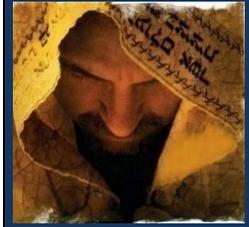


# Jews For Yeshua

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To the Torah & the Testimony  
If anyone does not speak according to these words  
It is because they have no light in them.  
Yesh'yahu (Isaiah) 8:20; Revelation 12:17; 14:12



## *Torah Thought of the Month*

### **Studies of Eden Series**

*No. 7, Jul. 2017*

## **“Judgment Begins with His People”**

*B'resheet (Genesis) 3:24*

In the beginning, Elohim (God) judged that whoever ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil would surely die. In not taking this wise judgment of Elohim (God) seriously, they gave into the temptation to partake of the forbidden fruit of the tree and died spiritually instantaneously, and began dying physically as well as a result of ignoring Elohim's (God's) wise judgment concerning right and wrong, and concerning what leads to life and what leads to death. In **Genesis 3:24** after Adam and Havah (Eve) experienced the consequence of going against Elohim's (God's) wise judgment, they had to be banished from the Garden of Paradise that Elohim (God) had made for them.

All of us to this day, continue to have to live outside of that paradise in the world which we have each individually contributed to through our own decision making which also allows good and evil to continue to prosper in our hearts, and in the world around us.

But Elohim (God) has a plan to restore the earth, and to allow us back into His presence and Paradise by providing a way of salvation for all those who repent. But what does it mean to repent? How do we know if a person has truly repented or to what degree.

The Savior Yeshua led a perfect, sinless life, that we as believers are model our lives after, but how many of us have heard people use His sinless life, and divine nature, as their ultimate excuse for not overcoming all their sins? Or heard statements like "I'm not perfect, just forgiven"; or "don't judge me"; or "we will always sin until the day we die" and other such statements unsupported by Scripture?

Yes, the Savior was of divine origin, but the Scripture states that through His death and resurrection and giving of the Holy Spirit, that we are also now partakers of that same divine nature; **2 Kepha (2 Peter) 1:4**. They also state, "be you holy, for I am holy"; **I Kepha (I Peter) 1:13-16**.

They also state "be you perfect for I am perfect"; **Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 5:48**, that "whoever continues to sin is of the devil"; **I Yehochanan (I John) 3:2-10**, that through being born again we have a new nature; **2 Corinthians 5:17**, "that we can do all things through Messiah who strengthens us"; **Philippians 4:13**, and that He "will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to bear, but with the temptation, will provide a way of escape"; **I Corinthians 10:13**.

Ultimately, to those who overcome, the Savior Yeshua promises amazing rewards; **Revelation 2:1 – 3:22**.

We also have numerous examples of people who walked blamelessly before Elohim (God) even before King Yeshua came, and before the Holy Spirit was given; Avraham, Yyob (Job) and Zechar'yahu (Zechariah) and Elisheva (Elizabeth) just to mention a few; **B'resheet (Genesis) 17:1; 26:4,5; Yyob (Job) 1:1; Luke 1:5,6**. So how much more so do we have power to overcome and become blameless after our His death and resurrection?

But the fascinating part to me is not so much that fact that He will empower all true believers to complete victory, but in the standards He has instituted to remove every excuse for sin.

Like I mentioned earlier, people can say, "Well, Yeshua was of divine nature, so of course He never sinned, but I am not". Okay, so here is the catch. If two people have the same sin, and one overcomes, but the other one only presents this excuse for not overcoming, then their excuse is rendered powerless.

That's right, the Scriptures state that those who repented of their sins will judge those who failed to repent of theirs; **Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 12:41**. In **verse 42**, they state also that those who turned their ears away from the gospel will be judged in the resurrection by those who came far to hear the wisdom of Shlomo (Solomon).

Another standard that will be used to strip away our excuses is the standard of how we treat the least of His people; **Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 25:31-46**. There is also a standard to eliminate hypocrites from His presence who may judge correctly, but fail to abide by their own standards; **Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 7:1-5**.

Then there is a standard for those who know the Torah who may be obedient concerning those larger commandments acceptable to be kept and preached in a given culture, but who will still be least in His Kingdom for breaking the smaller commandments and teaching others to do the same; **Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 5:17-19**.

Then there is the standard for those among the nations who do not know what the written Torah says, but who have elements of it naturally written in their heart as all people do, and who will be judged by their conscience concerning whether they are guilty or innocent in regard to what they instinctively know about Torah: **Romans 2:11-16**.

Yeshua also says that the words spoken by His mouth will be used to judge us; **Yehochanan (John) 12:48**. And people, like Yeshua, also speak what is in their hearts, **Luke 6:45**, and so it makes sense that we will also be judged by every idle word that comes out of our mouth as well; **Mattit'yahu (Matthew) 12:36**. This then is no doubt then combined with our actions which we will also be judged by; **Revelation 20:13**, so that ultimately we will be judged by if our words match Yeshua's words, and if so, then if our actions match our words.

The Scriptures state that the apostles will also sit on 12 tribes to judge Israel, who as the stewards of Scripture would be naturally expected to know the full will of Elohim (God); **Luke 22:28-30**.

Then ultimately, there is the standard of taking things and people that are naturally valueless and despised in human society, and raising up those people, and those things, to ultimately cast down the kingdoms of this world and values of its societies. Like for example, some of the Apostles who had no formal education in Scripture, and that had despicable occupations; and like the grossly sinful people of Ninevah who fully repented of their sins. So grossly sinful, this city of approximately 100,000 people, that Elohim (God) was prepared to destroy utterly if they did not fully repent.

What might a grossly sinful individual look like? Let's say today that you met a person who smoked

marijuana, and shot up crank, snorted cocaine, popped LSD and other drugs, and sold them as well. Let's say they were also a professional thief and a liar, that they engaged in adulterous acts, homosexual acts, cross dressed, thought they were a woman trapped in a man's body, and were plain and simply addicted to sex and pornography. To add to it, let's say they had fierce anger, were viscous, merciless, fighters, hated police, despised unjust authority, and smoked, partied, and cussed as good as any other sinner. Let's say they were heavy into rock and roll, especially into the more blatantly satanic forms like Led Zeppelin and AC/DC. Then to top it all off they openly worshipped Satan and women, and had been arrested 30 times in their life, and convicted a dozen and a half times, and spent over 13 years of their life in jails and prisons in 4 different states.

Would you believe a person like this could repent? Would this person be considered a reprobate and outcast of society, and even of the church?

Well the person I described above is a real person who I know personally, and who no longer does any other those sins above.

In fact, it is his testimony that has convinced me of the utter truthfulness of the verses quoted at the end of page one and beginning of page two above concerning blamelessness, and of living a life without willful sin in Yeshua.

The people of Ninevah, in order to justify Elohim's (God's) determination to destroy them if they did not repent, may have looked something like this man described above. But yet they, like him, fully repented. This produces a double edged sword. On the one hand, his example provides hope for every sinner who desires to successfully overcome their own sins someday, on the other hand, for those who do not overcome their sins are left without excuse for not seriously addressing the issue of sin that every believer in Yeshua is fully capable of overcoming – without excuse.

Is the man above someone you would admire for the Testimony of Yeshua in his life, or would you despise him for taking away the excuse you thought you had for hanging onto your own sins, because, after all, everyone else tolerates the same sin right? But yet the Scriptures tell us not to follow the crowd in doing evil; **Shemot (Exodus) 23:2**. So if every believer in your fellowship has a x-mass tree, does that make it right? If they all eat pork, does that make it acceptable before Elohim (God)? What if they all like a little rock n roll on the side, or even worse, Christian rock, or enjoy dressing in revealing clothing, does that make it okay before Elohim (God), because everybody else in a fellowship does the same?

Or, like the man above, are we to do what the Word of Elohim (God) says and stop living a sinful life, and be the example of what a walk in Yeshua should look like, instead of what we want our walk to look like in our flesh, or what the godless culture around us wants us to look and behave like?

We must choose one way or the other, and the day of judgment through all the various standards laid out above will reveal our ultimate decisions in these matters. What will your choice be?

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