our daily lives, it gives us all we need to know about the future and is full of examples and prophecies so that those who read and understand its theme can live their lives in a manner in which the creator of the universe approves. We need nothing else to achieve our ultimate salvation as it is all written within the pages of God's inerrant word. (2Timothy 3:16,17).

As with all instructions the Bible also requires action from the readers if they desire to avail themselves of the promise, it will serve no purpose to just read and not follow the instructions, you can be sure that the Satan and all the demons know what the Bible says because they also quote from the scriptures.

Many people that are evangelised into the Christian church (ecclesia) are told that, to be saved you must accept Jesus as your saviour, if you do this you are saved. Whilst it is true that one must indeed accept Yeshua (Jesus) as the Christ (Mashiach) they fail to understand what the word "accept" truly means in context. It means that we accept Yeshua as our Master and we should reflect the attributes of our Master Yeshua in our every day lives and that means work on our behalf.

By Grace Through Faith

Ephesians 2:1-10 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ²Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) ⁶And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: ⁷That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. ⁸**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:** ⁹**Not of works, lest any man should boast.** ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

We must be mindful that Yeshua was not a Christian, he was a Pharisaic Jew in his beliefs, he was a Hebrew of Hebrews of the tribe of Judah that kept the written torah of Moses as it applied to him, perfectly. He came into the world to bring back to his Father the lost sheep of Israel, to instruct them in the torah of his Father in order to bring Israel back to the true worship in accordance with scripture and not with the traditions of men. Yeshua fortified the torah of Moses making it complete as to the worship of the One True

God YeHoVaH, he by no means abolished it for anyone. The only way to salvation is through Yeshua ha'Mashiach (Jesus Christ) alone as echoed by Kefa (Peter) in Acts 4:12 *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"*.

Does Judaism or Christianity provide salvation?

Does this mean that, in order to be saved we must convert to Judaism? Or did Jesus and Sha'ul (Paul) introduce a new religion that replaced the former Jewish beliefs? The answer to both these questions is absolutely not!

One of the most serious obstacles to salvation is pride and nationalism and if you cannot reconcile what God's word in the Tanakh and Brit ha'Dashah has to say with reference to what you believe by the teachings and traditions of men then you will not qualify for salvation, in other words we receive salvation based on the terms of the Tanakh and Brit ha'Dashah (New [or renewed] Covenant) which are Almighty God's terms that were taught by Yeshua and nothing else.

The many sects of Judaism today reject Yeshua as their Mashiach, most, if not all the Jewish sects are warned not to read from the Brit ha'Dashah, in some instances they can be banned from the synagogue for even asking questions concerning Yeshua. The rabbis hold the oral torah in higher esteem than the written torah of Moshe (Moses) in most cases, they constantly quote from their "holy" books, the Mishnah, Gemara and the Talmud (Babylonian and Jerusalem). They seek salvation in the observance of their laws and traditions as they did in Yeshua's time. Yeshua tried to bring them back to the pure worship of the one true God but they would have none of it, they preferred to remain with their interpretations as given in the literature above. Many times Yeshua tried to reason with them but they remained stiff necked and hard hearted, just as they were in Moshe's time and likewise rejected Yeshua and the truth.

This exposure of their extrabiblical belief system is the reason for the vitriolic hatred of Yeshua and anyone who accepted Yeshua as the Mashiach, a condition that unfortunately still exists today with many of God's chosen people.

The Jew's ARE God's chosen people, no one that claims to understand the scriptures can deny that fact, but in what way are they chosen?

A Chosen People

When I attended school many years ago certain children were selected for specific tasks, it was not because they had some special power or that they held special privileges over the rest of the class. Some were made the milk monitors that issues the morning milk to the class, others were selected to give out pens, pencils and other stationery to the class as and when necessary. It is written in the torah that יהוה the God of Avraham, Yitz'chak and Yaakov spoke to Moshe and selected the Israelite nation for His chosen people. Deuteronomy 7:6 *For you are a holy people to Y_eH^oV_aH your Elohim. Y_eH^oV_aH your Elohim has chosen you to be His own treasure out of all the people on the face of the earth.* But what were the children of Israel (Yaakov) chosen for?

To find out what Almighty God chose the Israelite nation to be we turn to Exodus 19:5-6 *“And now if listening you will listen to My voice, and will keep My covenant, you shall become a special treasure to Me above all the nations, for all the earth is Mine. ⁶And you shall become a kingdom of priests for Me, a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the sons of Israel”*.

The nation of Israel was to be a kingdom of priests that were to teach all the nations the instructions (written torah) of Almighty God. In this way all the nations, if they were obedient, would receive the Abrahamic blessing for, in the eyes of Almighty God there is no religion, no different classes of mankind for all are one in His eyes. People are only separated by obedience or disobedience with respect to the written torah. The Brit ha'Dashah identifies the principle so eloquently in Matthew 23:23-28.

This is one of the main points in Yeshua's ministry, in the main it was not as much as what the religious leaders of the time were doing, it was what they were not doing that caused so much opposition. They had mostly withdrawn from the written torah and focusing on the traditions of “the feathers” as torah, just like Christendom does. This cause Yeshua to tell the people what the truth was, his words are recorded in Matthew 23:2-8.

Matthew 23:2-8 saying, the scribes and the Pharisees have sat down on Moshe' seat. ³Then all things, whatever he (Moshe) tells you to keep, keep and do. But do not do according to their (Scribes & Pharisees) works, for they talk, and do not do. ⁴For they bind heavy and hard to bear burdens, and lay them on the shoulders of men, but they do not desire to move them with their finger. ⁵And they do all their works to be seen by men. And they widen their tefillin and lengthen the tekhelet (blue string in the tassel) of their robes. ⁶And they love the chief places at festivals and the chief seats at the synagogue. ⁷And the greetings in the markets, and to be called by men, Rabboni, Rabboni. ⁸But do not you be called Rabboni (my great one) for One is your Great One, the Mashiach, and you are all brothers.

In the synagogue there is a special seat where the priest reads from the written torah, this is called the seat of Moses, Yeshua is telling the people to shema (head and obey) the words of the written torah but, Yeshua knows, by their way of life they do not do what they should be doing. He also goes on to further expose the use of their oral torah with all the added laws and doctrines that they teach in addition to what is

stated in the written torah, these are the bind of heavy burdens that they put upon the shoulders of the people but offer no assistance.

The Israelite nation will always remain God's chosen people but this does not mean that the Judaism today is approved by Almighty God and, like all people of all nations they have the opportunity to t'shuvah (repent) and remove and destroy the Asherah poles and alters of their traditions and return to the God of Abraham in spirit, accepting Yeshua as ha'Mashiach and be grafted back into the cultivated olive tree that they once were part of.

Is Christianity the road to salvation?

It is a fact that Christianity we know today bears little resemblance to the Christianity that was taught by Yeshua and the Apostles which makes one wonder what on earth happened in those early formative years. I have covered this topic in other literature but it is good to remind ourselves of where we stand in our faith on a regular basis. (2

Corinthians 13:5 *Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you fail to meet the test!”*)

It is most important to note that, until Sha’ul started his missionary work and started to include those people who had little, if any knowledge of Abraham or his God into the ecclesia all Yeshua’s followers were mostly rabbinic Jews. Sha’ul was a zealous and high-ranking Jewish lawyer in the Sanhedrin court and was one of the most feared man throughout the believers of Yeshua until Yeshua appeared to him on the road to Damascus and opened his eyes to the truth. Some say that Sha’ul (Paul) was “converted” to Christianity, but noting could be further from the truth, there was no such thing as Christianity until it split form Judaism in the latter half of the second century CE.

Gentiles are people that do not acknowledge the divinity of the Hebrew Almighty God, YeHoVaH, they are of pagan origin and remain gentiles as long as they maintain the worship of pagan gods and their rituals, there is no such thing as a gentile believer in the God of Abraham because you have now renounced your former beliefs and dedicated yourself to the Almighty God therefore you are not a pagan (gentile) any more.

Since the 4th century when the ecclesia fell under the influence of the “wolves” who introduced an eye watering plethora of pagan practices and rituals which are an abomination to the creator. The new Latin religion of Christianity began to gain influence and power right up to the present day. If you study what Yeshua taught and what Christianity does now you would find a totally different way of life than that which the followers of Yeshua practiced. Christianity is now just another pagan religion that usurps the truth with their blasphemous doctrines and traditions. If you are a part of Christendom, it is time to heed the warning found at Revelation 18:4 *“Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues”*. This referres to the world empire of false religion that Christendom is a part of so follow Yeshua ha’Mashiach while there is still time.

Like Judaism and Islam, you will not receive salvation through Christianity for it is totally alien from the teachings of its supposed founder. There is only one Almighty God, there is only one King and Kohen Gadol and there is only one way to truly gain salvation and this is the way that we will now turn our attention too.

The way to true salvation

If we were to emigrate to a different country there would be certain criteria that we would have to observe if we wish to be accepted by the country that we intend to emigrate too, we would have to agree to comply with all it’s laws and statutes and have a right standing with the citizens and government of that country, this would be the standard minimum requirement if we expect to take up residency the country that we wish to make our home.

There is no reason to expect less from the kingdom of the most high, the kingdom that Yeshua told us about and instructed us to pray for. This new kingdom of Almighty God will be on earth, just as the original kingdom was, and only those who match the entry criteria will be allowed to reside in that coming kingdom. Even if we are just visiting

a different country, we require a document such as a passport in order to prove that we are a legitimate member of the country we currently reside and have the authority to visit another country.

In many legal matters we are obliged to produce identity and credentials that allow us to prove that we are eligible for certain positions, this is normal practice in the secular world, if I applied to a certain hospital for the position of a neuro surgeon then I would be expected to have all the correct documentary evidence to prove that I am at the required standard to fit the requirements of the position that I am applying for. It would be no use to arrive at the interview and tell the interviewers that I believe I can do the job and expect to be accepted for the position on compassionate grounds.

There is one of the greatest parables that Yeshua ever taught that highlights this point so eloquently, the parable is always misunderstood in ignorance by the three Abrahamic religions that profess to know scripture, it is the parable of the Rich man and Lazarus found in Luke 16:19-31. Yeshua is not talking about life after death where one goes to heaven and one to hell.

The key point of the parable is so blatantly missed every time it is read. Yeshua is telling us that if we want to be part of the incoming kingdom we must listen to Moses and the prophets. This forms the concept of the salvation of mankind if we wish to avoid the demise of the rich man. No religion has authority or special position when it comes to salvation, salvation is granted on an individual basis for we all will have to stand before Almighty God's judge at the end of days.

Another point worthy of consideration is the words which Yeshua spoke when he was conversing with the Canaanite woman who was begging Yeshua to free her demon oppressed daughter and Yeshua told her that *"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel"*. But the woman replied and showed great humility and, although she had been a gentile, she had placed her faith in Yeshua to cast out the demon, although she was not of the house of Israel by birth, she showed that she had t'shuvah (repented of her pagan ways) and become as a natural born Israelite, she had studied the torah and the prophets, this is why she could display such deep faith In Yeshua as the mashiach. What was Yeshua's response to her request? He told her *"O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire."* And the demon was cast out that instant.

We can gather from these two witnesses that to be truly saved you must study torah and the prophets and t'shuvah.

Luke 16:27-31 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

Gaining Salvation

The way to true salvation

I have heard many Christians asking other Christians “When did you get saved?” and others saying I got saved by Jesus. Is what they are saying true? I am not a judge, that title belongs to someone far greater than I but what makes a person think that they are “saved”? Most “saved” Christians would answer “because I have accepted Jesus Christ as lord”. This indeed is part of the salvation process but it is not everything. There is not one person that has, is or will live on this earth that can say, without doubt that “I am saved”, if you think that I believe that you are under a delusion, there is no such thing as once saved always saved whilst sin is present. This is reflected at Matthew 24:22 *“And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short”*. So, even the “elect” can succumb to sin and lose their salvation. Do not be misled, you can lose your salvation.

If you think that all you have to do for salvation is believe in Jesus and just carry on what you are doing you are wrong, Yeshua also told us that *“But the one who **endures** to the end will be saved”*. (Matthew 24:13). So, we can expect situations that we must endure, this means that there will be persecution, ridicule, threats and worse that we must endure, just as our Master Yeshua and all the faithful followers did, if we do this we will be saved.

Following Yeshua is not a religion, it is a way of life. True followers of Yeshua will always study God’s word in order to draw closer to Him, they always consider the scriptures before making any important decisions, they will be immersed in prayer each and every day and sometimes many times daily as situations arise that require spiritual help. They trust in YeHoVaH implicitly in all that they do and always put the kingdom of Almighty God first in their lives. The faithful do not just turn up at a church on Sunday, stay for an hour and go home and think they are “saved”.

Another huge part of salvation is baptism in the name of Yeshua. Do not be misled in this either, the water does not wash away any sin, only Almighty God and anyone He gives authority to can do that.

To be baptised in accordance with scripture you must:

1. Be of an age of cognition, you cannot be successfully baptised unless you understand why you are being baptised, therefore, infants are not baptised until they are at an age of understanding.
2. Baptism is a full immersion in living (flowing) water. You enter into the water and disappear signifying your burial with Yeshua, you immerse from the water as a new person, you have put the old person you were to death and now you are risen with Yeshua to follow him in every aspect of your life.
3. You must have repented of your previous sins and have a clear conscience and accurate knowledge of the commandments and instructions of Almighty God.

Now the final part and one which Christians will find difficult to swallow.

I have come for the lost sheep of Israel

As mentioned earlier, Yeshua said that he had been sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. This poses rather a problem for Christians on face value, if Yeshua had been sent to call the house of Israel back to the God of Abraham, then where does it leave those that are not part of the house of Israel, does this mean that they will be excluded? If it were then the prophesy to Abraham where all nations would be blessed would be put into question.

We know by our study that it is YeHoVaH's intention that the human race in its entirety is to receive the same blessing and be part of that wonderful Abrahamic covenant so how can those former gentiles who have repented and come to an accurate knowledge of the scriptures and accepted the Almighty God of Abraham YeHoVaH be included in the wonderful promise made to God's friend Abraham? Can these former gentiles become a part of the house of Israel? The answer is YES!

Let us remind ourselves of the promise made by YeHoVaH to His friend Abraham:

Genesis 22:15-18 The angel of Adonai called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By myself I swear—it is a declaration of Adonai—because you have done this thing, and you did not withhold your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will richly bless you and bountifully multiply your seed like the stars of heaven, and like the sand that is on the seashore, and your seed will possess the gate of his enemies. ¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed—because you obeyed My voice."

Our heavenly Father always keeps His word for "...My word will be that goes out from My mouth. It will not return to Me in vain, but will accomplish what I intend, and will succeed in what I sent it for." Isaiah 55:11. To those who do not truly understand Almighty God's word it seems that there is a conflicting view concerning Yeshua's words and his Fathers but, like in all things Biblical we can be assured that there is no conflict and like usual, the only conflict is in our understanding of His word.

The answer to this seemingly contentious passage can be found by examining Sha'ul's letter to the Romans 11 from verse 11 to 24 which we will now look a little deeper into and it will all come clear.

How the nations will attain true salvation.

This might come as a shock to the followers of the three Abrahamic faiths', to the Jews who think they have a higher standing with the God of Abraham, Yitzhak and Yaakov than any other nation just because יְהוָה chose them to be a light to the nations concerning His purposes it must be a sobering thought for my Jewish brothers to realise that they have failed in His instructions for you took possession of His words and don't want to share them with anyone else. Just as Yeshua said, the religious leaders shut the door so as to prevent anyone receiving the blessing. "*But woe to you, Torah scholars and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut people out of the kingdom of heaven. For you do not enter yourselves, nor do you let those enter who are trying to go in*". (Matthew 23:13). You wanted it all for yourselves didn't you!

To the Christians, don't think you are getting off lightly either, you are guilty of attempted kidnapping for you seek to possess the Hebrew Mashiach for yourselves and on

your own terms. From the middle of the second century CE to this present date you have performed grammatical acrobatics with the TaNaKh and Brit ha'Dashah to fit the Greek and Latin philosophical concept of what you consider the "Christ" should be according to your gentile (pagan) traditions. Christendom perceives the taste of the scriptures as a fork perceives the taste of food. You destroyed the real "Christ" when you included your pagan ceremonies and rituals into your liturgy in the name of Jesus. It is of little wonder that our Jewish brothers hate Christianity with your blasphemous doctrines that remove any salvific hopes.

To the followers of Islam I would say this that, although you profess to be torah observant, you have little concept of what Almighty God YeHoVaH requires of you. Although you are sincere in what you believe you must also be aware that you can be sincerely wrong. Like the religious sect known as Mormons, a certain man named Muḥammad bin 'Abd Allāh bin 'Abd al-Muṭṭalib bin Hāshim had a similar experience to that of Joseph Smith. Muhammad is an Islamic version of the Hebrew Yeshua. Throughout the Quran, Muhammad is referred to as "Messenger", "Messenger of God", and "Prophet".

I have to hand it to you that you have done what the Christians failed to do, you have created for yourselves a different TaNaKh and called it the Qur'ān as if the "Book" (TaNaKh) is not good enough, adding verses (suras) that promote the opposite of what the Book promotes. It is your belief that people are saved by the will of "Allah" through obedience to his law, the Shari'ah, just as your cousins do concerning the torah but, like your cousins, you reject the true emissary of Almighty God, the creator who spoke the world into existence, the name of that emissary is Yeshua ben Elohim, the one who Moshe spoke of in the torah and the only one through which salvation is made possible.

The Hebrew Bible contains all that is necessary for salvation, you do not need the Mishnah, Gemara, Talmud(s) or the Qur'ān, the torah, prophets and writings are all that are necessary to attain the salvation of יהוה; after all, it is He who's idea it is.

So, how can mankind gain true salvation?

The Key to Salvation.

Talking to a gentile woman at a well in Samaria concerning the true place of worship Yeshua revealed two things that he never told anyone else, he revealed to her with his own lips that he was the awaited Mashiach, and concerning worship he told her *"You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."* John 4:22. Was Yeshua saying that, to receive salvation we all have to convert to Judaism? No, what Yeshua was telling her is far deeper than that.

Sha'ul, using his usual eloquence turns the key and unlocks the method by which both Jew and gentile receive salvation, the account of which is recorded in Romans 11 verses 11 to 24. Let us read and dissect Sha'ul's words together...

Romans 11:11-24 I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their false step salvation has come to the Gentiles, to provoke Israel to jealousy.¹² Now if their transgression leads to riches for the world, and their loss riches for the Gentiles, then how much more their fullness!¹³ But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Insofar as I am an emissary to the Gentiles, I spotlight my ministry ¹⁴if somehow I might provoke to jealousy my own flesh and blood and save some of them.¹⁵ For if their rejection leads to the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶If the firstfruit is holy, so is the whole batch of dough; and if the root is holy, so are the branches.¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off and you—being a wild olive—were grafted in among them and became a partaker of the root of the olive tree with its richness,¹⁸ do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, it is not you who support the root but the root supports you.¹⁹ You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” ²⁰True enough. They were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but fear—²¹for if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you.²² Notice then the kindness and severity of God: severity toward those who fell; but God’s kindness toward you, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you too will be cut off! ²³And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again.²⁴ For if you were cut out of that which by nature is a wild olive tree, and grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?

You can forget all the different religions and sects in the world, none of them have any salvific value according to what Sha’ul says and this explains the blessing of Abraham and how all nations will be blessed through him and his seed.

The gentiles are the wild olive branches and the cultivated olive tree is the nation of Israel. Sha’ul knew that the Exodus was a forerunner of the end time events, just as Moshe who led Almighty God’s chosen people out of bondage in Egypt, Yeshua is the greater Moshe who leads God’s people out of the bondage of sin and death. The twelve tribes of Israel (Jacob) followed Moshe into the wilderness but it wasn’t only the people of the twelve tribes that came out of Egypt with Moshe, they were accompanied by a great number of former gentiles that had accepted the God of Abraham as their God and in doing so they became as natural born Israelites, they were “grafted in” to the Israelite nation and when YeHoVaH gave Moshe the written torah and the 613 Mitzvot they applied to these ex gentiles just as much as they did to the tribes of Israel for they were no longer gentiles, they were members of and obedient to the commonwealth of Israel.

Steps to Salvation.

The same is true today, if we accept the God of the Bible. The Hebrew God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob we are doing precisely what those gentiles did when they too followed Moshe out of Egypt. When we have studied enough to make that choice to be obedient to YeHoVaH we are ready to be baptised.

Baptism must never be taken lightly; it is a dedication and vow that Almighty God will expect us to live up too. The only way to be baptised is to be fully immersed in living water, the water does not wash your sins away, only the blood of Yeshua can do that but it does represent the divide between the living and the dead. When you are fully immersed you disappear from sight which represents the death of your old self and when you come up out of the water you come up as a new person, you have symbolically died and been resurrected with Yeshua to a new life in him. There is another thing that happens at your baptism too, this is when you become a member of the commonwealth of Israel, you are now a first-generation Israelite and a sharer of the promise given to Abraham. Hallelu Yah!!!

Now the angels in heaven are singing and rejoicing and glorifying our Father for another person has crossed over from death to life, a joyous occasion indeed.

Maintaining your standing with the Father.

Baptism is the first positive step to your salvation, you have demonstrated that you want to be obedient to Almighty God and to be pleasing to him but you also realise that you have to maintain and grow that special relationship that you desire so much with the Father after all, you are now His child and, like a good parent He will love and protect you but He will also discipline you if you do something wrong, just like our earthly parents would. But you should always remember that you can lose your prospect of salvation if you wilfully rebel just like those two did in the garden.

Whoever says that maintaining your standing with Almighty God is easy they can't be doing it right! In Romans 7 Sha'ul highlights the constant battle within ourselves between our spirit and our flesh. We may have been baptised and received the Ruach ha'Kodesh but you can be sure that the Satan will do all in his power to dislodge you from your standing with Almighty God, the carnal desires of the flesh are always present to trip you up so beware and pray constantly for more faith.

Growing your relationship with YeHoVaH and His son Yeshua is a wonderful experience, Father (Abba) always talks to me and He does so through the pages of His word and as you progress in your relationship you will find it an ever-increasing joy to study His word as He reveals things to you that you have never seen before, the Ruach ha'Kodesh will guide you as you begin to build your trust in Him and His son Yeshua. You will definitely see the change in your life on a spiritual basis as the shalom of Father spreads through you.

Before you were drawn to Yeshua by the Father (John 6:44) you probably lived your life as I did, in a state of me-ism where everything was centred around you, you probably didn't observe the sabbath and if you did occasionally, it would have no doubt been on the first day of the week and you probably had a full English breakfast with sausage, bacon and black pudding. Maybe you would go to a restaurant and try something exotic like Lobster, Prawns and other tasty shellfish, yes... I have done that too! But now you realise that you are obedient to the Father, you realise that all these little things that you used to do are now out of bounds.

To be obedient you have to have something to be obedient too and that means that you are now obedient to His instructions and commands. This concept is alien to those who have been in other religions. Christians are told that the followers of Jesus don't have to keep God's law and that it was given to the Jews and that Jesus abolished the law and that he nailed it to the cross. I can safely say that there is not one passage in the entire Bible that says that God's instructions have been abolished, on the contrary, our entire way of life should be based on the instructions given to us and show us the correct way to live our lives, you can be certain that the laws that were given to Moshe on Mt Sinai are just as relevant today as they were when God gave them to Moshe. (See Matthew 5:17-20).

Just think for a moment... if you don't have law, what are you? You are LAWLESS! That's a pretty sobering thought don't you think?

Remember, all those who truly love the Almighty God who spoke the universe into existence do not keep His commandments for the purpose of salvation, we keep them because we truly love him and want to make him happy. (John 14:15).

Whilst we know that salvation is a gift from Almighty God though His mercy and lovingkindness make no mistake, we will be judged by our works and deeds.

Romans 2:6 who will render to each person according to his deeds:

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

1 Peter 1:17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

Psalms 62:12 And lovingkindness is Yours, O Lord, For You recompense a man according to his work.

Colossians 3:25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

Proverbs 11:31 If the righteous will be rewarded in the earth, How much more the wicked and the sinner!

1 Corinthians 3:8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labour.

The above scriptures make the theory of salvation by grace alone seem a little flimsy when you read in context with the scriptural evidence. Although the grace from Father is an integral part of salvation it is faith that is the active component, grace is only a time period between birth and death as when you die grace is withdrawn for you are no

longer subject to the wages sin pays as you have now paid the price in this life. It is true that Yeshua paid the price for you're sin and this is why there will be a resurrection. The sin that we inherited is with us from birth to death and, at the end of our lives we receive our wages. (Romans 6:23).

Conclusion and Summary

In this short introduction into Almighty God's version of the salvation we have seen that there is only ONE way to stay on the "straight and narrow" road that Yeshua revealed in Matthew 7:14. We also know that Father reads the hearts of all people, the choice to follow the Master Yeshua is based upon two criteria, one is our heart condition and the other is to live our lives as Yeshua did. Our heart condition causes us to be drawn to Yeshua, it is the invite from Almighty God and we can either chose to accept or reject the invite but one thing is for sure, you will not be able to follow Yeshua on your own terms, you have to be drawn to Yeshua by the Father. John 6:44 *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day"*.

This is not my opinion but it is what the Bible tells us, it is quite clearly a matter of salvation, you are saved because of your faith in Yeshua ha'Mashiach, you have faith because you have learned what having faith truly means, it is not by blind faith that we receive salvation, it is this faith and trust that is based on accurate knowledge that makes us want to be obedient which is the fundamental principle for our salvation. To receive such pure and true faith we must be obedient to the creator of the universe, to obey His commandments and instructions found in the written torah as instructed by our Master Yeshua. There is no other way to gain salvation and that salvation is only granted on His terms.

If it is your desire to enter the kingdom of Almighty God you will live your life as Yeshua did, you will be part of the commonwealth of Israel (Jacob). This is not the secular Israel that we know today but the Israel of the Bible and referres to Jacob whom Almighty God renamed Israel. In Hebrew the meaning of the name Israel has several similar meanings when translated into English: May God prevail. He struggles with God. God perseveres; contends. In the bible when Jacob was in his nineties as a token of blessing God changed his name to Israel. The account can be found in Genesis 32:28.

In the Hebrew culture, the father of the child has the privilege of naming the newborn. All Hebrew names have a meaning and are used to identify, not only the child but the characteristics too. Yehoshua or Yeshua, in Hebrew means "the Lord is salvation." When Almighty God changed the name of Yaakov (Jacob) to Israel it meant that Almighty God had adopted Israel as His son, this is the reason why the Israelites are a chosen people and, by our baptism and adherence to His laws and instructions we are privileged to be part of that blessing.

Just as Almighty God brought the whole Israelite nation out of the bondage of Mitzraim (Egypt) so He will again bring His people, the Israelite nation out of bondage and into His kingdom. This is not based on a theory or teaching of men but on God's word as recorded in the Tanakh and Brit ha'Dashah.

No matter what textual acrobatics Christendom or Islam performs in an attempt to

convince you otherwise there is no escaping the fact that the truth is exhibited in God's word. Just as those people who were once gentiles in the land of Egypt accepted יהוה as their God and followed the nation of Israel out of Egypt, we as former gentiles who have been grafted in follow the Israelite nation out of bondage to sin and death through the greater Moshe Yeshua ha'Mashiach into His kingdom. Hallelu Yah!!!

There is only one salvation and only one way to be part of that salvation and that is by being loyal and obedient to our God Y_eH^oV_aH and it is He who sets the criteria for that acceptance and all we need to know is written in His word for all to see and it is now, in this period of grace that we must decide which to choose, there are only two options, life or death, life in obedience to Almighty God or death in mankind's perception of salvation, it is your choice and I pray that you make the right one.

Amen.

GLOSSARY

YHVH [יהוה]	The personal Name of Almighty God. YeHoVaH.
Yehoshua (Yeshua)	The personal name of Almighty God's son. (Latin: Jesus).
Ruach Ha'Kodesh	Yehovah's motive force. (Holy Spirit).
Kohen Gadol	High Priest.
Shaúl	Saul (Paul).
Israel	The nation comprising the 12 tribes of Jacob (Israel) including people of the nations grafted into Israel.
Gentile	Any person that does not follow the Abrahamic Religion (Pagan).
Tanakh	The books of the Hebrew scriptures. (Old Testament).
B'rit HaDashah	The Renewed Covenant. (New Testament)
Torah	The instructions or laws given to the Israelite Nation by Yehovah to Moses.
Oral Torah	The additional instructions added by the Pharisaic (Rabbinic) Jews which form the basis of the Mishnah and other Jewish religious books.
Gospel	Good News.
Christendom	All religions that profess belief in Jesus Christ.
Apostolic Fathers	The group of gentiles that directed the formation of the early church after the last apostle (John) died.
Eisegesis	Reading into scripture something that is out of context with the true meaning in order to fit a particular theory or doctrine.
Exegesis	Reading out of the scripture to arrive at the true meaning