



e who wrote this paper actually live together like an extended family, sharing all things in common, just as the first disciples did in the first century. The Bible plainly says regarding the first church, "All who believed were together and shared all things in common." It goes on to describe how they were of one heart and soul, and that there was not a needy person among them, for they gave up all their possessions to meet the needs of their spiritual brothers and sisters. Some people say this was only for back then, but we've been living this way for over 40 years. You can come and see for yourself at any of our addresses, which are printed in the back of this paper and on our web site, www.twelvetribes.org.

In each of our communities, there are one or more houses in a cluster, some in cities and some on farms. Several families and single people live together in each house, according to the size of the house. We like large houses because we like to live together. Married couples have their own rooms, plus as many adjacent rooms as needed for their children. The single men share one or more rooms, as do the single women. We all share a common kitchen and dining room, where we take our meals together "with gladness and sincerity of heart." ³

In at least one house in the cluster we have a large gathering room where we gather together every morning and evening to worship our Creator in song and dance as in Psalm 150, using the prescribed musical instruments that we are learning to build and play. We are all free to speak from our hearts the things we are learning, as our heavenly Father teaches us through one another, according to the gifting and grace given to each person.⁴ As a spiritual priesthood, we pray

¹Acts 2:44 ²Acts 4:32-35 ³Acts 2:46 ⁴1 Corinthians 14:26; 1 Peter 4:11; Romans 12:6



together for the pressing needs of our people and for our Father's will to be done on earth.

After our morning gathering we have breakfast together and then go to work in our various places, doing the deeds prepared for each one of us.⁵ We work together in our own cafés, farms, cottage industries, and trades, not as independent contractors or employees of outside companies. All income from our various endeavors goes into a common purse from which all of our needs are met equitably. We don't have our own independent income or debts to carry by ourselves, except for the debt of love we owe to our Savior, which we repay by loving and caring for one another.

We love and cherish our children. We teach them at home, using a curriculum we are developing ourselves, to give them the basic skills they need to read, write, and speak effectively, to live together in peace, and to fulfill their created purpose. Our children's training goes far beyond the classroom, however, as they are fully integrated into every aspect of our socially and spiritually rich tribal life. They learn to cook and sew, build and farm, care for animals, sing and dance, play musical instruments, and most importantly, extend hospitality to the constant flow of guests who are drawn to the light of our life of love.

Together we are experiencing and demonstrating the restoration of all things spoken of by the prophets of old,⁶ and by our Master Yahshua,⁷ whose life, death, and resurrection make this life possible. **

⁵Ephesians 2:10 ⁶Isaiah 49:6; Jeremiah 30:20; 31:1,4,13,14; Malachi 4:5-6 ⁷Matthew 5:17-19; 17:10-11; 22:37-40; Luke 1:17; 24:44 (*Yahshua* is the original Hebrew name of the one called *Jesus* in most English translations of the Bible. See page 28 for more about this name.)

WHAT'S IN A DREAM?



604 BC

In the darkness of the night, in his huge, elaborately decorated bed chamber, the mighty king tossed restlessly to and fro in his lavish bed. He was dreaming a terrifying dream. In his mind's eye, King Nebuchadnezzar stood gazing at a great and tall statue of extraordinary splendor that was standing before him. He was filled with awe, for never had he seen

such a sight. Somehow he realized that this statue had monumental significance. The head was made of gold, the chest of silver, the belly and thighs of bronze, the legs of iron, and the feet and toes were partly of iron and partly of clay.

The king stared in wonder at this statue. A great stone, hewn out of a mountain without human hands, suddenly plummeted with great momentum toward the statue. The stone struck the statue on the feet of iron and clay, crushing them, and causing the entire statue to come crashing to the earth. It fell with such force that all the precious metals were smashed to powder at once, leaving this awesome statue like chaff on the threshing floor. A strong wind came and blew away the last remains of its dust so that not a trace of the statue remained.

But then, before his eyes, the king saw this stone, which had just destroyed the statue, grow to be a gigantic mountain that filled the whole earth. In terror, the great king awoke from his dream. Sitting up in the

darkness, he was greatly perplexed. He knew he had dreamed a troubling and awesome dream. Yet, though he thought and thought, he could not remember it. The rest of the night he could not sleep, trying in vain to bring it back. But alas, he couldn't!

In the morning, the king sought for someone in his vast empire to help him remember what his dream was, and to tell him what it meant. But all the great sorcerers and wise men gave him the same reply: "If you cannot tell us the dream, we cannot interpret it for you. Only the gods could tell you your dream!"

Their response enraged powerful Nebuchadnezzar. In his wrath he ordered the execution of all the wise men in his entire empire, for their wisdom had proven to be worthless in his time of greatest need.

Now, among the great wise men of his empire there was a very special young man, whose name was Daniel. He had lived in Babylon only a short time, for he had been brought there as a captive from his home, Jerusalem, in the land of Israel. The Babylonians had invaded his land and taken captive the strong, intelligent, handsome young men to serve their great king. Daniel was one of them. Born of the tribe of Judah, Daniel was part of the royal family in Israel. Though Israel had been the land where the God of heaven and earth had chosen a people for Himself, the people of Israel had long ago become unfaithful to their God.

The Babylonian invasion brought a just discipline upon Israel for their unfaithfulness. And Daniel, just a young man, was now receiving the discipline which the sins of his father and grandfather had brought upon them all.

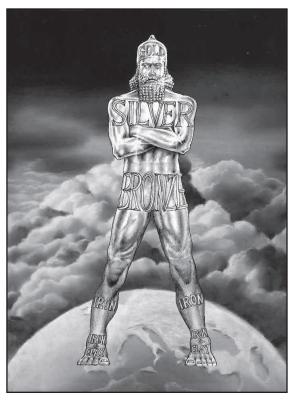
Actually, Daniel had a different heart than his rebellious forefathers, for Daniel loved the God of Israel with all of his heart. He did not want to do anything that would not please Him. Even in this land of wickedness, he remained pure and undefiled. And though he had only been in Babylon for a short time, his excellent behavior had already earned him the reputation of being a wise and respected young man.

But when the order came to execute all the wise men, Daniel himself was included in that order. The king's guard came to imprison Daniel along with all the others. He told Daniel what had happened, and how the other wise men had been unable to help the king.

THE GOD OF VISIONS

Daniel knew that only his God, the God of visions and dreams, could reveal this mystery. Daniel went to the king and requested that he give him time so that he might declare the interpretation to the king. Then he and his loyal friends from Israel began to pray. They prayed to the only One who could deliver them.

In the night, Daniel received a vision from his God. He awoke from his sleep and knew beyond all doubt what the dream of the king of Babylon had been. Full of thanksgiving, he made his way quickly to the palace of the great king. When he was brought before King Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel wasted no time in letting him know that he deserved none of the credit for discovering the answer to the king's problem. It was the God of heaven, Daniel's God, who



deserved all the praise. Then Daniel went on to accurately describe the awesome statue which the king had dreamed about, with its head of gold, chest of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet and toes of iron mixed with clay. He also described the stone that had brought down the statue and then became a great mountain that filled the whole earth.

As Daniel spoke, the king's memory testified to the truth of what he was saying. Very respectfully, Daniel gave the king the interpretation of his dream. Then this mighty king, the most powerful man on earth, did a very shocking thing. He fell face down on the ground in front of Daniel and declared, "Surely your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery."

THE INTERPRETATION

What was the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's mysterious dream? What did Daniel say that caused the mighty king to recognize him as a true prophet — one who spoke the very words of God? And what do his words mean to us today?

The head of gold stood for the Babylonian empire. ("You, O king," said Daniel, "are the head of gold.") It would be followed by three successive kingdoms, each inferior to the ones before it — one of silver, one of bronze, and one of iron which would finally mix with clay. History bears out Daniel's interpretation. Three empires followed Babylon in world domination: Media-Persia, Greece, and then Rome. Each one was inferior to the one before it in terms of the authority of its ruler. Each ruler had greater checks and balances on his power. Each successive government, however, was tougher and more enduring.

But what about the Stone? What is it, and when will it come? This question hangs over humanity to this day.

One thing is sure about the Stone: it is not part of the statue, but is the fifth and final kingdom that will fill the whole earth. This kingdom is "a stone hewn from a mountain without human hands." The Stone Kingdom will be one that Daniel's God will Himself raise up, which will never be destroyed. After putting an end to all other kingdoms, it will endure forever.

Even though Daniel knew that all this would be in the distant future, he must have been overjoyed to know that in the end the kingdom of his God would have dominion over the earth. Daniel's conclusion was, "The great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; the dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy!" Today is that future, and the question remains: Who is the Stone?

The first four kingdoms represented in the statue were natural kingdoms, established by force of arms, controlling the world in this age. But the fifth kingdom is a *spiritual* kingdom, "hewn from a mountain *without human hands*." Hewing is a deliberate cutting out with the preconceived intent to create something special. The final kingdom is deliberately hewn from the world by God, with the intention of creating a people of His own who will express His heart and character. This Stone, this fifth kingdom, is a kingdom of love, overpowering all the forces of evil that have ripped the world apart for centuries. It will shatter all that remains of the world empires that ruled before it, and bring an end to world history. This kingdom is a holy nation, a twelve-tribed spiritual Israel, according to the words of the prophet Isaiah:

It is too small a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make you a light to the nations so that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. (Isaiah 49:6)

¹ Daniel 2:37-43 ² Daniel 2:44-45

This gathered people will be a light, burning intensely, speaking deeply to the heart and soul of every person who lives. The demonstration of love and unity that will shine forth from the Stone Kingdom will expose the wickedness and perversion of the last generation of human history. It is this holy people who will be God's light to the nations, and to the governments of this world. That is what Yahshua,³ the Messiah, meant when he said:

This gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the earth as a witness to all nations; and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)

THE HOLY

A witness is a testimony to the existence of something real. In this case, it is the demonstration of the Kingdom of God. Kingdom means the dominion of the king. God's kingdom is the place where God rules. When the people of the nations see the lives of this people being ruled by God rather than by the self-interest⁴ that dominates the rest of the world, that will be the evidence of how human beings were created to live.

Such evidence of a holy life began to be presented 2000 years ago as the first disciples of our Master were gathered together in communities. They demonstrated their love for their Savior by obeying His commands and loving one another just as He had loved them:

All who believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. (Acts 2:44-45)

But instead of proving to be the Stone that would crush and bring to an end all the kingdoms of the world, the early communities lost their cohesiveness — their oneness of heart and soul⁵ — and became as ineffective as a lump of common clay. Grace ceased to be upon them all as self-interest crept back into their lives. They did not fulfill the prophecy of the Stone Kingdom. They ceased being a set-apart people who obeyed God's commands in their relationships with each other.

³ Yahshua is the original Hebrew name of the one called Jesus in most English translations of the Bible. See "The Name Above All Names" on page 28. ⁴ Apart from the Holy, who will inherit eternal life in the City of God as His children, because they were devoted to obedience to His commands, there are the Righteous (who follow their conscience, fear God, and respect others), and the Unjust & Filthy (who take advantage of others or ruin their lives with moral corruption). ⁵ Acts 4:32

THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROPHECY

We know that the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, and that this kingdom will be formed "in the days of those kings" spoken of in Daniel 2:44-45. Therefore, the Stone Kingdom cannot possibly appear before the lifetime of those kings.

To understand who those kings are we must look at what Daniel says about the fourth kingdom in Daniel 2:33-35 and 40-43. Briefly, it is this: the fourth kingdom is like two legs of iron, with feet and toes made of iron mixed with clay. As iron breaks everything into pieces, so it will crush all other kingdoms. As the feet and toes are a mixture of iron and clay, this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. As clay does not adhere to iron when mixed, so this fourth kingdom will lack integrity. Although it has the strength of iron, it will in essence be divided, so will not be able to stand. When struck by the Stone Kingdom, which is not divided, but truly in unity, the fourth kingdom will break into pieces, crumbling like powder.

The Roman Empire began as a civil government, but became a religious empire when the Emperor Constantine embraced Christianity in 312 AD and made it the state religion. History clearly records the split of this "Holy Roman Empire" into two parts: the eastern part, whose capital was Constantinople, and the western part, whose capital remained at Rome. This split caused by religious division is graphically represented by the two legs of iron. As a result, the empire lost its national life as a world power. Yet it has never lost its religious significance, as reflected today in the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches. Also, Roman law and culture is the foundation of European civilization to this day, despite the national identities of the diverse countries. The seed of western civilization grounded in Rome is a basis for unification across national boundaries, as has now become a reality in the emergence of the European Union.

Today we live in the days of the feet and toes — different from the legs in substance, but containing much of their essence. There have been no world empires since Rome fell. In the ensuing 1,500 years, monarchs and armies have made repeated attempts to revive the Ro-



⁶ Mark 3:24

man Empire by uniting Europe. All attempts have failed. History does not record anything corresponding to the ten toes of the statue, to which Daniel calls much attention, but the prophecy is clear that they are part of the fourth kingdom.

However, a parallel passage in Daniel 7 gives greater clarity. In another night vision, the prophet sees a number of beasts, the fourth of which is terrible and dreadful, having great iron teeth and tremendous strength, crushing and devouring its victims and trampling everything underfoot. This beast has ten horns.

... the fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom, ten kings will arise ... (Daniel 7:23-24)

These ten kings rising out of the fourth kingdom are a clear parallel to the ten toes in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. In his interpretation, Daniel makes repeated reference to the toes of the statue,⁷ drawing attention to them, and then says, "In the days of those kings," meaning the kings of the iron mixed with clay. There will be ten rulers who arise from the domain of that fourth kingdom and constitute a revived and modified expression of that fourth world empire on the very soil where Roman influence and culture is most extensive — Europe.

The European Union will eventually be molded to fulfill Daniel's prophecy about the ten kings. And it is in the lifetime of those kings that the Stone will be hewn.

THE STONE: WHO IT IS, AND WHO IT ISN'T

Any kingdom that had its origin *before* the days of those kings is disqualified. Scripture indicates that the Stone and the toes are both formed at the same time, therefore no spiritual movement that had its origin earlier than the late twentieth century could possibly be the Stone. This eliminates the possibility of Christianity being the Stone.

The Stone is central and supreme in God's purpose on earth: It brings an end to the kingdoms of the world, replacing them with an eternal kingdom, the kingdom of God. This is a dramatic contrast to the Christian religion, which is thoroughly involved in the kingdoms of the world, supporting, strengthening, and even seeking to direct them. Such compromise is exactly what Yahshua, the Messiah, faced when He dealt with Judaism. The Jews of His time had forgotten their purpose of being a light

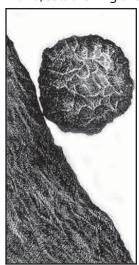
⁷ Daniel 2:41-42 ⁸ Daniel 2:44

to the nations, and had settled instead for their own personal comfort and security. Their religion was only an empty form. That's why He told the religious leaders of His day:

The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and be given to a <u>nation</u> producing the fruit of it. And he who falls on this <u>stone</u> will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust. (Matthew 21:43-44)

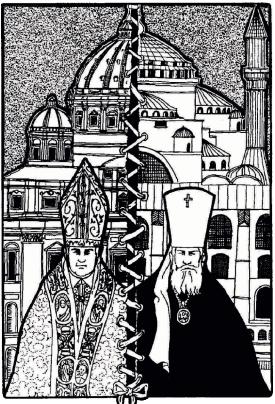
The similarity of our Master's words to Daniel's description of the Stone shattering the world empires is not coincidental. He knew of that fifth and final kingdom. He was speaking of a set-apart, twelve-tribed nation hewn from the mountain of the world in the last days of this age. The privilege of being that Stone, that kingdom, would be given to a people who would *produce the fruit of that kingdom*.

The ultimate fruit that God is looking for is the witness that will usher in the final destruction of the kingdoms of this world. This is what He is focused on today: abolishing all rule and all authority and power other than His own. This will not be done through might or craft. It is not a military coup or a subversive plot to undermine government. The nation that produces the fruit of the kingdom will, by their lives of obedience to their Creator, raise up a standard of righteousness by which He can judge the whole world. It will be a holy nation, a royal priesthood. When this demonstration of the kingdom has confronted the world with the choice of obeying God or rejecting Him, then the end will come. He will send His Son to judge the earth, removing every trace of the kingdoms of the world, establishing the kingdom of God, and bringing everlasting peace.



This choice of obeying God or rejecting Him is what our Master Yahshua was speaking of when He said, "He who falls on this stone will be broken, but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust." Those who come to the end of their independent selfish lives and fall upon this Stone will see the hardened exterior of their hearts crack open so that the true spirit of love can come and dwell in them. Their broken pieces will be perfectly put back together by the Master Potter. For those who refuse to fall on this Stone and be broken will find themselves part of the world kingdom that will be

 $^{^{9}}$ Revelation 11:15 10 1 Corinthians 15:24 11 Revelation 19:11-16 12 Matthew 21:44



destroyed and scattered like dust, never to be retrieved or recreated.

ECUMENISM

The Stone Kingdom of Daniel's prophecy includes both the King and all who are obedient to His commands. His foundational command is this: that they love each other as He loved them. The Stone Kingdom is a kingdom of love. It is a people dwelling together in unity. The unity that the Stone Kingdom expresses will be the answer Yahshua's prayer on the night before He was crucified, "...that they may be one just as We are One ... that the world may know that You

sent Me, and have V loved them even as You have loved Me."13

This unity is a unity *without* diversity, a unity that cannot come about by mere toleration, compromise, or seeking to ignore differences. It is only possible through love. It is the same unity that the Father has with the Son (and you know that they don't have differences of opinion or doctrine). Such unity was evident in the first-century communities. The Spirit of love had been poured out in their hearts, and the result was that

... the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them. (Acts 4:32)

But it wasn't long before that love began to grow cold, and eventually an event soon took place which demonstrated clearly that they had been utterly disqualified from being the Stone Kingdom. After the life of the Spirit died out in the early church, it irreversibly divided into the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. This division meant that they

¹³ John 17:21-23

were no longer one church. They were no longer united under one head. This division has never been healed; they have never regained the unity and pure devotion that was evidenced in the early church. In fact, it is impossible that the division actually can be healed.

While many sincere and zealous Christians labor toward "unity in diversity" in the Ecumenical Movement, true unity cannot happen among these fallen branches. For, just as a person's spirit would depart from his body if he were cut into pieces, never to return, so the life of God's Spirit cannot return to Christianity, with its 45,000 denominations. Hat's why they have not been able to produce the life of love and unity that will bring about His rule on earth. Instead, God's name continues to be dishonored among the nations of the world, and our Master Yahshua is continually being held up to public shame and ridicule because of the hypocrisy, divisions, factions, and denominations that are promoted by those who profess to know the Son of God.

Today there is a great debate and controversy over the proposed reunion of Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy. Although they have been divided for centuries, each continues in the deception that they could still be united under the one true Spirit of God, in whom there is no division. The same is true for all denominations, even though their divisions are beginning to be masked by a so-called "spiritual unity" where everyone agrees to disagree. This is not the unity that the apostle Paul taught¹⁵ and our Master Yahshua prayed for.¹⁶ It is nothing more than a big hoax, though it will eventually appear genuine to everyone except God's chosen people.

Christianity, whether Catholic, Protestant, or Ecumenical, cannot be the Stone because it has been in existence for centuries. Daniel 2:44 makes it clear that the Stone Kingdom cannot begin to be cut out from the mountain until the kings represented by the ten toes of the statue are alive on the earth. But if Christianity isn't the Stone Kingdom, who is? And how does it relate to the prophecy concerning the ten kings?

THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE

In the guise of returning decency to society, there is a deceptive scheme at work in political and religious circles today — people who believe that God's purposes on the earth will best be served if Christians grab the reins of political power. History shows us what happens when religious leaders control politics. Since the time of Constantine until the

¹⁶ John 17:22-23

¹⁴ https://gordonconwell.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2019/04/ StatusofGlobalChristianity20191.pdf ¹⁵ 1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 1:27

conflict in Northern Ireland, religion and politics have not mixed without the shedding of blood. Catholics murdered their heretics and Protestants murdered theirs. Almost everyone persecuted the Jews. Such religious oppression has only recently been curtailed in governments like the United States, where a separation of church and state has been enshrined in their *Constitution* and enforced by adherence to it.

Nonetheless, many Christians believe that the kingdom of God is going to come to earth through mixing the clay of Christianity with the iron of Western civilization once again. It would be easy to mistake the feet and the toes of iron and clay for a fifth kingdom. But no matter how much clay (religion) one adds to the iron (government) of the world, it will not become God's kingdom. It can only be an extension of the fourth kingdom — the legs of iron. The book of Daniel makes it clear that the ten kings will arise out of the fourth kingdom.¹⁷

The two elements of iron and clay, which can never mix, are social democracy and ecumenism, because one is political and one is religious. Despite the appearance of world peace and unity, it will be a facade that deceives all but the elect. It will look appealing. It will seem to be the answer to all the world's problems, but it will be a lie.

The amazing thing is how the ten kings will come into power. The book of Revelation also prophesies concerning the ten kings. The prophet saw a vision of

...the great prostitute... a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones, and pearls. She had a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries... I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints... (Revelation 17:1,3,4,6)

The explanation of this vision by an angel revealed that

... the ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast...The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth. (Revelation 17:12-13,18)

Clearly the ten kings come into power under the sway of this "prostitute." Doesn't this portray an accurate picture of Christianity's role in human history? Hasn't she continually adulterated the words of her

¹⁷ Daniel 7:7,23,24

supposed Lord in order to have the very power and wealth that He preached against?¹⁸ Hasn't she united herself with the rulers of the earth since the days of Constantine, in order to secure worldly influence for herself? Hasn't she consistently used her influence to spill the blood of those whose faith differed from her doctrine? And haven't the rulers of the earth always made use of her influence to motivate the masses of people to obey decrees, go to war, vote, etc.?

Yes, Christian leaders, from the popes of the Middle Ages to the Billy Grahams of today, have maintained an unholy alliance with political leaders, each exploiting the other for their own ends. Consider the recent book, *His Holiness*, in which Carl Bernstein documents and concludes that Pope John Paul II was the most influential political figure of the twentieth century, being instrumental in the reconstruction of Europe, including such events as the toppling of the Berlin Wall. So it shouldn't be surprising that the ten kings would rise to power through the influence of Christianity, and vice versa. But when?

THE COMING OF THE TEN KINGS

The political and economic unification in Europe is the beginning of the formation of that confederation of ten kings (the feet and toes). Eventually it will coalesce into ten dominant powers. Witness the dramatic rejoining of East and West Germany into a single nation over the last decade. No one expected it could happen, and political prophets did not foresee it.

Having begun in the fourth century, the schism between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches foretold the fall of the fourth world empire. Similarly, the superficial unification of Christian denominations through the Ecumenical Movement will signal the coming together of the ten kings (ten toes) into a political unity that will revive the fourth kingdom to the stature of a world empire.

THE CHISELING HAS BEGUN

Even as we see the Ecumenical Movement becoming the catalyst for the revival of the fourth world empire, we are also beginning to see a people being hewn out of the mountain of the world. Those who have been hewn out are being drawn together into communities of love that will grow to be the Stone Kingdom. During the life of the ten rulers depicted by the toes, God is raising up this kingdom, and His name will be made great among the nations.

¹⁸ Luke 14:33; 6:24; 12:29-34

And your eyes will see this and you will say, "The Lord be magnified beyond the border of Israel! ... for from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations." (Malachi 1:5,11)

They will be the restored, fully-developed Body of Messiah, the twelve-tribed spiritual Israel which will roll down that mountain and crush the toes, destroying the kingdoms of the world forever. Of this fifth kingdom there will never be an end, nor will it ever be left to another people. This kingdom will continue into the coming new age, governing the whole world and expanding throughout the universe into eternity.¹⁹

THE BINDING POWER OF LOVE

The Gospel of the Stone Kingdom will be proclaimed in the whole world as a demonstration to all nations, and then the end will come.²⁰ This Stone Kingdom is Yahshua's kingdom, which is held together by love. It is His Body, His Bride, perfected in love. It will bring about the end of the age. It is the Stone that will cause that great statue, the governments of this world, to topple, so that the government of God will reign on the earth. This will happen thoroughly and quickly.²¹ But in the end, the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our God, who shall reign forever and ever.²² It will happen because our Master Yahshua will split

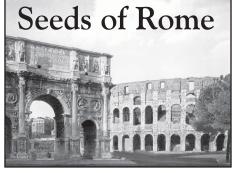
the sky and reonce there is a people of faith gathered to receive Him. They will be "Daniel's people."23 This is the fifth and final kingdom — the Stone Kingdom which will never be destroyed.24 🔉



¹⁹ Daniel 2:44 ²⁰ Matthew 24:14 ²¹ Romans 9:28 ²² Revelation 11:15

²³ Daniel 12:1 ²⁴ Daniel 2:44

Roman Empire at 476 AD with the removal of the last western emperor. This would seem to be the end of the fourth kingdom in Daniel's prophecy. But it is amazing to note that no empire has risen since that time to take its place. That means there have been over fifteen hundred years of political struggle without any one nation rising to dominance. The



reason is that the dream was true and its interpretation trustworthy. There were only four kingdoms in the statue and the Stone Kingdom crushed and removed all trace of them. But the fourth kingdom has not yet been crushed. All around us in the present day we see traces of Rome. Actually, they are more than traces — they are the very fabric of Western civilization. Primary among these is the system of law. The legal codes of most Western nations are based on Roman law. This heritage is easily detected from the use of Latin in legal terminology. Also, amazingly, most Western nations have adopted some form of republican government, which Rome preserved even under its most powerful emperors. Beyond this, there is a deep admiration, even an awe, implanted in Westerners for the Roman Empire and its achievements. Something in the soul of Western man wants to see the glory of that civilization, the Roman peace and prosperity, reproduced today.

That desire has been carried and nurtured through the centuries by Christianity. Ever since she united with the Roman Empire in the time of Constantine, the Church has had a vital interest in the unification of Europe under central rule. It was she who civilized and Christianized the Germanic tribes who conquered Rome and then crowned Charlemagne Emperor of Rome in 800, looking for a revival of the security she had known under Constantine.

This political connection with the Germanic tribes endured for 1000 years, inspiring such German princes as Otto I and Charles V to extend their rule over Europe and be crowned as Roman emperors. So deeply ingrained in the tradition of the German people was this tie with Rome, both spiritually and politically, that an entire succession of monarchs for six and a half centuries referred to their domain as the "Holy Roman Empire."

Their claims ended in 1806 when Napoleon, with his own dreams of empire, sought to dominate Europe. Crowned Emperor of France, with the blessing of the Pope, Napoleon soon showed that he was not content with France, but wanted a Roman Empire of his own.

Rome, then, lives on in the religion, history, politics, law, government, traditions, and languages of Europe. But, most importantly, it lives in the hearts and imaginations of Europeans, ready to spring forth into a confederation of ten nations in these last days.

The compelling prophecy of Daniel 2, so clear in its revelation of the future so long before that future came, has been largely ignored by most Christian teachers.

Reasons become apparent as soon as the prophecy is seriously considered. Immediately, questions arise regarding the nature of the Stone Kingdom, and how it is hewn out of the mountain without human hands, and most of all, the fact that it can only be fulfilled at the end of days, and how nothing that comes before those days is the kingdom that God sets up on the earth — one that will never be destroyed.1



Roger Williams, an exile from England, and then banished from the Puritan colonies of New England, thought deeply about these questions, and realized how the prophecy of Daniel 2 applied to the Christian Church. What he had to say about Daniel's prophecy almost 400 years ago is still very pertinent today...

ROGER WILLIAMS AND THE STONE KINGDOM

"The Christian Church or Kingdom of the Saints – that Stone cut out of the mountain without human hands (Daniel 2) – now made all one with the mountain or Civil State, the Roman Empire, from whence it is cut... Christ's lilies, garden and love, all one with the thorns, the daughters and wilderness of the World." ~Roger Williams²

ago. In his *Bloudy Tenent*, he wrote, "Christianity fell asleep in the bosom of Con-

stantine, and the laps and bosoms of those Emperors who professed the name of Christ.^{13}

Continuing on in the same passage, Roger Williams describes the effect that pagan and Christian rulers had upon the Church:

"The unknowing zeal of Constantine and other Emperors, did more hurt to Christ Jesus, His Crown and Kingdom, than the raging fury of the most bloody Neros. In the persecutions of the latter, Christians were sweet and fragrant, like spice pounded and beaten in mortars: But those good Emperors...maintaining their religion by the material sword, I say by this means Christianity was eclipsed and the Professors of it fell asleep, and by degrees the Gardens of the Churches of Saints were turned into the Wilderness of whole Nations, until the whole World became Christian or Christendom." (Revelation 12 & 13)

Roger Williams saw that Christianity had fallen asleep (died spiritually) when it had grown comfortable and compromised with the state. "Good" Christian emperors had seduced the church, and she could never regain her lost purity. More than that, she went from being the persecuted to being the persecutors!

"...not attending to the Command of Christ Jesus to permit the tares to grow in the Field of the World, they made the Garden of the Church and field of the World to be all one; and might not only sometimes in their zealous mistakes persecute good wheat instead of Tares, but also pluck up thousands of those precious Stalks by commotions and combustions about religion."⁴

The Stone of Daniel's prophecy, according to Williams, had been cut out of the mountain of the world in the time of the early church. Something radical had happened when it merged with the Roman civil power, however. The change was so radical that it ceased to have the nature of the Stone that would destroy the Statue. Instead, it became one with the world from which it had been cut, undoing the work of Messiah and doing the work of the Evil One.⁵

Williams' imagery is from the Song of Solomon. He speaks of Christ's beloved, His Bride, the Church⁶ as being one with the thorns and the wilderness. This refers to a tasteless and saltless church that is good for nothing, and which will one day be trampled under foot by men.⁷ Equally so, he knew that the day would come when the Stone would be cut out of the mountain of the world, which all the holy prophets had said would be fulfilled.⁸

Until that time. Roger Williams would only call himself a "waiter" and a "seeker." His was a costly honesty, for his greatest desire was to serve the God he loved so much. and to do so in sweet communion with all other sincere believers. Yet he knew that until true restoration came through the re-establishment of apostolic authority, Christianity was merely an outward form in which he could not in good conscience take part. *



Roger Williams was honored with a statue among the "Fathers of the Protestant Reformation" on the city wall of Geneva, Switzerland.
It is ironic, considering that John Calvin and Martin Luther would not have hesitated to burn him at the stake as a heretic.

¹ Daniel 2:34-35 and 2:44-45. ² Roger Williams, *Bloudy Tenent of Persecution for Cause of Conscience* (1644), p. 174. ³ *Bloudy Tenent*, p. 184. ⁴ *Ibid* ⁵ 1 John 3:8

⁶ Ephesians 5:25-30 ⁷ Matthew 5:13 (The true Church is described in Matthew 5:10-16, the one which has not lost its salt. It is offensive enough to the world to be ill-spoken of.) ⁸ Acts 3:21

hroughout most of Biblical history, God's people have been a small, twelve-tribed nation dwelling in the Middle East, known as *Israel*. Yet in the final years of this age, a new type of Israel is coming to birth. It is still the people of God and consists of twelve tribes, but this new spiritual Israel is forming outside the borders of the land of Israel, as the prophet Malachi foretold (Malachi 1:5).



Like Israel of old, these people will live as a light to the nations in which they sojourn. To old Israel was granted the unique privilege of receiving God's laws and time-honored covenants. They were entrusted with the Temple and its ritual worship, even the divine glory that filled its sanctuary. They were adopted as sons of the God who tenderly loved them. This rich heritage was the common property of those who made up the commonwealth of Israel. Not only were they participants in an abundant social life, overflowing with new moon feasts, religious holidays, and national celebrations, but they also had fellowship with their God and came to love Him supremely. To live in Israel was to be connected to its roots, to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to its kings and prophets, and to other well-known men who walked with their God. It is little wonder that from this nation came the ancestors of Messiah Yahshua who was sent to save His people and re-establish their nation.

All the promises that applied to the once-vibrant commonwealth of old Israel apply to the new Israel that our Master established by His death and resurrection. Over the centuries, very few people have ever understood who Israel is and what its purpose is. Some know that ten of its tribes were lost, and most of the remaining tribes were scattered all over the earth, but who understands the significance of Israel's restoration? The Holy Spirit has wisely allowed this secret to remain hidden until a time when the conditions were ripe to raise up a twelve-tribed Israel again on the earth. The clues to this mystery unfolding are plentifully supplied in the Scriptures: Isaiah 49:5-6; Jeremiah 23:8; John 10:16; 11:52; Acts 26:7; Ephesians 2:12; James 1:1; Revelation 7:4-8.

Israel will once again be gathered into twelve tribes, into clans and communities like the first church in Jerusalem (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35). Springing up from the dust, like a root out of dry ground, or like a tender shoot from the stump of an ancient tree, the new Israel will appear in twelve different locations on earth. Their warmth, joy, and hospitality will invite people from all nations, tribes, and languages to take part in their social life. They will call themselves the House of Jacob, the Israel of God, the Twelve Tribes. Their life of self-sacrificing love will spread across national boundaries. All the clans in all the tribes will be united together. They will give, even beyond their means, to help their brothers in other places. That is the life of Israel — a foretaste of the age to come!



This mystery has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than in any other living man, but for the purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.

(Daniel 2:30)

Some people scoff at the intense interest given to end-time prophecies. When the year 2000 rolled around, many people were on edge. And maybe they had a point. The times we live in could make a person fearful. Think about the social, moral, and economic problems that face people today. Currently, in the United States, 20% of adults take a psychiatric drug daily, mostly antidepressants. The number of adults on government disability due to psychiatric disorders has more than *tripled* in the past 30 years, and the number of children disabled by psychiatric disorders has increased *30-fold* during this period. The same pattern appears in the rest of the developing world.¹

The reality is, there never has been a time like this. Even when a nation or empire was in decline, or verging on moral collapse, there has always been another society standing by, ready to take over when it fell. This is the only time in history that a global civilization and a global culture have been within man's reach. Within a generation, the whole earth could very likely be united in a federation of governments, much like the European Union is today. And many people fear that when this coming civilization falls, it's going to take everything down with it.

So there are good reasons why men are looking to Bible prophecies for direction. People want to have something secure and unchanging to put their confidence in. The world is mutating much too fast for them to keep up, and they have no assurance that most of the changes are for the better. They want to know how it's all going to turn out, and they've heard

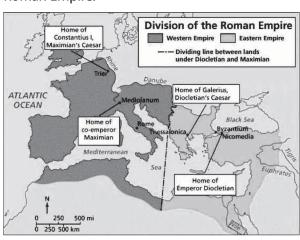
¹ https://www.statnews.com/2018/10/22/flooding-world-psychiatric-drugs-boost-burden-mental-disorders/

that the prophets in the Bible have been right. Haven't many of their predictions already come true?

THE FALL OF THE STATUE

The prophet Daniel is a good example of a man whose words are trustworthy. 2,600 years ago, he interpreted a dream for a Babylonian king. The focus of the dream was a huge statue with a gold head, a chest and arms of silver, a bronze belly, iron legs, and feet and toes of iron mixed with clay. From this dream he predicted a succession of empires which would dominate the earth. And history has proven him right. The Babylonian, Persian, Greek, and Roman Empires followed one another, corresponding exactly to the statue, strikingly in the legs of iron, which depicted the split of the Roman Empire.²

As for the feet and toes of iron mixed with many scholars clay, have imagined this would be a revival of the Roman Empire in a modern form. Their speculations weight, since Roman law and culture undergird all of Western civilization. The renaissance of "Rome" is like waiting seed



sprout. The West is obsessed with a united world, recalling the peace and prosperity that the Roman Empire enjoyed in its heyday, but sadly forgetting the seeds of decay that caused it to fall.

It is easy to see how the current movement toward world unity will bring about the feet of iron mixed with clay, ending with ten iron-and-clay toes.³ Even now, forces are at work to unify all the organized religions for the purpose of making them a dominant political force in the world. When the Ecumenical Movement succeeds, the governments of all nations will see a need to incorporate the influence of religion as a stabilizing force in society. This mixture of the iron of government and the clay of religion will culminate in a federation of ten world leaders. Many people,

² Daniel 2:36-40 ³ Daniel 2:41-43

even within Christianity, see this much about Daniel's predictions. What they do not understand, however, is the end of this vision.

THE MYSTERY OF THE STONE

In the dream, a stone was mysteriously hewn out of a huge mountain. Without human hands it was chipped away, little by little, until it broke free and plummeted toward the statue, striking it on the feet. The iron and clay mixture shattered, and the entire statue fell and disintegrated. Then a mighty wind blew away the dust until no trace was left of the once-mighty statue. Only the stone remained, and its essence filled the entire earth.

The fifth-century theologian Augustine claimed that this stone was the Roman Catholic Church, and that it had already become the mountain that filled the whole earth. 4 What Augustine failed to consider, however, was that the Catholic Church did not remove every trace of the Roman Empire, but instead transformed it into the Holy Roman Empire — a foretaste of the clay mixing with the iron in the last days of this age.



Pope Leo III Crowning Charlemagne as Roman Emperor on Christmas Day, AD 800

Daniel made it clear that the stone is not merely a religion, but a kingdom.⁵ And it is not just any kingdom, but the kingdom which the God of heaven will set up in "the days of those kings" — the ten kings of the world federation represented by the toes of the statue. This can only happen in the last days of this age — obviously so, since when that stone falls on the toes, it brings this age to an end.

The relentless progress toward religious and political unity that is now driving the Western world shows that we are clearly in the beginning stages of that federation of kings. Once again, Daniel's interpretation of the dream is proving trustworthy. So we must also be living at the time when God is beginning to cut that stone out of the mountain of the world.

⁴ Augustine, *In Answer to the Letters of Petilian*, Book 2, Chapter 38, paragraph 90

⁵ Daniel 2:44-45

NOT SUBVERSIVE

Daniel said that the Stone Kingdom would not be left for another people. It will endure forever because it is completely separate from the society of the end times. This is the meaning of the stone being cut out of the mountain. Those who make up this kingdom are hewn out of the world, not by human effort, but by a divine act.

Many groups are forming in these days, taking their cues from such prophecies as Daniel and the book of Revelation. They are taking steps to isolate themselves from the corruption they see in society, and even to arm themselves for a conflict with the emerging one-world order. The FBI estimates that there are hundreds of such private armies in the United States alone. These survivalist groups think that by stockpiling weapons and supplies, they can make it through the collapse of the present society and take over. But what they do *not* see is that, contrary to prophecy, they are trying to cut *themselves* out of the mountain *with* human hands.

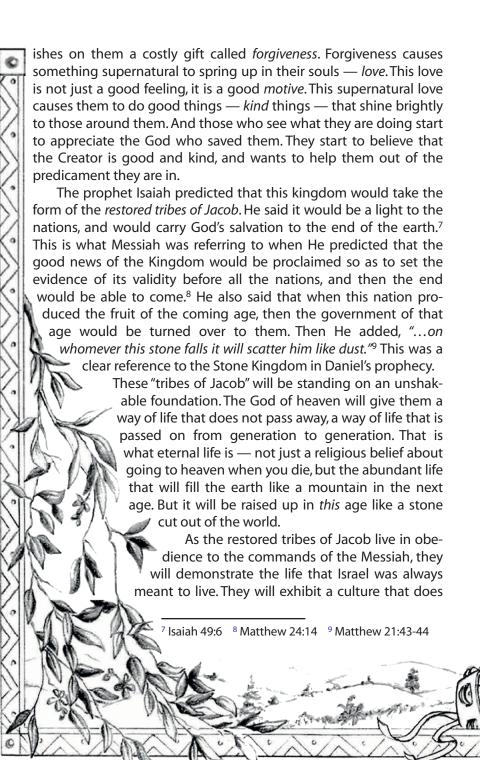
Such alternative societies are based on reactions to the current culture, hatred of other races or religions, and even insane plans to force a confrontation with the "antichrist government." But their efforts will prove futile. Those who are subversive will be surrounded and disarmed, or perhaps even destroyed, and others will be assimilated back into society. A movement based on mere reactions to moral decline will not stand. Subversive or reactionary groups cannot overthrow the current order because they are still connected to its source. They are still controlled by the same spirits that control the society to which they are reacting. The whole world lies under the sway of the Evil One. The only society that will be able to endure is one that comes out from under the control of the evil spiritual forces that work in the unseen realm.

This is how the Stone Kingdom will bring an end to the kingdoms of this world — not through subversive activity against those kingdoms, but through overcoming the evil spiritual forces that control them. Those in the Stone Kingdom will have power over the unclean spirits that stir up fear, hatred, greed, pride, selfish desire, and even self-centered thoughts.

THE RADICAL SOLUTION TO SIN

The Stone Kingdom does something truly radical. It lays the axe to the root that has caused the downfall of every civilization since the beginning. That root is self-life. Self-life is the very fabric of sin. Those who choose to follow the King of this kingdom choose to put self to death. This is called *repentance*. When they truly repent of self-life, their King lav-

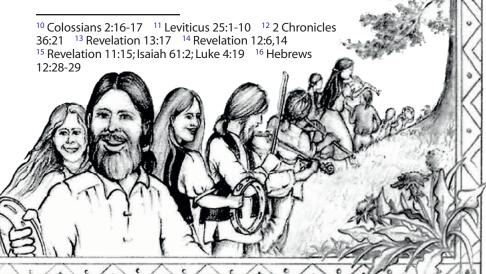
^{6 1} John 5:19



not come from the world around them, and is not merely a reaction to it. Their way of doing business, their art and music, and the festivals that celebrate their dependence on their Creator will be given to them from above, and will have a quality that is radically different from the culture that surrounds them. ¹⁰ Every part of their life will be focused toward the goal of being worthy to be that Stone Kingdom.

Even their obedience to the divine command that Israel should let their land rest one year out of every seven¹¹ — the sabbatical years that Israel of old never truly obeyed fully observed¹² — will prepare them to live a life that does not depend on buying, selling, planting, or harvesting.¹³ Thus they will be able to endure in the wilderness for the 1260 days¹⁴ until the Jubilee, when Messiah returns and the whole earth is delivered back to its rightful Owner.¹⁴

This is the message of the prophets for the end times. Daniel, Isaiah, and our Master Yahshua all point to the one life, the one culture, the one kingdom that will endure. Only those whose life is based on self-sacrificing love, as a foretaste of the coming age, will endure. Whoever is truly looking to the prophets for a way out of the destruction and corruption of today will find it in this unshakable kingdom.¹⁶



THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

n the days of John the Baptist and the Son of preserved God. the language of the devout Jews was Hebrew. So, when the angel Gabriel brought the good news to the Hebrew virgin, Miriam (or Mary in English), that she would give birth to the Savior of the world, and told her what His name would be, what language do you suppose he spoke? Hebrew, of course! And certainly Miriam and Yoceph (or Joseph in English) named the child just as the angel had commanded them — Yahshua.

In Matthew 1:21, your Bible probably reads, "...and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." But the name Jesus is a modern English adaptation of the Greek name, lesous, which is itself a corruption of the original Hebrew name Yahshua. The name Jesus or lesous has no meaning of its own, but the Hebrew name Yahshua literally means Yahweh's Salvation,1 which makes sense out of what the angel said in Matthew 1:21, "...you shall call His name Yahshua [Yahweh's Salvation], for He shall save His people from their sins."

If you look in a pre-1769 King James Bible, you will find the name

Jesus in these two passages:

Which also our fathers that came after brought in with **Jesus** into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David... (Acts 7:45, 1611 KJV)

For if **Jesus** had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. (Hebrews 4:8, 1611 KJV)

However, if you look in any modern translation of the Bible, including the New King James, you will find that in place of the name *Jesus* they use the name *Joshua*, for in the context it is clear that it is speaking there of Moses' successor and not the Son of God. But in the Greek manuscript the name in both of these verses is *Jesous*.

You see, Joshua is the popular English transliteration of the Hebrew name of Moses' successor, which meant, "He will save." This name looks forward to the name of the Son of God, for Joshua was the prophetic forerunner of the Messiah, bringing

¹ Yah is the personal name of God, and shua is from a Hebrew root word that means "to save." God identified Himself to Moses as YAH (meaning "I AM") in Exodus 3:14, as in Psalm 68:4 ("whose name is Yah"), and as most familiar in the word Halleluyah ("Praise Yah"). And in John 5:43 and 17:11, Yahshua says that He came in His Father's name, "the name which You have given Me" (NASB), so it is not surprising that the Father's name would be incorporated into the Son's name, Yahshua.

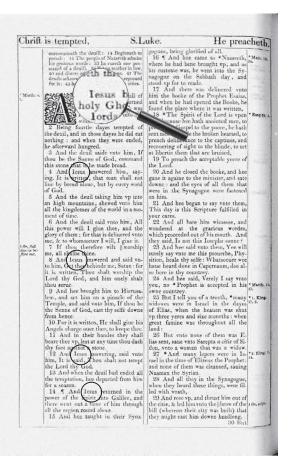
Israel into the Promised Land and leading them to victory over their enemies. But since the translators obviously know this fact, why do they only translate lesous as Joshua in these two verses, and as Jesus everywhere else?

The NIV New Testament even has a footnote supporting this fact under Matthew 1:21:"Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua."

But the fact is, the name of God's Son was even written pronounced as "Jesus" in English until the 1600s, simply because there was no "J" sound or letter in English before then.² The modern letter "J" evolved from the letter "I" which began to be written with a "tail" when it appeared as the first letter in a word. So in old English the name now written as Jesus was actually written and pronounced much like the

name.

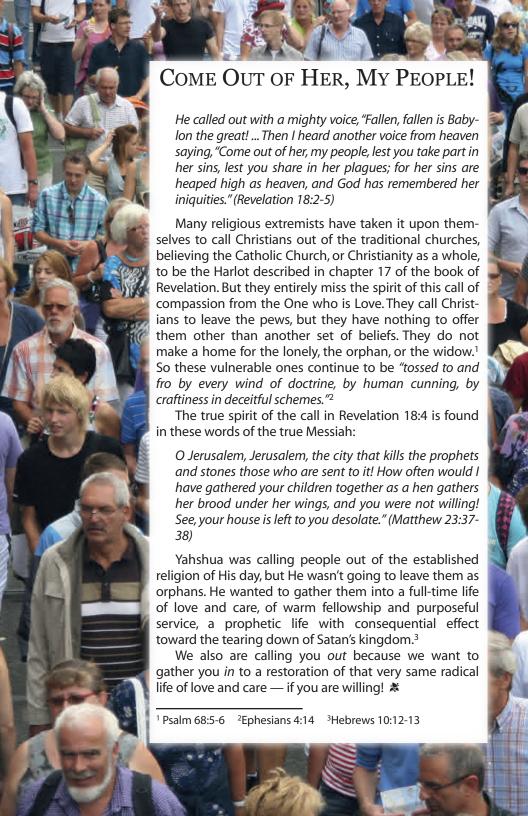
You may also find it interesting that in Acts 26:14-15, it says that the apostle Paul heard the name of the



A page from the 1611 Authorized Version (Kina James Bible). Note the lack of a "J" in the Savior's name.

original Greek lesous. Eventually the Son of God pronounced "in the hard "J" sound crept into the English Hebrew tongue" by the Son of God language to accompany the different Himself, so he certainly didn't hear way of writing the initial "I" in the Greek name lesous or the English name Jesus, but rather the Hebrew name, the name above all names, Yahshua.³ №

² Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (Oxford University Press, 1971), pp. 1496,1507 ³ Philippians 2:9; Acts 4:12



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THERE IS A PEOPLE who woke up this morning with one thing on their minds: to love their Creator with all their heart, soul, and strength, and to love one another just as He loved them. Being ordinary human beings, we are far from perfect in our love, yet, in hope, we persevere. Our goal? That the Kingdom of God would come on earth as it is in heaven, so that love and justice can rule on the earth. Sound impossible? It would be, were it not that Yahshua, the Messiah, came to redeem mankind, to set us free from the curse of sin, and to enable us to love. Because we have come to see His worth and our own desperate need, we have surrendered everything in order to follow Him. Our hearts and our homes are open night and day to any who are interested in our life or are weary of their sin and want to know the purpose for which they were created.