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## PREFACE

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Those who read the newer translations of the Scriptures are very often robbed of seeing what the original Hebrew text meant because of the modern tendency towards a free translation or to use “dynamic equivalents,” as the modern translators call it.

An example of this is the most important prophecy or prophetic promise by the Most High that He “shall turn back the captivity (*or captives*)” of His people, Israel, in the end-time. This fact is missed by those reading most of the newer translations which render this as “restore the fortunes of Israel (*or Judah, or His people*).” This prophetic promise is found in almost all the prophetic books, as well as in Deuteronomy and Psalms.

The most profound among these prophecies concerning the captivity of Israel are of course found in Acts 7:42-43, Amos 5:25-27, Micah 4:10 and many places in the book of Jeremiah.

Now what is meant by this “captivity”? First and most important of all is to realize that someone is not in captivity by choice, i.e. of his own free will. He is in captivity because someone (*or Someone*) higher up has decided that he should be there. Nobody who is in captivity wishes to be there, nevertheless he is held captive.

Secondly, let us see why Israel was sent into captivity. We read in Deut. 28:15, 41, 58 and 64 that Yahuweh<sup>1</sup> said He shall send them, and their sons and daughters (their posterity) into captivity because of them not obeying the voice of Yahuweh, because of them not observing all the words of the Teaching (Law).

This captivity is often called “scattering,” which virtually is a synonym for it, or parallels it. The well-known “dispersion” or “diaspora” or “exile” also has the same meaning.

Then we read in Deut. 30:1-8 of the blessed promise that if His people turn back to Him, He shall turn back their captivity and return them to their land, and they shall again obey the voice of Yahuweh and do all His commandments. This prophecy has not come to consummation yet, it has not been completely fulfilled yet!

So they were sent into captivity, they went into exile, they were sent into dispersion, they were scattered among the Gentile nations because they did not obey the voice of Yahuweh, they did not observe to do all the words of

the Teaching (Law). Likewise, their return to the land is accompanied by, or preceded by, their return (turning back) to Yahuweh and to obey His voice.

This physical return to the land of Israel is not the important issue at stake. No, the all-important requisite and essential goal is that they turn back to Him and obey His voice and observe to do all the words of the Teaching!

This captivity is generally known as the Babylonian captivity or Assyrio-Babylonian captivity. Although an estimated 25% of those who were captives in Babylonia returned in two stages with Ezra, Zerubbabel and Nehemiah in the year 538 B.C.E. and thereafter, the vast majority of the twelve tribes were still in exile, were still dispersed or scattered or still remained in captivity — until recently, when they started to come back to their land. This return started since the land of Israel became a reality again in the year 1948 C.E., and since then there has been a steady and increasing return to Israel.

However, the Spiritual return (or turning back) is still feeble, almost lacking, up to now. Their Spiritual turning back from Assyrio-Babylonian captivity is still sorely wanting. The great end-time outpouring of the Spirit, the great cleansing, the great reviving of the dead bones is yet to come!

The vast majority of Israelites have still not accepted Yahushua<sup>6</sup> (Yehoshua) as their Saviour. Ever since their partial return from Babylonian captivity we find that they are in apostasy. They adopted the names of the Babylonian months of which many are named after Babylonian deities, e.g. Tammuz. Many synagogues have the Babylonian zodiac on their floors. A few other relics of astral worship are still evident — details of which we do not want to elaborate on at present. The Scriptural Levitical priesthood has also been superseded by laymen, the Sadducees and Pharisees, etc. But let us leave expounding all the details of their apostasy for a moment.

At this stage the born again Gentile believer might ask, “But what have I got to do with it? This is no concern of mine, this pertains to Israel after the flesh!” Our reply to this is:

1. The passage in Rom. 11:17-24 clearly tells us that the believing (born again) Gentile believer is grafted in among the True Israelites.

2. In Eph. 2:19 and in Eph. 3:6 we read that the Gentile believer becomes a fellow citizen and a fellow heir with the faithful Israelites, and becomes a member of the household of Elohim.

3. Rom. 15:27 tells us that the born again Gentiles become partakers of Israel’s Spiritual matters.

4. Rom. 2:25-29 makes it very clear: He whose heart is circumcised (he

who keeps the Law), he is a Yehudite (Jew)!

5. Gal. 3:29 confirms this: If you belong to Messiah you are Abraham's seed!

6. As we shall prove later on in this book: The early "Church Fathers," as well as the Rabbinical writings, and all the Reformers agreed that Rome is the Second Babylon, Spiritual Babylon! As you continue reading this book we shall prove to you that the astral Babylonian worship deeply infiltrated the Roman Church, and her Daughters continued with this.

7. In Isa. 14:4-17, a special prophetic passage pertaining to the times we are living in, we read that the King of Babylon rules the nations, and that he has made the world a wilderness.

8. In Dan. 2:28-45, another end-time prophecy, we read that the King of Babylon is the head of this image which represents the Gentile nations of the world. All the nations of this world and all the inhabitants of this earth are part of this image of which the King of Babylon is the head, and which will be crushed to pieces, pulverized, when Yahushua (Yehoshua) comes!

9. Jer. 50 and 51 clearly affirm this, as well as the most astounding end-time prophecies in Rev. chapters 13 to 19, clearly revealing to us how all the nations of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication (Jer. 51:7, Rev. 17:2-5), how she has corrupted the earth (Rev. 19:2).

10. The only nation which is excluded from the end-time plagues, and ultimate destruction, is True Israel, the New Covenanted Israel, the Renewed Israel. That is why we read the oft-repeated call by the Most High, "Come out of her, My people." The first one to be called out was Abram in Gen. 12:1, and the final call to come out of Babylon comes to us in Rev. 18:4.

You, my brother and sister, you are in this captivity too, this Babylonian captivity, not by choice, but because Yahuweh has determined it to be so, and He is calling you and me to come out of her, for He is "turning back our captivity"!

Ever since the Reformation began at the beginning of the 16th century, there have been steps taken to "come out of her." This book which you now read is part of the final call, and part of "the restoration of all matters" (Acts 3:21). We do not profess that further Light will not come, for indeed, our Saviour will complete that which He has now started, "He will thoroughly purge His threshing-floor . . . He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire" (Matt. 3:12 KJV).

This book serves to unveil the Great Apostasy (as Bible translators like to

call it) as it is described in 2 Thess. 2:3-12. It reveals to us the “Mystery of Lawlessness” of 2 Thess. 2:7 RAV. It reveals to us “Mystery Babylon” of Rev. 17:5, of which much is said in the final eleven chapters of the book of Revelation. It unmaskes the “Abomination of Desolation” which our Messiah said (in Matt. 24:15 — and Daniel as well in Dan. 9:27, Dan. 11:31, Dan. 12:11), will be found to be set up in the “Set-apart Place.”

In fulfillment of Messiah’s promise in Luke 8:17, it unseals the important things that were revealed to Daniel in visions and dreams. Daniel was commanded in Dan. 12:4, “But you Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end.” This command to Daniel was repeated to him in Dan. 12:9. This sealing of the book was only up to the end-time, “until the time of the end; many shall push forth, and knowledge shall increase” (Dan. 12:4 Hebrew text). The German, Dutch and Afrikaans translations have preferred the figurative meaning of the Hebrew *shut* (push forth), namely: “do research,” and it fits in perfectly with the context of this verse.

The revelation of the “Abomination of Desolation” (Dan. 9:27, Dan. 11:31 and Dan. 12:11) and all the things “what will be in the latter days” (Dan. 2:28, Dan. 7:18 and 27, Dan. 8:17 and 19 and 26, Dan. 10:14, Dan. 11:40, Dan. 12:1-3), are described for us in Daniel chapters 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. These visions, revelations, were so shocking that Daniel said. “I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself” (Dan. 7:28 NIV). In Dan. 7:15 he said, “my mind disturbed me” (NIV). In Dan. 8:27 he said he “fainted and was sick for days.” In Dan. 10:8 and 16-17, Daniel further recorded the sickening effect these revelations had upon him, “I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless . . . am overcome with anguish . . . I am helpless, my strength is gone and I can hardly breathe” (NIV). That is exactly how we felt too, when the Abomination of Desolation, the Great Apostasy, the Mystery of Lawlessness, and Mystery Babylon were unveiled to us!

The Spirit of Truth was indeed guiding us into all Truth (John 16:13), convicting us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8). The Spirit was truly declaring to us our transgression and our sin (Micah 3:8). Our Elohim was verily fulfilling His promise of Eze. 36:27, “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” The fire of the Baptism of the Spirit does indeed “burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire” (Matt. 3:12).

All the revelations in this book were given to us as we were led by the Spirit, doing diligent research in the Scriptures, as well as in reliable sources

of scholars of Scripture, of religious history, or of archaeology. Someone has attempted to criticize us for including non-ecclesiastical historians and archaeologists in our research. However, this criticism can be refuted on the very Scriptural example of the Almighty even speaking through an ass (Numbers 22:28), and even using stones (archaeology), as Messiah has predicted in Luke 19:40.

It is well known that the Church, from the 4th century onwards, had accepted many pagan festivals, images, idol's names etc., into the Church, with the apology that these things of idolatry have been "sanctified." Therefore, much of the frank idolatrous origin of these things became suppressed, ignored, or explained away. However, honest historians and archaeologists recorded these facts for us, for they were unbiased and merely related their findings. Thus, the very stones of archaeology and history also cry out!

The study of the names of pagan idols is greatly impeded by the fact that the pagans diversified the names of their deities, and also disguised their names, and even tried to keep them secret, in order to avoid their opponents getting hold of the name of their idol. Further, Hislop tells us in *The Two Babylons*, p. 122, that "The Pagans were in the habit of worshipping the same god under different names." And, even worse, with the syncretism that prevailed since the time of Alexander the Great, the deities of the various nations became identified with one another. But, in our research, the Spirit of Truth was blessing us by guiding us and leading us — leading us out of this confusion.

Another important point needs to be mentioned: The Sun-deity had, and still has, many names. This fact soon becomes very obvious to anyone who starts reading on the subject. Some decades after the merger or fusion of Sun-worship with the Messianic Belief had become a reality, Macrobius wrote, "All gods are only different powers of the Sun" (quoted by James Bonwick, *Egyptian Belief and Modern Thought*, p. 276). The details of this assimilation are fully discussed in the text of this book you now read.

By now the reader would have noticed that we do not accept the Greek names or words *Iesous* (Jesus) and *Christos* (Christ), and might ask: But don't you accept the Greek language as being the original inspired language of the "New Testament"? Our reply to that is as follows: we firmly believe and accept the entire message contained in the Greek text of the Messianic Scriptures ("New Testament"), since it is the only complete reliable record we presently have of the time Messiah walked this earth and the period immediately following it, the time of the apostles. We firmly believe that the

Messianic Scriptures were inspired in Hebrew, at least most of them, but these documents no longer exist. The Greek text can only be a translation of the original Hebrew Messianic Scriptures. Many serious scholars have, especially lately, taken a stand against the popular belief that the “New Testament was inspired in the Greek language.”

Our firm stand against this popular belief is based on the following: In Exod. 23:13 Yahuweh explicitly prohibits His people from uttering the names of other deities (other mighty ones). This is affirmed in no uncertain way in Josh. 23:7 and in Ps. 16:4. The Set-apart Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, did inspire all Scripture, as we all believe. However, when we come to the ordinary language of the Greek text of the Greek Messianic Scriptures we find that the Greek language is riddled with the names of Greek deities, used as ordinary Greek nouns or words!

Here follows a list of these nouns and words, from which Greek deities derived their names, or more likely, the other way round. We have given the English meaning in brackets for those who do not know Greek or do not have access to the Greek text:

*Aer* (air); *Adikos* (unrighteous); *Anatole* (east, rising); *Angelos* (angel, messenger); *Charis* (grace, favour, acceptable, pleasure, thanks, gift, joy, benefit); *Chronos* (years old, time, season, space, while); *Dike* (judgment, punish, vengeance); *Ge* (soil, earth, country, land, world); *Hades* (grave, hell); *Ioudaios* (*Iuadaios*) (Jew); *Nike* (victory, overcoming); *Nomos* (law, principle); *Ouranos* (heaven, air, sky); *Parthenos* (virgin, maiden); *Peitho* (agree, believe, persuade, obey, trust, yield); *Phobos* (fear, alarm, fright, be afraid); *Psyche*, *Psuche* (soul, mind, life, you); *Pur* (fiery, fire); *Soter* (saviour); *Tauros* (bull, ox); *Zelos* (zeal, jealousy, envy); as well as many personal names of people and places.

The only language in the world that was protected (by Yahuweh) from incorporating the names of deities into its language, was Hebrew (Exod. 23:13), that it why it is called *Leshon ha-Qodesh* (the Set-apart Tongue) by the Hebrews! The Set-apart Spirit, inspiring all Scripture, would most certainly not have transgressed the Law of Yahuweh by “inspiring” the Messianic Scriptures in a language riddled with the names of Greek deities and freely using the names of these deities in the text, no way!

This book will greatly help the seeker of Truth to return to the True Worship. The Gift of “discerning of spirits” must be prayed for, in order to discern between the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error (1 John 4:6), to discern between the spirit of Yahuweh<sup>1</sup> and “the spirit that now works in the

sons of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2).

Not many accept “all Scripture,” and therefore do not accept some vital Scriptures which we bring to the notice of the reader of this book, “for many are called, but few are chosen” (Matt. 22:14). “For the gate is small, and the Way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it” (Matt. 7:14 NASB). “Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left” (Isa. 24:6). Who are the “few” that are chosen? “Just as HE CHOSE us in Him [Messiah] before the foundation of the world, THAT WE SHOULD BE SET-APART (HOLY) AND WITHOUT BLAME before Him in love” (Eph. 1:4, capitals supplied). Read also 2 Thess. 2:13, 1 Pet. 1:2 and 14-16. We are chosen by Him to be Set-apart (holy), for He is Set-apart (holy). Many are called, but few respond to His requirement, namely His demand for Separateness or Apartness (holiness). Therefore the “few” are described in Rev. 17:14 as “called, chosen and faithful.”

How can I know that I am being chosen? Simply by responding to His call “to be Set-apart” from the sins of the world. Take heed: without Separateness or Apartness no one will see Him (Heb. 12:14). Only those who accept His only-begotten Son as Saviour, and then as their only Teacher (Matt. 23:8 and 10), and only Leader, Shepherd and Overseer (1 Pet. 2:25), will endure to the end on the Narrow Way. They are those who truly come into the binding relationship with Yahuweh, even the New Covenant, of which the Law of Yahuweh is still the contents (Heb. 8:10 and 10:16). Only they will escape the end-time plagues and final destruction that is to come upon Mystery Babylon.

By the way, South Africa made itself most hated in the eyes of all the world with its inhuman oppressive system of *apartheid* based on skin colour, which is totally un-Scriptural, in fact, it is frank transgression of the Second Great Commandment: Love your neighbour (fellow-man) as yourself. It is rather ironic that from this same country should come forth the call to be Set-apart (instead of “holy”), namely the Apartness which is Spiritual and Scriptural, to be set-apart from sin, to obey the voice of Yahuweh. To be set-apart from sin is mandatory for the Messianic believer, it is an essential requisite in the True Worship (Heb. 12:14, Eph. 1:4, Rom. 6:19-22, 1 Pet. 1:14-16, 1 Pet. 2:9 amongst others).

This book is meant for those who, out of thankfulness for the Great Redemptive Love shown on Golgotha, can but only respond by loving our Elohim with all their hearts, all their minds and all their souls. They are those who strive to read and obey every Scriptural command, for they

delight in doing so. They are those who “live by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of Yahuweh” (Deut. 8:3 and Matt. 4:4). They are those who no longer read and obey the Word in a “pick as you please” way, or in an à la carte fashion.

In one sense, Scripture is the story of the struggle between True Worship and false or apostate or mixed worship. The message of the Three Messengers in Rev. 14:6-12 is a call for turning back to Yahuweh, a restoration, a call for sanity. This book details that call for sanity. It appeals to those who have come to know their Saviour personally, those who, like us, “serve Yahuweh with gladness,” who “rejoice in Yahuweh always.”

When we have accepted Yahushua<sup>6</sup> as our Saviour, He lives in us, in our hearts, He and His father (John 14:23), working in us “both to will and to work on behalf of His good pleasure” (Philip. 2:13). He is the One who reconciles us with His Father (Rom. 5:10, 2 Cor. 5:18, 1 Peter 3:18). He is the One who motivates us to do the Will of His Father, to bring us to the place where we can truly say, “I delight to do Your will, O my Elohim, and Your Law is within my heart” (Ps. 40:8).

Strictly in accordance with Scripture this book also calls believers to worship the Father not only in Spirit, but in Truth also (John 4:23-24). “Trust and obey, for there is no other Way” should be the song sung from our lips, and also from our hearts.

This book is offered so that the "Truth may set us free." Our Saviour has paid the price for us on the cruel tree on Golgotha, not only to save us but also to "redeem us from all lawlessness." (Titus 2:14 Greek text).

The purpose of this work is to share truth with others. Personal financial gain is not our intent. If you care to order books for study groups or to share with others, we are pleased to invite your participation. Any contributions received will be used for the printing of further copies and distribution.

We are greatly indebted to our Messiah who said, “Without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). We are also greatly indebted to every brother and sister who has supported the preparation and publication of this book, by their tithes, by helping prepare the manuscript, and above all: their prayers.



10:27b, Mark 12:31, Rom. 13:9, Lev. 19:18). The first table is the basis of our love towards Yahuweh (Matt, 22:37-38, Luke 10:27a, Mark 12:29-30, Deut. 6:5).

For almost 2000 years the Church has been striving to get people to adhere to the ethical or social laws — the laws of the second table, the love towards our neighbour and fellow-man. But what about the love towards Yahuweh, the first table, the religious laws? These have been shockingly neglected, turned aside, “done away with” or ignored. The very essence of Yahushua<sup>6</sup> our Saviour’s

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*FIG. 2: All authoritative sources agree, e.g. Kittel’s Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, that this is the original form of our Saviour’s Name, preserved in the Hebrew Old Testament as the name of Moses’ successor. The יהוה represents YAHU- and the final ע represents -SHUA. (See also References, No. 6).*

final message in Revelation chapters 12 to 22 is that of the sad neglect, in fact, even rejection of the “love towards Yahuweh” — the religious laws. At the end of this article we shall study Revelation chapters 12 to 22 in detail, wherein we shall discover numerous facts that witness to this, proving that we too have been “given up to worship the host of heaven.” We have not allowed the Mediator, Yahushua, to mediate His Father’s Law into our hearts and minds, especially not the first four Commandments or Words, the religious law, the love towards Yahuweh.

The Scriptures repeatedly warn us against the worship of the sun and the rest of the host of heaven, which simply are forms of idolatry. In fact, the most natural thing for natural man to do. These warnings are found in Deut. 4:19, Deut. 17:3, Job 31:26-28, Eze. 8:9-16, 2 Chron. 14:5, Jer. 44:17, Jer. 19:13, 2 Kings 23:4-1, Acts 7:42, and Revelation chapters 12 to 22.

For quite some time we have been convinced of this idolatry of Sun-worship which has been adopted by the Church. We then discovered the honest and unbiased conclusions arrived at by the following four scholars. This prompted us to come forward and to “Cry aloud, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet, tell my people their transgression” (Isa. 58:1). Let us read what these scholars said:

1. *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, Second Edition, p. 233, states, “Constantine combined veneration for the ‘Unconquered Sun my companion’ with that of Christ.” This frank and honest statement is con-

firmed by three other authoritative sources as well, namely

2. One of the most knowledgeable scholars in this field, Franz Cumont, candidly states on p. 288 of the book, *Oriental Religions in Roman Paganism*, “The vague deism of Constantine strove to reconcile the opposition of helioatry [sun-worship] and Christianity.”

3. John Ferguson, in *The Religions of the Roman Empire*, p. 56, states, “Constantine’s god was a fusion of the Unconquered Sun and Christ the Victorious.”

4. Another scholarly researcher, Legge, on pp. 118-119 of *Forerunners and Rivals of Christianity*, relates what took place in the first few centuries of our common era, before this merger took place, and then that which followed, “the . . . importance thus given to the worship of the material sun, which henceforth forms the centre of adoration in all non-Christian religions . . . All the post-Alexandrian legends of the gods were turned the same way, and Serapis, Mithras, Attis were all identified with the Sun, whom philosophers like Pliny and Macrobius declared to be the one supreme god concealed behind the innumerable lesser deities of the Graeco-Roman pantheon. Even the Christians could not long hold out against the flood, and the signs of compromise to which the Catholic Church participated in the matter can be seen in the coincidence of the Lord’s Day with Sunday and the Church’s adoption of the 25th day of December, the birthday of the Unconquered Sun-god, as the anniversary of the birth of Christ. It is certainly by no accident that the emperors whose reigns immediately preceded the establishment of Christianity all turned towards the worship of the Sun-god who was looked upon as the peculiar divinity of the family to which Constantine belonged.”

Pagan worship is forbidden to the people of the Almighty, even if mixed with True Worship. Many Scriptures testify to this: Deut. 4:13-19, Deut. 12:1-4, Deut. 12:29-32, Deut. 18:9, Lev. 20:23-26, Jer. 10:2-3, Eph. 4:17-22, Eph. 2:1-4, 2 Cor. 6:17, 1 Cor. 10:14-21, 1 John 5:21 etc. Notice especially in 2 Kings 17:33 and 41 how True Worship was mixed with idol worship. Note also, that even the high priest Aaron was persuaded by his people to lead them into a mixed worship (Exod. 32:5). The Almighty’s wrath was kindled and He wanted to destroy everybody except Moses. Other examples of mixed worship are Eze. 23:38-39, Jer. 7:2 and 8-18.

In an attempt to justify this assimilation of Sun-worship with the New Testament Belief, much appeal was made, especially in the early centuries, to Malachi 4:2, the prophetic promise (interpreted by many to mean the Messiah) of the “sun of righteousness.” However, this figure of speech cannot justify the adoption of Sun-worship, just as the figurative reference to the Messiah as “the Lion of the tribe of Judah” (Rev.

5:5) cannot justify the adoption of lion-worship!

For primitive man, ignorant of the True Worship and the True Mighty One, it is only natural to start venerating or paying homage to the sun, moon and stars (the host of heaven), of which the sun is the most important, giving warmth to man and animal, and life-giving growth to plants. That is the reason why, when Yahuweh commanded His people to keep the Ten Commandment Covenant, He warned them against the corruption of worshipping and serving the sun, and the moon and the stars — the host of heaven — things which Yahuweh has divided unto all nations (Deut. 4:13-19).

The Wycliffe Bible Commentary comments on Deut. 4:19, “The worship of the visible and creaturely was characteristic of the Gentile nations whom [Elohim] had abandoned to their perverse folly.”

Dr. J.H. Hertz in *Pentateuch and Haftorahs* comments on Deut.4:19 as follows, “The heavenly luminaries exercised a great fascination upon early man . . . The ‘host of heaven’ was the dominant influence in Babylonian religion. The Egyptians also revered the sun, the moon, and the stars as symbols of deities. Associated with this worship was also the superstition that the heavenly bodies influenced the lives of mortals, a superstition which is not yet altogether extinct . . . [Elohim] had *suffered* the heathens to worship the sun, moon and stars . . .”

Because of similar comments by others, the *Good News Bible* took the liberty of rendering Deut. 4:19, “. . . the sun, the moon, and the stars . . . Elohim has given these to all other peoples for them to worship.” *The New English Bible* also relates this verse this way. We do not want to justify this rather free translation, but in the light of Acts 7:38, 39 and 42, as well as Jer. 10:2, it prompts us to carefully heed His warning to remain in His Covenant, His Law, lest we become as the heathen who worship the host of heaven, the heavenly bodies.

In Acts 7:38-42 we read of the Spirit-filled Stephen reprimanding his fellow Jews for not keeping the Law (Acts 7:53), just like their forefathers who received the “Living Words” (verse 38 — Green’s Interlinear and NIV), but the forefathers did not obey the Living Words. Therefore, what was the result? Acts 7:42 reads, “Then Elohim turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven . . .”

In Jer. 10:2 we read, “Thus says Yahuweh: ‘Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; do not be dismayed (awed — NEB) at the signs of heaven; for the Gentiles are dismayed (awed — NEB) at them.’ ” This is astrology and astrological religion, which had its origin in ancient Chaldea (Babylon), and later on moved to Rome, being based on the different paths of the sun through the sky, displaying the sun at the centre of the zodiac. The people of Yahuweh are forbidden to participate in these ways or

customs of the Gentiles.

Furthermore, being secretly enticed by the sun or the moon, or any homage paid to them, is an iniquity and a denial of Elohim (Job 31:26-28).

In Eze. 8:3-16 we see the most alarming description of how idolatrous worship is merged with True Worship, especially in verses 14-16, where Sun-worship has been brought into the House of Yahuweh. The Tammuz-worship of v. 14 is just one form of Sun-worship, Tammuz being the incarnate Sun, the young rising Sun as a deity.<sup>2</sup> In verse 16 the prophet was also shown the twenty-five men worshipping the Sun towards the East, and that is exactly what started taking place in post-apostolic Christianity.

This praying towards the Sun in the East is recorded in the writings of Clement of Alexandria (150-215 C.E.), as well as in the writing of his scholar, Origen. They were both guilty of trying to justify this practice, which Yahuweh labeled “wicked abominations” (Eze. 8:9). The Bishop of Carthage, Cyprian, in the year 258 also exhorted Christians to pray to the East at sunrise.

On the other hand, in the year 197, Tertullian writing in his *Ad nationes* 1, 13, accused fellow Christians of Sun-worship because of their praying to the East and because of making Sunday a day of festivity.<sup>3</sup>

Despite this warning by Tertullian, Augustine (350-430 C.E.), in his many writings, was repeatedly trying to justify his prayers to the East. This was a regular practice in the basilica of St. Peter in Rome, which caused Pope Leo the Great to make a vigorous attack on this practice in the year 461.<sup>4</sup> However, his objection was ignored and they continued with this in the basilica up to the year 1300, as we shall later see.

Another voice in the wilderness was crying out against this practice, that of Eusebius of Alexandria, who wrote, “and not only Sun-worshippers and heretics do this, but also Christians, departing from the faith, mingle with heretics.”<sup>5</sup>

These important facts are all well documented in Dr. F.J. Dölger, *Sol Salutis*, as well as in Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, *From Sabbath to Sunday*.

In Eze. 8:9 Elohim calls this a “wicked abomination.” In Deut. 17:3-5 the civil law demanded that those of Israel who were found guilty of worshipping “the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven,” were to be stoned to death. Has our Mighty One changed? “For I am Yahuweh, I do not change” (Mal. 3:6). He is “the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning” (James 1:17). The civil laws of the Scriptures are not being applied today, but Yahuweh has not changed and will still mete out righteous punishment.

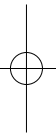
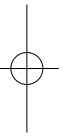
“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of Elohim leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of Elohim, who will render to each one according to his deeds: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for esteem (glory), honour, and immortality. But to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness — indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but esteem (glory), honour, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with Elohim. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law; for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of Elohim, but the doers of the law will be justified” (Rom. 2:4-13).

Let us not despise His forbearance and longsuffering. Because of His forbearance and longsuffering, we have come to salvation — think of it! He is patiently leading us to repentance, repentance from every form of sin. The Law cannot forgive and save us, but the purpose of the Law is to tell us what sin is. Read this for yourselves in 1 John 3:4, Exod. 20:20, Rom. 3:20, Rom. 4:15, Rom. 7:7.

In Deut. 12:30 Israel was warned not to follow the Gentiles in their idolatrous religion, “Take heed to yourself that you do not inquire after their mighty ones, saying ‘How did these nations serve their mighty ones? I also will do likewise.’ ” Israel was prohibited the frank worship of idols as well as the manner in which the idols were worshipped. Not only is frank Sun-worship forbidden, but also the mode, the manner and means by which the Sun was worshipped — the “how.” It is important to take note of this.

We shall now discuss the manner of Sun-worship, the customs and the “how” of Sun-worship, which became merged with the Messianic Belief by Emperor Constantine and others that followed — political leaders, but especially religious leaders. In spite of subsequent attempts to justify the adoptions of these components of Sun-worship, their origin is important, and it must be exposed. Let us get complete clarity on the attempts made to justify these adoptions, this “canonization,” this “Christianization” or “sanctification” of heathen customs, deities or festivals. The Scriptures are very clear on this: These things cannot be “sanctified” — only repentant sinners, humans, can! **IGNORANCE OF, AND DEVIATING FROM, THIS MOST BASIC SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLE, HAS BEEN THE ROOT CAUSE FOR THIS GREAT SICKNESS OF**

“SOLARIZATION” THAT HAS BEFALLEN US, THE CHURCH. We must repent of this great sin if we earnestly seek a restoration or a revival, if we genuinely seek to turn back to Yahuweh, to turn back from Babylonian captivity, to come out of Babylon!



## Chapter II

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### WHICH COMPONENTS OF THE WORSHIP OF THE SUN AND THE HOST OF HEAVEN HAVE BEEN ADOPTED?

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The following customs or “hows,” giving homage to, or veneration of the Sun and the rest of the host of heaven, have been adopted and are even practiced today. Although they are still found in Christianity, they are not found in the Scriptures — Old Testament or New Testament. However, a few words or names are found in our translated Scriptures, which are incorrect according to the inspired original Scriptures, as far back as we can trace them. They have been brought into the translations because the Almighty turned and gave us up “to worship the host of heaven,” just as He did to Old Testament Israel at various stages (Acts 7:42). He has done the same to us. Read 2 Thess. 2:3-12, where the shocking words appear, “Elohim will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie” — those who do not believe the Truth!

#### 1. SUNDAY

The Supreme Authority on the True Belief is our Saviour Yahushua Himself: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them . . . teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:18-20). All modern translations admit this correct rendering: “authority.” He is the One, who, with the authority given to Him by His Father, can authoritatively decide on all Spiritual matters — Matt. 23:8-10, Heb. 1:1-2, Matt. 7:24-29, Matt. 11:29, Jn. 18:37, Jn. 12:48-50, Lk. 9:35, Jn. 6:63 & 68, Jn. 8:31-36, Jn. 3:34, Jn. 14:6, Rev. 19:13, Rev. 19:16, 1 Tim. 6:3-4, 2 Jn. v. 9 etc. No other Supreme Authority was given to us by the Father. In Colossians and in Ephesians He is repeatedly called the Head of the Body — “head” having the figurative meaning of “authority.”

What is Yahushua’s supreme, ultimate and authoritative verdict on the great controversy between Sabbath and Sunday?

First of all, He is our supreme example (1 Jn. 2:6, 1 Pet. 2:21, Jn. 10:27, Jn. 21:19 & 22 etc.) And it was His custom to keep the Sabbath (Luke 4:16), just like the custom that Paul followed too (Acts 17:2, Acts