



## Kingdom Benefits

**“But now your Kingdom will not endure; Yahweh has sought out a man after His own heart and appointed him leader of His people, because you have not kept Yahweh’s command.” (1 Samuel 13:14)**

**“Go; tell Jeroboam that this is what Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel, says: ‘I raised you up from among the people and made you a leader over My people Israel. I tore the Kingdom away from the House of David and gave it to you, but you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commands and followed Me with all His heart, doing only what was right in my eyes. You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have provoked Me to anger and thrust Me behind your back.’” (1 Kings 14:7-9)**

**“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of Yahweh will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Yahweh - and he will delight in the fear of Yahweh.” (Isaiah 11:1-3)**

**“‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ asked Pilate. ‘Yes, it is as you say,’ YahShua replied.” (Mark 15:2)**

### Message of Messiah

King Messiah YahShua came to say to Israel, to enter His kingdom and enjoy its magnificence; one must be like David – a man after His own heart – and follow Him.

**“At daybreak YahShua went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for Him and when they came to where He was, they tried to keep Him from leaving them. But He said, ‘I must preach the full message of the Kingdom of Yahweh to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.’ And He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.” (Luke 4:42-44)**

**“After this, YahShua traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the full message of the Kingdom of Yahweh. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Miriam (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Yochanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Shoshanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.” (Luke 8:1-3)**

**“When the apostles returned, they reported to YahShua what they had done. Then He took them with Him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bet Tsaida, but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the Kingdom of Yahweh, and healed those who needed healing.” (Luke 9:10-11)**

**“YahShua went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the full message of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about Him spread all over Syria, and people brought to Him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and He healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis (10 cities), Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.” (Matthew 4:23-25)**

“YahShua went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the full message of the Kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the master of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’” (Matthew 9:35-38)

Notice what the message of Messiah is – “the full message of the Kingdom of Yahweh.” What is the message of the Kingdom? It is recorded in the Book of Isaiah:

“Awake, awake, O Zion, clothe yourself with strength. Put on your garments of splendor, O Jerusalem, the Holy City. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again. Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, O Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck, O captive Daughter of Zion.

For this is what Yahweh says: ‘You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed.’ For this is what the Sovereign Yahweh says: ‘At first my people went down to Egypt to live; lately, Assyria has oppressed them. And now what do I have here?’ declares Yahweh. ‘For my people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule them mock,’ declares Yahweh. ‘And all day long My name is constantly blasphemed.

Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I.’

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring full message, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your Elohim reigns!”” (Isaiah 52:1-7)

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Yahweh is on me, because Yahweh has anointed Me to preach full message to the humiliated. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and liberation for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of Yahweh’s favor and the day of vengeance of our Elohim, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of Yahweh for the display of his splendor. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

Aliens will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. And you will be called priests of Yahweh; you will be named ministers of our Elohim. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.

Instead of their shame My people will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace they will rejoice in their inheritance; and so they will inherit a double portion in their land, and everlasting joy will be theirs.

For I, Yahweh, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity. In my faithfulness I will reward them and make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people Yahweh has blessed.’

I delight greatly in Yahweh; my soul rejoices in my Elohim. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Yahweh will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.” (Isaiah 61)

The essence of the Kingdom message is to declare that the Kingdom is operative today and those accepting the message are being taken up into the Kingdom itself.

## **Benefits of the Kingdom**

The benefits of the Kingdom are:

- “**humiliated**” Israel are the first informed about the coming Kingdom.
- Israel having been “**brokenhearted**” is being healed.
- Israel is going to be liberated to worship Yahweh in spirit and truth.
- Israel is being notified that the “**Year of Yahweh’s favor and the day of vengeance**” is coming – they will be avenged.
- Zionists will be comforted, clothed, crowned and anointed with happiness.
- The Land of Israel will be returned to the Zionists.
- Zionists will be restored before the nations of the world.

- Israel will “**rebuild the ancient ruins,**” the ancient cities of Scripture.
- Israel will be sovereign of the nations pressing them into servitude.
- Israel will again be a Kingdom of priests – “**ministers of our Elohim.**”
- Israel will receive the “**wealth of nations.**”
- By embracing the New Covenant, Israel’s inheritance will be restored in “**double portion in their land.**”
- The New Covenant made with Israel is an “**everlasting covenant.**”
- Lost Israel scattered among the nations will realize who they are and “**will acknowledge that they are a people Yahweh (fully) blessed.**”
- Everyone will admit that Yahweh elevated the Commonwealth of Israel and it is the Kingdom of Yahweh on earth.

If you are going to get in on the benefits of the Kingdom you must come in and claim the Kingdom of United Israel and claim your identity as an Israelite. “**Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called ‘uncircumcised’ by those who call themselves ‘the circumcision’ (that done in the body by the hands of men) — remember that at that time you were separate from Messiah, excluded from citizenship in the Commonwealth of Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without Yahweh in the world. (without benefits) But now in Messiah YahShua you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Messiah.**” (Ephesians 2:11-13)

Essentially, if we will reject the “sin of Jeroboam” – mixing the holy with the profane – and return to Yahweh and follow His Messiah we can live in Kingdom benefits. This is the message of the “Parable of the Great Banquet”:

“**When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to YahShua, ‘Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the Kingdom of Yahweh.’**”

“**YahShua replied: ‘A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’**”

**But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’**”

**Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’**”

**Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’**”

**The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’”**

**“Sir,” the servant said, “what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.”**

**Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’” (Luke 14:15-24)**

Messiah came: “**to seek and to save what was lost.**” (Luke 19:10) Not “what” but “who!”

## **To Confer the Kingdom**

King Messiah YahShua said that His mission was to usher the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel back into the Kingdom through the proclamation of its arrival, through participation in table fellowship, and through the witness of the miracles, signs and wonders - object lessons.

**“YahShua said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.’” (Luke 19:9, 10)**

**“...He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Adon, help me.” (Matthew 15:24, 25)**

**“You are those who have stood by Me in My trials. And I confer on you a Kingdom, just as My Father conferred one on Me, so that you may eat and drink at My table in My Kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the Twelve Tribes of Israel.” (Luke 22:28-30)**

In other words, those of Israel that accept the Kingdom message and follow its King are those that share in the benefits of that Kingdom that King Messiah YahShua inaugurated in the first advent of His coming. To those that pledge allegiance to King Messiah are His emissaries and have been empowered to extend the work for the Kingdom.

**“Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is grounded in the Torah: ‘The man who does these things will live by them.’ (Lev. 18:5) And the righteousness that is grounded in faith says: ‘Do not say in**

your heart, “Who will ascend into heaven?” (that is, to bring Messiah down)’ or “Who will descend into the deep?” (that is, to bring Messiah up from the dead). **But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,”** (Deut. 30:12-14) **that is, the Word of Faith we are proclaiming: That if you pledge allegiance with your mouth, ‘YahShua is King,’ and believe in your heart that Yahweh raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, ‘Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’** (Isaiah 28:16) **For there is no difference between Jew and Hellenist—the same Sovereign is sovereign of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh will be saved.’** (Joel 2:32)” (Romans 10:5-13)

**“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Messiah in this way, we do so no longer. (From now on we look at everyone through the filter of eternal values.) Therefore, if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from Yahweh, Who reconciled us to Himself through Messiah and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that Yahweh was reconciling the world to Himself in Messiah, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Messiah's ambassadors, as though Yahweh were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Messiah's behalf: Be reconciled to Yahweh. Yahweh made Him Who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of Yahweh.”** (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

The mission of King Messiah YahShua passed on to His emissaries is to usher as many of Lost Israel and any Gentile converts into the Kingdom through the proclamation that the Kingdom is operative now and will soon take its rightful place on this planet.

He is saying, presently as King, He is bestowing Kingdom responsibilities and benefits to His emissaries and thus inaugurating the Kingdom in exile on those that pledge allegiance to Him as their King.

**“When YahShua came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’**

**They replied, ‘Some say Yochannan the Immerser (John the Baptist); others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’**

**‘But what about you?’ He asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’**

**Shimon Kepha (Peter) answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living Elohim.’**

**YahShua replied, ‘Blessed are you, Shimon ben Yonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in Heaven. And I tell you that you are Kepha (rock or stone), and on this rock (foundation = the profession of faith) I will build My Assembly, and the Gates of Hell will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven.’ Then He warned His disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah.”** (Matthew 16:13-20)

Though this passage is controversial, it is obvious that Rabbi Shimon Kepha, upon his profession of faith that Rabbi YahShua ben Yosef Genessaret is actually King Messiah YahShua was granted the privilege to preach the full message of the Kingdom with delegated authority.

The others were granted the same ministry after they made their professions of faith: **“After this the King appointed seventy others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask Master of the Harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.**

**When you enter a house, first say, “Shalom to this house.” If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.**

**When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, “The Kingdom of Yahweh is near you.” But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, “Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The Kingdom of Yahweh is near.” I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.”** (Luke 10:1-12)

The result of this conference of the Kingdom on the followers of Messiah gave special opportunity and empowered His followers to declare the Kingdom with a sense of boldness that only victory can afford. If we are faithful we will be joint-heirs and co-regents with Messiah serving the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

**“The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of Yahweh: and if children, then heirs; heirs of Yahweh, and joint-heirs with Messiah; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be**

also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” (Romans 8:16-18)

“Then the angel showed me the River of the Water of Life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the Throne of Yahweh and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the Tree of Life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The Throne of Yahweh and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. <sup>4</sup>They will see his face and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Sovereign Yahweh will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever.” (Revelation 22:1-5)

The Kingdom today, is that seed growing secretly (Mark 4:26-29) gaining momentum shooting up as a harvest being planted and replanted now. The Parable of the Mustard Seed shows us that from an insignificant seed that has already been planted and is presently growing comes a tree large enough to shade Gentile converts as Yahweh manifests the fullness of His rule through King Messiah YahShua – when Israel becomes all that Yahweh intended her to be.

## It’s About Time

What time did YahShua think it was in reference to the coming Kingdom?

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in Heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.” (Mark 13:32-34)

King Messiah YahShua did not know when the Kingdom would fully be manifested but He did know that the “coming” of the Kingdom had already begun.

### Three Critical Texts

“From that time on YahShua began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the Elders, High Priests and Rabbis of the Torah, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Kepha took Him aside and began to rebuke him. ‘Never, Sovereign!’ he said. ‘This shall never happen to you!’

YahShua turned and said to Kepha, ‘Get behind me, haSatan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of Yahweh, but the things of men.’

Then YahShua said to His disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his crossbeam and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father's glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what he has done. I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom.” (Matthew 16:21-28)

“These twelve YahShua sent out with the following instructions: ‘Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the Lost Sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: “The Kingdom of Heaven is near.” Heal the sick, raise the dead, and cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep.

Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. I tell you the truth; it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their assemblies. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be

saved. When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. **I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.**” (Matthew 10:5-23)

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. **I tell you the truth; this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.” (Matthew 24:32-35)

### **Was YahShua Wrong?**

What are we to make of these passages of Scripture? It sounds like YahShua thought the Kingdom would come in its fullness immediately – within a generation. If so, was He mistaken? And if He was, how can He be worshipped as the Express Image of Yahweh or confessed as savior? If our faith is to be strong, there is no question too sacred to ask.

Let me say this, King Messiah was not wrong! Jerusalem was sacked; the Temple was destroyed just as He said it would be, as an act of divine judgment on Israel for its unfaithfulness to the Covenant. Messiah YahShua’s disciples did outlive the destruction. And the Netzarim Movement did not just limp along for some hope to sustain them as did the Pharisees. Instead, they with vigor went into the entire known world sifting Israel from the nations and making Gentile converts. They continued to believe the hope they learned both from Judaism and YahShua: that someday soon Yahweh would act to bring this age to a close and bring in the Messianic Age with King Messiah YahShua ruling and reigning from Jerusalem as both King and High Priest.

AS Ben F. Meyer said: “The disparity is not well defined as error. None of the prophets were mistaken, least of all the greatest of the” King Messiah YahShua. (“Christus Farber,” by Meyer)

Let’s examine the three critical texts:

### **The One Who will not Taste Death**

**“I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom.”**

The word “some” in the phrase “some who are standing here will not taste death” is the Greek word

**τις** “tēs” meaning “a certain one.” It’s translated from the Hebrew word **מִן־נָא** “mä-nä” meaning “one appointed or ordained.”

Who was the “appointed one” that “will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom”?

There was the controversy between Rabbi Kepha and the Messiah concerning Rabbi Yochannan.

**“Kepha turned and saw that the disciple whom YahShua loved (Yochannan) was following them.**

(This was the one who had leaned back against YahShua at the Seder and had said, "Sovereign, who is going to betray you?") **When Kepha saw him, he asked, ‘Sovereign, what about him?’ YahShua answered, ‘If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.’ Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But YahShua did not say that he would not die; he only said, ‘If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?’ This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.” (John 21:20-24)**

Then Rabbi Yochannan received the “Revelation of King Messiah YahShua”:

**“I was in the Spirit on Yahweh’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet... there before me was a door standing open in Heaven. (Revelation 1:10; 4:1)”**

Rabbi Yochannan went up into Heaven in **Revelation 1** but he did not come down. The seven angels brought the message of the “Revelation” to the seven congregations in Asia. Rather, Rabbi Yochannan received his commission to be one of the two witnesses (Zechariah 4:1-11 & Revelation 11:1-4): **“You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.” (Revelation 10:11)**

Rabbi Yochannan is that certain one that would **not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom”**

### **Going Through the Cities of Israel**

**“I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”**

King Messiah YahShua knew that the fullness of the Kingdom was imminent (Luke 21:31), and that “all these things” (Mark 13:30) would take place when **“the fig tree’s twigs get tender and its leaves come out.”** However, there are some limitations to what the Messiah knows about the future.

**“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: He**

leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’” (Mark 13:32-37)

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” (Luke 12:35-40)

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your King will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” (Matthew 24:42-44)

What He did know was given to Him by the Heavenly Father to ready Israel for the coming Kingdom.

Since Israel did not know when the “End” would be, they were to be faithful to the Covenant Yahweh had provided. So also with Israel’s King – YahShua – did not know precisely when the Kingdom would come, because the Time of Tribulation would be “cut short for the sake of the Elect” (Mark 13:20), His followers were to be faithful so that they would be saved in the End (Mark 13:13; Luke 17:26-27, 34-035; 12:42-46; Matthew 25:1-45). Neither Israel or her King knew exactly when the Kingdom would come, but it was imminent. One thing King Messiah YahShua did know: “**you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.**” In other words: “... **this Full Messianic Message of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**” (Matthew 24:14)

### **The Blossoming Fig Tree**

“...As soon as [the Fig Tree’s] twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near... **this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.**”

During the first dispersion of Israel, Yahweh gave a vision to the prophet Jeremiah; of two baskets full of figs. One of the baskets had good figs while the other basket contained bad figs.

“This is what Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel, says: ‘Like these good figs, I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I sent away from this place to the land of the Babylonians. My eyes will watch over them for their good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down; I will plant them and not uproot them. I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am Yahweh. They will be My people, and I will be their Elohim, for they will return to Me with all their heart.’” (Jeremiah 24:5-7)

Yahweh likens the captive exiles of Judah to those good figs in the basket.

“But like the poor figs, which are so bad they cannot be eaten,’ says Yahweh, ‘so will I deal with Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials and the survivors from Jerusalem, whether they remain in this land or live in Egypt. I will make them abhorrent and an offense to all the kingdoms of the earth, a reproach and a byword, an object of ridicule and cursing, wherever I banish them. I will send the sword, famine and plague against them until they are destroyed from the land I gave to them and their fathers.’” (Jeremiah 24:8-10)

Yahweh likens King Zedekiah and the princes who were left as mere puppet rulers in the holy city to the bad or spoiled figs in the second basket. The year of Israel’s defeat by Babylon was 607 BCE. Then nineteen years later in 587 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar returned back to Jerusalem and destroyed the city and executed King Zedekiah.

Again, through the prophet Jeremiah, Yahweh announces to the dispersed Israelites that the Kingdom will be united and restored under the New Covenant of Deuteronomy 29, 30. The captivity will not last forever.

“‘The time is coming,’ declares Yahweh, ‘when I will **make a new covenant with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah.** It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,’ declares Yahweh. ‘This is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel after that time (notice Yahweh addresses only one Israel unified),’ declares Yahweh. ‘**I will put my Torah in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their Elohim, and they will be my people.** No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, “Know Yahweh,” because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,’ declares Yahweh. ‘For **I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.**’” (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

This coincides with the vision given to the prophet Ezekiel who was being held in a Babylonian concentration camp on the banks of the Kebar River. He saw that the divided Kingdoms of Judah and Israel would be united and restored.

**“The word of Yahweh came to me: ‘Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, “Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.” Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, “Ephraim's stick, belonging to Joseph and all the House of Israel associated with him.” Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand.**

When your countrymen ask you, “Won't you tell us what you mean by this?” say to them, “This is what the Sovereign Yahweh says: ‘I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim’s hand—and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah's stick, making them a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.’ Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on and say to them, “This is what the Sovereign Yahweh says: ‘I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their Elohim.

My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their Elohim, and they will be my people. Then the nations will know that I Yahweh make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.”” (Ezekiel 37:15-28)

Jeremiah is then given a vision of the restoration of the Royal House David:

**“‘The days are coming,’ declares Yahweh, ‘when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: Yahweh Our Righteousness.’” (Jeremiah 23:5, 6)**

The prophet Isaiah confirms this prophecy:

**“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of Yahweh will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Yahweh - and he will delight in the fear of Yahweh. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.” (Isaiah 11:1-5)**

Around 926 BCE the Kingdom of Israel divided into two Kingdoms: in the north the Kingdom of Israel, in the south the Kingdom of Judah. The Kingdom of Judah retained the capital Jerusalem and with it the Davidic Palace, the Holy Temple and the Sanhedrin – the Supreme Court of the Torah.

The Kingdom of Israel took Israel’s agricultural base and had to create a civil and judicial infra structure. Jeroboam, the Ephraimite, was the first king of the Northern Kingdom. King Jeroboam established his headquarters at Shechem. Fearing the Temple worship in Jerusalem prescribed by the Torah might cause the people of the Northern Kingdom to go back to their old allegiance, he provided a new form of worship within their own boundaries, and for this purpose he set up two golden calves to be worshipped as Yahweh, one in Bethel and the other in Dan. He also built temples in the high places the main one on Mount Gerizim – the Mount of Blessing – which was a replica of King Solomon’s Temple at Jerusalem and had them served by priests selected from the common people. He also moved the High Holy Days from the seventh month to the eighth, thereby effectively setting aside the Sabbath commandment, since the Holy Days are Yahweh's Sabbaths. Shalmaneser IV, King of Assyria invaded Israel. He carried the Ten Tribes into a captivity from which they never returned (2 Kings 17:6; 18:11). The Northern Kingdom lasted for about 210 years until it was destroyed by Assyria in 721 BCE.

**“Judah kept not the commandments of Yahweh their Elohim, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. And Yahweh rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until He had cast them out of His sight.” (2 Kings 17:19-20)**

Yahweh brought the “spoiler” Nebuchadnezzar upon the whole House of Judah to do all the things prophesied. The misery that began at the hand of Assyria was completed some 140 years later by Babylon. The

House of David ended up in exile in Babylon, such an ignoble end to a powerful dynasty that had begun more than 400 years earlier. Nothing left but a stump.

Isaiah called the stump of the Davidic dynasty, the stump of Jesse. Jesse was David's father. Isaiah had prophesied about the judgment that would come upon the House of David for its abandoning Torah and bad government, however, he also spoke the message of hope. A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse.

An unwanted tree is cut down and all that is left is a stump. The tree is counted dead and gone – forgotten. But then, one day you see some life in that stump; a shoot starts to grow.

In Judah, in Bethlehem, the city of David, one lonely stump, Jesse's stump, and out of that stump a shoot emerges from it - New life – in the royal family. Who is that shoot? It is King Messiah YahShua whom Yahweh gives to his people, Israel.

Why did Isaiah say that the Messiah would come from the stump of Jesse rather than the stump of David bypassing David going to David's father? For two reasons: (1) King Messiah YahShua starts all over. He goes back to the obscurity of Jesse. As Crown Prince, YahShua was born in obscurity. Born in the little town of Bethlehem, born to a young woman of the House of David who was betrothed to Joseph, who was also of the lineage of David, but he had lost his identity – he was a nobody, an humble artisan practicing his trade in village that didn't even have

a name until the “shoot” came to live there. That “shoot,” that “Branch” the **נֶצֶר** “Netzar” gave the name to the little village - Nazareth, a remote town in Galilee. This was all part of Israel's humiliation; (2) King Messiah YahShua came not just as another disappointing descendant of David; rather He came as another David.

Isaiah came back to the shoot and root imagery in Isaiah chapter 53. There he said that the Messiah would grow up before Yahweh like a tender shoot, like a root out of dry ground. He would be pierced (on the tree) for our transgressions. He would be crushed for our iniquities. He would be beaten for our healing. By bearing our punishment, he would bring about for us peace - the peaceable Kingdom.

**“YahShua said... I am not sent but unto the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel.”**

The Apostle, Rabbi Sha'ul says: **“For [Messiah] Himself is our peace, Who has made the two (Kingdoms) one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the hatred for the Torah with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to Yahweh through the gallows, by which He put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away (in the Diaspora) and peace to those who were near (in Judea). For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.**

**Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with Yahweh's people and members of Yahweh's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Messiah YahShua Himself as the chief capstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a Holy Temple in Yahweh. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which Yahweh lives by His Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:14-22)**

