

# Sustainable Living

*An  
Elusive  
Dream?*

A Twelve Tribes  
Freepaper



**W**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.”<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.twelvetribe.org](http://www.twelvetribe.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.”<sup>3</sup>

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 per-

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<sup>1</sup>Acts 2:44   <sup>2</sup>Acts 4:32-35   <sup>3</sup>Acts 2:46



son.<sup>4</sup> As a spiritual priesthood, we pray 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.<sup>5</sup> 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.

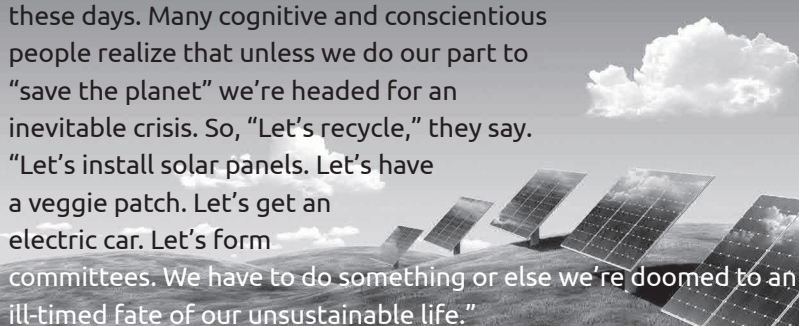
We love and cherish our children. We teach them at home, using a curriculum we are developing ourselves, to give them the basic skills they need to read, write, and speak effectively, to live together in peace, and to fulfill their created purpose. Our children's training goes far beyond the classroom, 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,<sup>6</sup> and by our Master Yahshua,<sup>7</sup> whose life, death, and resurrection make this life possible. ✨

<sup>4</sup>1 Corinthians 14:26; 1 Peter 4:11; Romans 12:6 <sup>5</sup>Ephesians 2:10 <sup>6</sup>Isaiah 49:6; Jeremiah 30:20; 31:1,4,13,14; Malachi 4:5-6 <sup>7</sup>Matthew 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 20 for more about this name.)

# Sustainable Living?

It's one of the most popular catch phrases these days. Many cognitive and conscientious people realize that unless we do our part to "save the planet" we're headed for an inevitable crisis. So, "Let's recycle," they say. "Let's install solar panels. Let's have a veggie patch. Let's get an electric car. Let's form committees. We have to do something or else we're doomed to an ill-timed fate of our unsustainable life."



"Sustainable" — what a buzzword, but without much more substance to it than getting some eco-addition to your lifestyle choice. Is that it? Is there more to sustainable living? What is the real meaning of sustainable?

sus•tain [*suh-steyn*] verb (used with an object):

- 1) to support, hold, or bear up from below; bear the weight of, as a structure.
- 2) to bear (a burden, charge, etc.).
- 3) to undergo, experience, or suffer (injury, loss, etc.); endure without giving way or yielding.
- 4) to keep (a person, the mind, the spirits, etc.) from giving way, as under trial or affliction.
- 5) to keep up or keep going, as an action or process: as, to sustain a conversation.
- 6) to supply with food, drink, and other necessities of life.
- 7) to provide for (an institution or the like) by furnishing means or funds.
- 8) to support (a cause or the like) by aid or approval.
- 9) to uphold as valid, just, or correct, as a claim or the person making it: as, "The judge sustained the lawyer's objection."
- 10) to confirm or corroborate, as a statement: "Further investigation sustained my suspicions."

What does it mean, then, to sustain human culture? Yes, organic farming is important, yet because of the nature of our selfish human society, organic farming is becoming just as removed from you as the industrial-agricultural infrastructure that has replaced the family farm.

The system that supports our modern farming culture sees to it that what you need is being produced a long way from where you live, without your involvement, in order that you can purchase what you want, when you want it, at the price you want to pay for it — but only “certified organic” (whatever that means in the supermarket chains).

Yes, the pollution from burning fossil fuels is a terrible burden on the environment, and energy-efficient homes and cars are important. But even hybrid electric cars merely support the dominant social paradigm of living our own independent lives, getting to work and back again, usually alone. (Who can really make car-pooling work?)

Cleaning up emissions is great, but it’s not touching the psyche of consumerism that fuels the demand for cars in the first place.

Yes, clean water is important, but complex ways of filtering the polluted water supply won’t help us to share when clean water becomes a rare and precious commodity.

Conservation, regeneration, appropriate technology, yes, yes, yes, all of these things are important, but are these the needs that we hope the system will take care of so that we can get on with our comfortable lives?

Part of our “comfort” is not having to take care of our neighbor as ourselves. We’re all so well-fed by an efficient supply of food coming to us at no personal cost — other than an artificially low price — and, being cushioned by the “welfare system,” we don’t have to deal with the demands of human beings in need. Our friendships can be over coffee and shared ideas, but how deep dare we go?

The sobering reality is that sustainable living on Planet Earth can’t go beyond sustainable relationships among her inhabitants.

Industrial agriculture is mass production based on tonnages, technology, trucks, monoculture, on-selling of crops, one man on a tractor, little human labor, agri-business, supermarkets a long way from the person who will eat it, and plenty of people making a profit.

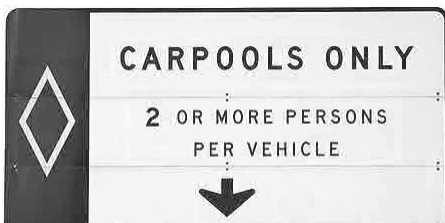
So let's go back to the definition:

*Sustain: to support, to suffer, to bear, to endure, to provide for, to aid.*

Do you desire friendships that resemble the kind of relationship that the word *sustain* implies?

Do you want to be that kind of friend? Are you looking for friends with whom you can share the deep longings of your heart, friends that will endure long past the "clock-out time" to see someone else's burden come about?

Do you dream of passing your heart on to your children so that, long after you return to the soil, they will carry it on? Or are they just getting sucked into the "iPod generation" along with everyone else, tuning people out in favor of technology?



Sustainable living on Planet Earth can't go beyond sustainable relationships.

Being sustainable actually has very little to do with the eco-buzzwords of the era, but it has a lot to do with a very un-buzzword from a bygone era — *sin*.

Sin is the ultimate in unsustainable action. Sin is defined in the Bible as knowing the right thing to do and not doing it. The most obvious outworking of sin is selfishness — being trapped in a world where you have to look out for your own needs first, at the expense of others.

**I**n our life in community, we are learning to deal with the ancient problem of sin, recognizing the effects of selfishness in our own lives,

and overcoming it together. Having a good conscience, we are able to live together and support each other. We have found the answer to the problem of sustainability.

Sustainable living begins with sustainable relationships, and we have come to follow the One who set the pattern of true sustainability — Yahshua, the Messiah (see page 18). His life of suffering to bring about the burden in the heart of the Creator, that men would live as one, brought about the only truly sustainable life the world has ever seen.

This radical life was actually lived out two thousand years ago, as recorded in the Bible, in the Book of Acts, and it turned the known world upside down. But alas, the sad story that is recorded later in the Bible tells of the arch-enemy of such sustainability — selfishness — which crept into the first-century communities and destroyed the very fabric of their emerging new culture.

Thankfully, this was not the end of the story. Once again, the fire of this life of love has been rekindled on the earth, and once again the community of those who believe share all things, and the life of true sustainability is being lived out as a foretaste of the age to come.

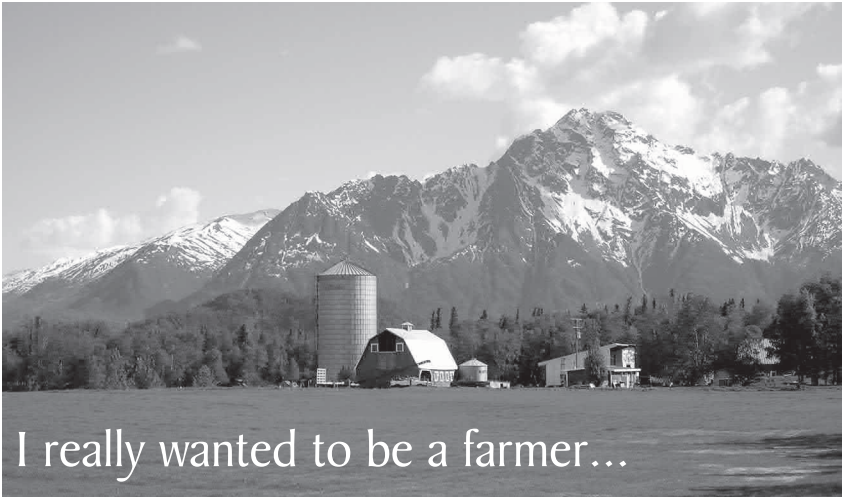


All who believed were together and shared all things in common, and they were selling their possessions and property and were sharing them with all, as anyone had need.

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and one soul, and no one said that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. Neither were there any poor among them...  
(Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35)

So, please come and witness our sustainable life, demonstrated before you on one of our organic farms. Our goal is sustainable friendships that endure to the generations that follow after us!

Scott



**T**hat's all I wanted to do, right from when I was in high school. I couldn't do it, though. The cost of the land and the equipment meant I couldn't do it. I started work as a craftsman and made my living that way, but the dream remained deep in my heart. Then finally, after many years, I actually managed to buy a little farm, just 15 acres, but it had a spring and fields, and some wooded areas on a hillside. It was so pretty and I had so many plans for it, that I wanted to work on... but I was so alone. I had so many bills and other responsibilities to cover, that I didn't have time to actually farm it.

Another dream I had was to have a cozy little café, with a nice fireplace — a place for friends to gather and for the lonely to find shelter and make a friend. A place where real food was served by real people and relationships mattered. I couldn't do this either. Al-

though I owned a building that would be just perfect, it remained just a dream in my heart.

Still deeper in my heart was a dream that my life could be all about love and togetherness. I really tried to make that one happen. But I couldn't do that either. The more I tried to gather together with people, the more things ended up blowing apart. I left behind a trail of broken relationships for 30 years.

The very deepest dream in my heart was that I could have a pure heart cleared of all regret and guilt and bitterness... that I could know that my life was pleasing to my own heart and to the One who made me. This also continually eluded me. Those things I didn't want to do and be, I continued to do and be. My heart was so divided. I was my own worst enemy and somehow I could not be any different, no matter what my current mask was.



I tried to leave my past behind... all the people I had hurt and who had hurt me, all the things I had done or failed to do that I regretted... but the reality was that I carried the weight of guilt, bitterness and regret.

The only thing I had managed to sustain was a middle-class life with a house, two cars, school fees, insurance, TV, credit cards, assets, and a relationship with someone who had a very different heart than mine. I made pretty good money in my work, but I could not get out of it to even try to do what was really in my heart. Trapped by success, I guess you could say. Once you have tons of bills, and have a job that pays the bills, you are stuck, pretty much. You know what I mean?

Fundamentally, I was alone, and I hated it. I would lay awake at night sometimes, thinking about the emptiness of my life, even as it was chock-full of stuff and plans and assets and debts and superficial relationships. I would lay awake and cry out, "God, if

you are there, I don't know how much longer I can do this!"

My drugs hadn't set me free and neither had my Christianity. I was trapped by the tyranny of self-life in a selfish world. Who could untangle the Gordian knot? How could I find a way to live out what was in my heart?

**T**hen I met a simple people who somehow had the power to live together as one and love and forgive one another. They had given up all their stuff and their entire lives including everything that had a hold on their heart to follow the One who loved them first, by loving one another, and not stopping! They did everything together!

They told me that Yahshua, the Messiah (see page 18), was the only way out of my rotten, stinking life. They told me that my life that I was holding onto was taking me to death and torment. I could put my old life in the trash and have a completely new one. The new life would be Yahshua's



wonderful life of love and unity and purpose and togetherness. They told me that He died and rose again from death to obtain forgiveness and a new life for me.

I had heard that before, and thought I believed it for many years, but without ever gaining that new life, incorporated into His Body on the earth. I had remained alone because I had kept my own sovereignty and tried to incorporate Jesus into my life.

I received the persuasion, the faith, to give my entire life in the world up in exchange for this new life! I was immersed into the death of Yahshua in the waters of baptism, crying out for forgiveness, a new, clean conscience and an entirely new life. I rose from the waters and by the power of the Spirit of love I was incorporated into the abundant life of the Body of Messiah in the Communities of the Twelve Tribes.

I left my old life, the life I hated, behind. My partner thought I was crazy to do this and left me behind. My friends and relatives and grown children mostly did the same. Properties, business, plans and ambitions... left behind me.

I gave up everything... and gladly. So what did I receive in exchange? I received my heart's desire I have the clean conscience I longed for since I was a young child. I don't have to think about myself any longer. I don't have to take any thought for my own food, clothing, and shelter or for providing for my future. I simply give myself to

loving and helping my friends, and all I need is provided through their love.

I am one in heart and soul with the friends that I live with. We have all given up everything for the cause of love, to bring about the end of this wicked age. We do everything together. We all gather morning and evening each day to thank and praise our Father and our Master Yahshua, the Messiah. We share our meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart. And we work together to care for the land of our farm. This farm is as pretty as the one I had before, with a creek and beds of vegetables, and friends to be with. And we have a cozy café and bakery. My friends run it and make the wonderful bread and lovely food. I don't have to do it all, but I am part of it. I am needed and I am loved.

You can be part of it, too, because you are needed. There is a place where you can leave your old life behind and find an entirely new life! If your heart is stirred by this, do what is on your heart and respond! Come and be with us, for a day or forever!

*David*





# SAVING THE PLANET

I just knew that I wanted to live in community, that somehow the answer to the world's problems was to live together, garden together, own land together, build houses together, run businesses together, educate our children together. Anyone with eyes to see can see that the world is dying.

My partner and I were really into saving the Planet. We knew children were the future. So we came up with a superhero called Supacycla.

We went around schools with a waste audit and a way that they could reduce, recycle, and reuse by providing four color-coded bins to put in every classroom and throughout the playgrounds and canteens, etc.

We supplied worm farms, and then they could use the worm compost in their permaculture gardens.

We went to festivals, and he dressed in a green Lycra suit, running around getting into people's faces saying, "Reduce, reuse, recycle," and "worm power," and so on.

That's not all we were doing. At one stage we had a café called "Harmony House" where we sold healthy food and had alternative,

original music. In our circle of friends we would often talk about living in community on a piece of land with like-minded people. It never got further than talking. The first and major concern seemed to be who was going to put the money in, and if someone had none, or another had more to put in, was it fair? And if you wanted out, how would you get your money back?

So our lives were so full-on and crazy. We had a demolition business, a recycling business where we sold materials gathered from our demolition, a café, a superhero figure, and four young children to maintain.

Before having children, I had always imagined I would home-school them and keep them out of the system. But here I was, stuck in the downward spiral of making money, and in debt.

To be able to run all the businesses, we put each of our children in daycare when they reached one year old. But how could we impart to our children our passion for the environment when we were not even there for them? We were consumed by our desire to own land, grow food, be rich and famous, connected, accepted,

be a “someone,” but all around our children was “plastic fantastic.” It’s everywhere. Concepts were being swept into their young minds from TV, movies, Internet, music, billboards, school, magazines, video games, and the peer pressure to fit in and conform.

I had always thought of myself as a nonconformist, but looking back I see that I was always conforming to something. If you don’t conform, you’re just lonely and sad, sitting atop some mountain, just breathing air.

Life was so crazy for us. We were in a vortex and we couldn’t get out. Acting on one new idea after another, not having anyone we could really trust, we ended up making decisions that hurt people — especially our children by not being there for them.

Our lease for the café came to an end. “That’s one less thing,” I thought, “That will free me up and I can totally be with my children.” Somehow, though, instead of doing that, I got more into saving the planet. I really had no idea what being a mother meant. It was much easier to hide behind my busyness, put them in daycare, and send them to school, while “saving the planet.”

My oldest son, who was 8 at the time, was headed toward hanging out at the skate/bike park, surfing at the beach, and experimenting in all the things that go with that culture. I knew that in his teenage years I would lose



While I was busy saving the planet, my children were having concepts swept into their minds from TV, movies, the Internet, video games, public school, and peer pressure to conform.

him through my own neglect, and through him conforming to “fit in,” no matter what my “beliefs” were.

I asked an artist friend to draw a vision board for me, listing the things I wanted in my life. The things drawn were mostly for my children. I had a thought of visiting an alternative community to see what they were like, and how they worked.

One Sunday morning, when we woke up, out of the blue, my partner said, “Let’s go to the Easter Show.”

In 41 years, I had never been to the Easter Show, and I didn’t want to start now. The thought of the crowds, the showbags, and the rides did nothing for me. But, he said, “We’ll check out the produce halls, the pavilions, and the animals. The older boys are on a sleepover, so we only have the little ones. They won’t put any pressure on us for rides or showbags.”

Alright, just once in a lifetime.

At the end of the day, we were running from cover to cover to keep out of the rain, and we ran towards a large café beautifully lit up, made from

recycled building materials. We stopped in for a coffee before heading home. The man behind the counter greeted my partner by name. They had met two years before, talking about recycled timber. His name was Nathaniel, and we all ended up talking for about two hours. What we didn't realize was that behind the café was a community life — people sharing everything together — actually everything I'd dreamed that such a life would be. When we left, we had much to think about.

Nathaniel had said to come and visit for a weekend. "Be sure and stay with us. Don't stay in a bed-and-breakfast. We have a place for you." I was so intrigued and enthusiastic about going. I wanted to check out how these people could actually live together. He said they were part of twelve tribes throughout the world, and that these communities had started in the early 1970s.

I loved the sound of it all: Tribes, sustainable living, organic gardening, gatherings with singing and dancing, morning and night...

The only thing that put me off was God and religion. I thought, "If only it didn't have anything do with religion." But I decided to go and see how they did it, and get some ideas so that we could set up our own community.

Two weeks later we headed down to Picton and stepped into another world. We couldn't help but visit many more times. As we experienced this brand-new culture, we could see how futile our existence was in contrast.

For me, it was as if the wind-up doll had finally come to a stop. I realized

that it would be no use setting up my own community. It would just disintegrate like every other relationship in my life.

At 18, I had thought I would always have the same friends. At 28, I thought the same, but with a new set of friends. At 38, it was yet another. Somehow, at 41, I didn't have any friends from those earlier times. I just kept on disposing of them, or they me. I truly was part of the disposable, throw-away generation that I'd despised.

The more I came, the more I heard, the more I realized it was my filthy conscience that kept me from being able to communicate with people, and to have the meaningful, heart-felt relationships I'd longed for.

I was thankful when I realized that the Savior they knew was very different from the Jesus I'd always been wary of. The good news of his forgiveness actually bore fruit in their lives, no longer separate and alienated, but maintaining true friendship in community. I found what I was looking for, and if you're looking for the same thing, I invite you to come and see.



# IS THERE AN ETERNAL

There is a much greater picture in regard to sustainability than we could ever imagine. That is why we have written this paper. If you would dare to cast aside every preconceived idea that you might have already adopted as “your truth,” then perhaps we might be able to give you something that will radically change your life...

Do you dare to journey beyond the box?

There are so many ideas and concepts we can have. All these ways of thinking shape our character. They fashion us and direct many decisions that we make during our life. Many ways of thinking we take for granted. We have formed many opinions based on our reactions to things that we have seen, touched and tasted. To speak about the Creator might bring up many issues for you. It certainly did for me!

When it came down to it, I thought, “Well, I haven’t found any answers to the myriad of questions that plague my mind so maybe I had better ‘go to the top,’ so to speak.”

That is when I found answers. I was so glad to finally be able to be free from all my “truths” and be able to open my mind and heart to receive the genuine truth.

What is truth?

You have been created in the image of our Creator. You have been given a spirit that is eternal. Eternal means unending. Our Creator obviously intended something more for your life than living your days seeking out a mere existence and then dying. Why would he give you an eternal spirit behind your eyeballs if life had no greater, eternal purpose? Well, that is putting things pretty plainly, all distractions and attractions aside.

So how come there is death? Try as hard as we might to preserve our life here on this earth eventually all good things come to an end, right? Even the very concept of death is something to consider – even though we might want to avoid it, especially when we’re having such a great time. (I wonder why having a great time always leaves me feeling so darn lousy afterward?)

My grandfather would offer his advice on the subject. “What does he know?” I would arrogantly think, “Life was different back then.” Each new generation thinks they have all the answers.

# PURPOSE FOR MAN?

The cycle of life, as we know it, isn't how life was originally created to be. The loving Creator who made everyone never intended that your life would ever have to come to an end. If you have ever felt the pain of being separated from someone you love, you have probably wondered, "Why? Why does it feel so wrong?" That is because it is!

**L**iving in this present day and age, we realize that we seek many devices to help us to sustain our comfortable way of life. Many things we consider as necessity. Whether it be *iPhones*, or *iPods*, television, etc, etc. So all these necessities sustain us – or do they? Will they keep you from having to face death when your journey comes to an end?

How can we try to sustain a world that by its very nature isn't sustainable. Selfishness isn't sustainable. No matter how you try and dress it up, this selfish way of life that we have adopted closes our minds and our hearts off from the real things in life that matter.

Like rats running around the treadmill, the reality is that if you try to live your "life" separate from the Source of all life, then you can't really have life. If you cut a flower from its source of life, you can preserve its beauty for a time in an artificial environment (i.e., in a vase) but eventually it withers and dies.

If your head is spinning and your heart is aching, then get off the treadmill, my friend!

**Y**ou don't have to try to sustain your life of futility alone any more. Come and be a part of bringing a truly sustainable life to this earth. A life that goes beyond what you could have ever imagined but deep down always hoped you would find.

We will be so happy to tell you in person. Face to face and heart to heart, those with a genuine yearning to find a sustainable life know that that what they really need to find is love.

*Yaqarah*



# the BARRIER

*He has delivered us from the domain of darkness  
and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son,  
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.  
(Colossians 1:13-14)*

For nearly three decades a great wall of concrete and razor wire divided East and West Berlin, a quite visible boundary between two opposing domains. West Berlin was a small island of relative freedom in the midst of a vast empire of tyranny. Millions of oppressed souls longed for the freedom of the West, but for most it was only an impossible dream. Still, a few courageous ones overcame almost insurmountable obstacles and escaped through tunnels under the wall, through which they had to crawl on their hands and knees. They could take nothing with them — only the clothes on their backs — but they were happy to leave everything behind for the hope of starting a new life.

Although only temporal, the example of the Berlin Wall can help us to “see” the unseen but very real barrier that separates the domain of darkness from the kingdom of light, and understand what it takes to get from one to the other.

## **The Domain of Darkness**

The whole world lies in the power of the Evil One.<sup>1</sup> All men are born under his sway.<sup>2</sup> Although all men have a free will, and a conscience by which they know good from evil,<sup>3</sup> they are alienated from God due to Adam’s sin and must strive to make their own way in this world.<sup>4</sup> Their ingrained insecurity and self-interest make them easy prey for the evil prince of this world, whose chief occupation is to lead them astray.<sup>5</sup> Were it not for the conscience, human society would probably have ended long ago, but now the restraint of conscience has given way to the insatiable demands of self to the point that the very foundations of morality have been reduced to rubble.<sup>6</sup>

Such is the nature of this world. It runs on the engine of self-interest. The souls of men — their intellect, will, and emotions — are consumed with their own needs and desires, with advancing their own careers, causes, and reputations, and with maintaining and building up the systems of this world order.<sup>7</sup> Their conflicting desires and ambitions are the cause of immeasurable human misery and the looming destruction of the very

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<sup>1</sup> 1 John 5:19   <sup>2</sup> Ephesians 2:2   <sup>3</sup> Genesis 3:22   <sup>4</sup> Genesis 3:17-19  
<sup>5</sup> Revelation 12:9   <sup>6</sup> Psalm 12:1   <sup>7</sup> 1 John 2:16



planet they grudgingly share. Their eyes cannot see any way out of the cycle of sin and death they are trapped in. Even their religion does not set them free, but only comforts them in their prison. They sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.<sup>8</sup>

### The Kingdom of Light

Onto the battered landscape of human history walked an ordinary-looking man with an extraordinary message:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19)*

From the day that he severed himself in baptism from the fallen religious system of his day,<sup>9</sup> he spoke of nothing but the Gospel of the Kingdom.<sup>10</sup> He filled his disciples and all who would listen with the vision of a new social order based on love — the direct opposite of the self-interest that fuels the domain of darkness. For by love he did not mean merely an emotion, but rather the deliberate activation of one’s will to seek the welfare of another without regard for one’s own benefit or loss.<sup>11</sup> He did not envision occasional deeds of love adorning the typical routines of life in this world. He lived and died to bring about a whole society of people who take no thought for themselves,<sup>12</sup> but spend their lives each and every day serving one another. That is what he meant by seeking first the kingdom of God.

Yahshua,<sup>13</sup> the Messiah, had absolutely no expectation of this new social order filling the earth in this age. He did not commission his disciples to make the world a better place by infiltrating the world’s society, industry, or government.<sup>14</sup> On the contrary, He called them to come out of that fallen system,<sup>15</sup> even at the cost of their family ties,<sup>16</sup> in order to follow Him. Together they would form a “city” set on a hill; together they would be a



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<sup>8</sup> Luke 1:79 <sup>9</sup> Matthew 3:1-15 <sup>10</sup> References in the Gospels for “gospel of the kingdom” and “kingdom of heaven” and “kingdom of God” are too numerous to cite, which makes it all the more striking that today’s fallen religious system avoids the topic entirely. <sup>11</sup> Luke 9:23-24 <sup>12</sup> Matthew 6:31-33 <sup>13</sup> *Yahshua* is the original Hebrew name of the Savior. See “The Name Above All Names” on page 18 for more about this name. <sup>14</sup> 2 Timothy 2:4 <sup>15</sup> John 15:19; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 <sup>16</sup> Matthew 10:34-39; Mark 10:29-30

light to the world around them.<sup>17</sup> Their “cities” (communities) would be islands of refuge in the midst of a world in bondage to the Evil One<sup>18</sup> — a foretaste of the fullness of Messiah’s kingdom that will fill the whole earth in the next age when the Evil One is bound.<sup>19</sup>

However, that foretaste of the coming kingdom could not come about until Yahshua had died as a ransom for all,<sup>20</sup> and suffered in Death for three days and three nights,<sup>21</sup> and risen from the dead, and ascended to his Father in heaven. Then his Spirit could be released to fill the waiting disciples and empower them to do everything their Master had taught them about the kingdom of God.<sup>22</sup>

It is no accident that the very first thing that happened when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them was that they spoke the Gospel of the Kingdom with boldness, and three thousand men responded to the call to “be saved from this perverse generation” by utterly forsaking their old lives to live a common life together.<sup>23</sup> It was the normal and only fitting response to the good news of the One who had died to ransom them from the clutches of the Evil One and his dark domain. Their common life of love and unity was the witness of the Kingdom<sup>24</sup> — the evidence that Yahshua, the Messiah, was actually ruling in their midst.<sup>25</sup>

### **The Barrier between the Kingdoms**

Although the book of Acts tells this story in only a few sentences, each of those 3000 men had to overcome his own personal obstacles to surrendering his life. There were many wives and children, parents and siblings, farms and businesses, employees, possessions, and debts to be considered. Probably not all of their families and friends were overjoyed at the decisions they made that day to give up everything to follow this resurrected Messiah who could only be seen in his people. It took great courage for those men to walk out the confessions of faith they made that day, at any cost.<sup>26</sup>

The barrier that holds men captive today in the domain of darkness, although invisible, is every bit as real as was the Berlin Wall. Instead of concrete and wire, it is woven of fear, shame, insecurity, intimidation, anxiety, peer pressure, emotional attachments, pride, and countless worldly entanglements. When someone is truly weary of his servitude to the evil prince of this world and the weight of his own guilt, and hears the voice of the Righteous One through his servants, and is drawn to the light

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<sup>17</sup> Matthew 5:14-16 — Yahshua was addressing his disciples collectively, not as independent individuals. The word “you” in Matthew 5:14 is plural, while the words “light” and “city” are singular. <sup>18</sup> Philippians 2:15 <sup>19</sup> Revelation 20:1-3

<sup>20</sup> 1 Timothy 2:6 <sup>21</sup> Matthew 12:40; 27:63; Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34; Acts 2:24

<sup>22</sup> Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:3; John 14:26; 7:37-39 <sup>23</sup> Acts 2:40-47

<sup>24</sup> Matthew 24:14 <sup>25</sup> Even today, wherever He is truly being made Lord, the same common life will prove it. <sup>26</sup> Matthew 10:34-39



emanating from their camp, he or she will inevitably come face-to-face with this barrier. All manner of obstacles will bar the way — an unwilling spouse, rebellious children, financial responsibilities, the pleas, promises, threats, and warnings of family and friends... The tentacles of the unseen realm of darkness will reach out through every earthly tie to tighten their grip on any who dare attempt escape.

It is not that the blood of Yahshua was insufficient to pay the ransom for all, but all are not willing to do his will.<sup>27</sup> All are not thirsty enough to overcome every obstacle that keeps them from drinking the water of life:

*I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. But the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and sexually immoral and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. (Revelation 21:6-8)*

Those who are too cowardly to overcome the obstacles betray the fact of their unbelief. Preferring the pitiful comforts of their captivity,<sup>28</sup> they show contempt for the blood that was shed for them, and become guilty of it, classing themselves among the worst of criminals.<sup>29</sup>

There is no tollgate at the entrance to the kingdom of light. The abundant life of Yahshua is freely given. But just like that tunnel under the Berlin Wall, the way of escape that leads to the Kingdom is narrow and difficult, and few are they who even find it.<sup>30</sup> Nothing of the old life can pass through that gate, which is why only those who hate their lives in this world will be able to make the passage.<sup>31</sup> They are the only ones who will be united with him in the likeness of his death, to serve him where he is — in all the places where his people dwell together in unity.<sup>32</sup> ✠

*For if we have been united together in the likeness of his death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of his resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. (Romans 6:5-7)*

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<sup>27</sup> John 7:17; Hebrews 5:9; Acts 5:32    <sup>28</sup> Luke 6:24    <sup>29</sup> Matthew 11:23-24

<sup>30</sup> Matthew 7:13-14    <sup>31</sup> John 12:25-26    <sup>32</sup> Psalm 133:1-3

# THE NAME ABOVE

## ALL NAMES

In the days of John the Baptist and the Son of God, the preserved 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, *Iesous*, which is itself a corruption of the original Hebrew name *Yahshua*. The name *Jesus* or *Iesous* has no meaning of its own, but the Hebrew name *Yahshua* literally means *Yahweh's Salvation*,<sup>1</sup> 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."

יהושע

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 *Iesous*.

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

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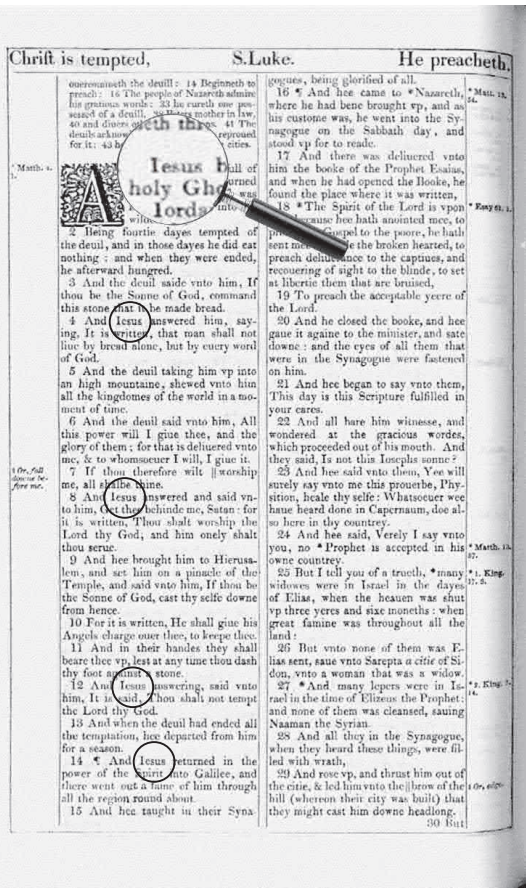
<sup>1</sup> *Yah* is the personal name of God, and *shua* is from a Hebrew root word that means "to save." God identified Himself to Moses as *YAH* (meaning "I AM") in Exodus 3:14, as in Psalm 68:4 ("whose name is *Yah*"), and as most familiar in the word Halleluyah ("Praise *Yah*"). And in John 5:43 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 *Iesous* 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 not even written or pronounced as “*Jesus*” in English until the 1600s, simply because there was no “*J*” sound or letter in English before then.<sup>2</sup> 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 original Greek *Iesous*. Eventually the hard “*J*” sound crept into the English language to accompany the different way of writing the initial “*I*” in the name.

You may also find it interesting that in Acts 26:14-15, it says that the



A page from the 1611 Authorized Version (King James Bible). Note the lack of a “*J*” in the Savior’s name.

apostle Paul heard the name of the Son of God pronounced “in the Hebrew tongue” by the Son of God Himself, so he certainly didn’t hear the Greek name *Iesous* or the English name *Jesus*, but rather the Hebrew name, the name above all names, *Yahshua*.<sup>3</sup>✱

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



## COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE!

*He called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! ... Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities." (Revelation 18:2-5)*

Many religious extremists have taken it upon themselves to call Christians out of the traditional churches, believing the Catholic Church, or Christianity as a whole, to be the Harlot described in chapter 17 of the book of Revelation. But they entirely miss the spirit of this call of compassion from the One who is Love. They call Christians to leave the pews, but they have nothing to offer them other than another set of beliefs. They do not make a home for the lonely, the orphan, or the widow.<sup>1</sup> So these vulnerable ones continue to be *"tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes."*<sup>2</sup>

The true spirit of the call in Revelation 18:4 is found in these words of the true Messiah:

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate." (Matthew 23:37-38)*

Yahshua was calling people out of the established religion of His day, but He wasn't going to leave them as orphans. He wanted to gather them into a full-time life of love and care, of warm fellowship and purposeful service, a prophetic life with consequential effect toward the tearing down of Satan's kingdom.<sup>3</sup>

We also are calling you *out* because we want to gather you *in* to a restoration of that very same radical life of love and care — if you are willing! ✿

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 68:5-6    <sup>2</sup> Ephesians 4:14    <sup>3</sup> Hebrews 10:12-13

*Continued from back cover...*

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*Continued on previous page...*

**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. ✨