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# IN WHOSE NAME SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

*I received a call from some brethren who were asking whose name we should be baptized in. It seems that at least one person (there may be more) is going around teaching that we should be baptized in the name Yahweh rather than Yahshua. This, of course, confuses people as to whether they should be re-baptized or not.*

*By Jerry Healan*

While I have not heard the totality of this man's argument to teach such, it isn't difficult to open the pages of the Scriptures in order to learn of the name wherein we should be immersed. In speaking to one sister, she pointed out that Mat. 28:19 does say, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Notice that the word "name" is singular and not plural.

We know that the name of the Father is Yahweh and that when one receives the Holy Spirit he is "sealed" with the name of the Father, which is the name that we must call upon for salvation (Acts 2:21, Ro. 10:13, Joel 2:32). So, does this finalize it? Does this mean that we need to be baptized in the name Yahweh, by-passing the name of the Savior Yahshua? Not necessarily.

When the Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost and many of the brethren asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37) Peter said unto them, "Repent, and **be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua the Messiah** for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (v. 38)

Here is Peter speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and he encouraged everyone to be baptized in the name of Yahshua the Messiah did he not?

## PHILIP'S EXAMPLE

Later, the deacon Philip went to Samaria preaching the Messiah to the people (Acts 8:5). "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of Elohim, and the name of Yahshua the Messiah, they were baptized, both men and women," v. 12.

***Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua the Messiah for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.***

In whose name were they baptized? The answer is given in verse 16. They were baptized in the name of Yahshua. A good question would be, Why didn't they receive the Holy Spirit when they were baptized by Philip in the name of Yahshua? In the first place, Philip was a

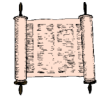
deacon, not an apostle. But the chief reason probably lies in the fact that Simon the sorcerer was among those baptized.

Simon the sorcerer had walked among the people bewitching them with sorceries which led the people to believe that he was the great power of Elohim/Yahweh (vv. 10-11).

When he beheld the miracles that Philip was



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able to perform by the power of the Holy Spirit, he also believed and was baptized, but Yahweh withheld the Holy Spirit from them until the apostles Peter and John came and laid their hands upon them.

When Simon the sorcerer saw that the Holy Spirit was given by the laying on of the hands of the apostles, he also desired this power, but he offered money for it which brought about a strong rebuke from the apostle Peter. Simon would have made merchandise of Yahweh's power. Yahweh had sent the apostles to handle the situation concerning Simon the sorcerer before He was willing to pour out the Holy Spirit on them. But the main point is that Philip baptized the people in the name of Yahshua.

## PAUL'S EXAMPLE

When Yahshua appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus he was blinded for three days (Acts 9:1-9). Yahshua then appeared to Ananias telling him to go to Saul so that he might receive his sight (vv. 10-12). Yahshua told Ananias that Saul was to bear HIS NAME (Yahshua's) before the Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel and that Saul would suffer for HIS NAME'S SAKE (vv. 15-16).

Ananias went to Saul, laying his hands on him and telling him to not only receive his sight, but the Holy Spirit. Saul was then baptized (vv. 17-18).

Saul later revealed to the people of Jerusalem what happened, "As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished. 6 And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. 7 And I

fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, 'Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?' 8 And I answered, 'Who art thou, Sovereign?' And he said unto me, 'I am Yahshua of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest.' 9 And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. 10 And I said, 'What shall I do, Sovereign?' And the Sovereign said unto me, 'Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.' 11 And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus. 12 And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt *there*, 13 Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, 'Brother Saul, receive thy sight.' And the same hour I looked up upon him. 14 And he said, 'The Elohim of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. 15 For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and

*...all our Fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea...*

heard. 16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Sovereign,'” Acts 22:5-16.

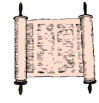
According to this account, whose name is Paul baptized in? The literal rendering of verse 16 should be, “And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized,

and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of Him.” Who was Ananias directly referring to? Wasn't it the Just One? Who is the Just One? Yahshua the Messiah is the Just One

being spoken of here. How can we be sure? By Paul's own writings, “Know ye not, that **so many of us as were baptized into Yahshua the Messiah** were baptized into His death?” Ro. 6:3. “For as many of you as have been baptized into



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the Messiah have put on the Messiah,” Gal. 3:27.

## YAHSHUA—THE WAY

### MOSES’ EXAMPLE

Moses was Yahweh’s chosen vessel to mediate the covenant made at Sinai commonly called the Old Covenant or Old Testament in today’s terms. Yahshua is Yahweh’s chosen vessel to mediate the New Covenant.

The Old Covenant had its own baptism of the people for Paul writes, “Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our Fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and **were all baptized unto Moses** in the cloud and in the sea...,” 1 Cor. 10:1-2.

Notice that again, Israel was baptized unto Moses, which would include their being baptized to Yahweh. When Israel went through the cloud and the sea, not only was that generation baptized to Moses, but the future generations who were yet in their loins were baptized unto him in similar fashion of the covenant for Israel was told, “Neither with you only do I make this covenant and this oath; but with him that standeth here with us this day before Yahweh our Elohim, and also with him that is not here with us this day...,” Dt. 29:14-15.

Through this one baptism, all generations of Israel were baptized unto Moses for the period of time that was allotted for that covenant. Of course, Israel failed in their part of the administration of that covenant, so the way had to be prepared for a New Covenant based on better promises. Now is the time period for the New Covenant which is initiated through Yahshua the Messiah. Our baptism in His name sets us aside for the administration of the New Covenant.

Yahshua is the way into the very throne room of the Heavenly Father, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me,**” Jn. 14:6. We can enter by no other way. We can’t go directly to Yahweh, by-passing Yahshua.

Yahshua instructed, “...Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name,** He will give it you,” Jn. 16:23. “You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that **whatever you ask of the Father in My name,** He may give to you,” Jn. 15:16. “And **whatever you ask in My name,** that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son,” Jn. 14:13.

Paul certainly indicates that we must put on the Messiah (Gal. 3:27). In 2 Cor. 11 he reveals that we are betrothed as a chaste virgin to Him (v. 2). This is very critical to understand in relation to Yahshua’s parable given in Mat. 22:1-14.

In verse 11 a man is discovered without a wedding garment. He was bound hand and foot and cast into outer darkness.

If we attempt to approach the throne of Yahweh in any other way than through Yahshua the Messiah it is unacceptable.

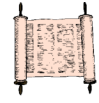
*...there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved...*

### THE ONLY NAME UNDER HEAVEN

The Apostle Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, declared, “Be it known unto you all, and to all the People of Israel, that **by the name of Yahshua the Messiah of Nazareth,** Whom ye crucified, Whom Yahweh raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the Stone Which was set at nought of you builders, Which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other for **there is none other name under**



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heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved,” Acts. 4:10-12.

Peter says that there is none other name given among men whereby we must be saved. The Apostle John agrees for he writes, “And many other signs truly did Yahshua in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Yahshua is the Messiah, the Son of Elohim; and that believing **ye might have life through His name,**” Jn. 20:30-31.

Do you get that? Yahshua is the only name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved. We are able to have life through His name, the Name Yahshua!

Paul agrees for he wrote, “Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Sovereign Yahshua, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the Elohim of our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, **which He wrought in the Messiah,** when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, **far above** all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and **every name that is named,** not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the assembly, Which is His body, the fulness of Him That filleth all in all,” Eph. 1:15-23.

Notice it! His name is far above...every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. I know that it is our chief desire to glorify the Heavenly Father Yahweh, but we can only do so through His own commanded way and that way is through His only begotten and beloved Son Yahshua the Messiah. The New Testament writings reveal that His name is precious to the Father and should be to us also. I would personally have to question any man’s knowledge in the Messiah who seeks to by-pass the name of the Savior as revealed in the Scriptures.

## THE NAME YAHSHUA

Besides all that, when one is baptized in the name Yahshua, the name of the Father Yahweh is included. The name Yahshua means the Salvation of Yahweh, Yahweh’s salvation or even can mean Yahweh the Savior.

Since beginning this article, I have spoken to the man who is teaching this doctrine. It is his belief that Yahshua’s name has now been changed to that of Yahweh. However, this is adding to Yahweh’s inspired word (which we are forbidden to do) because we can read the whole New Testament from Matthew to Revelation and there is no direct command to change the Savior’s name. His name remains the same from the beginning of the New Testament to the end.

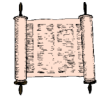
***Besides all that, when one is baptized in the name Yahshua, the name of the Father Yahweh is included.***

While Yahshua does admit that He has a new name in the book of Revelation, the general gist of the New Testament is that we are to persist and persevere in the name wherein His mother was told to name Him. Another important point is that even though He mentions that He has a new name, that name is not revealed in the book of Revelation.

## THE LYING PEN OF THE SCRIBE



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Another argument tendered by the man is that he believes that the name was changed by the lying pen of the scribe. Well, we can see that the name was changed from the Hebrew to the Greek and from the Greek to the Latin and from the Latin to the English. A great deal of corruption has truly set in. However, if we transliterate the original Hebrew name given directly into the English without going through the mill of corruption, the name would be tendered as Joshua (modern-day English). This transliteration is in accordance with all dictionaries and reference books that I have found.

But, let's say that the lying pen of the scribe did introduce a different name than that of Yahweh. In other words, the Savior's mother was commanded to name Him Yahweh as this man supposes.

There are other movements that will not utilize the term Elohim nor Adon/Adonai because they contend that the lying pen of the scribe introduced these titles from other ancient pagan deities.

Do you understand what this does? It means that the lying pen of the scribe could have substituted the letters יהוה in place of the true name of the Creator and subsequently, the real name has been lost!

But this does even more! Because of the poison of the lying pen of the scribe, the whole word of Yahweh that we call the Holy Scriptures, Set-apart Scriptures, Sacred Scriptures whatever you want to call them are nullified.

Frankly, we do know that the Scriptures have been tampered with don't we? The Sopherim admit that they made certain changes in the Old Testament Scriptures. There are at least 134

places where we do know for a fact that they have been changed.

We also know that there are some areas of the New Testament that have been tampered with. We can basically tell by comparing what parchments are available to us.

Now we know that the Jews very carefully copy the Old Testament manuscripts. Still, they admit that some changes have occurred. However, they have been declared to be very close to the original since the changes have been carefully catalogued and admitted to.

But what about the New Testament? Some people are proclaiming that the New Testament Scriptures were under the power of the Catholic Church for well over 300 years and they made them say what they wanted them to say.

While the New Testament Scriptures have not been as carefully kept by the New Testament churches/assemblies as the Jewish people have done with theirs, the fact remains that there are at least between 3,000 and 3,500 ancient manuscripts available to us.

## ***The New Testament Scriptures are clear.***

***The name of the Savior is the only name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved. Notice that!***

***UNDER HEAVEN, AMONG MEN!***

One of the seemingly disparaging facts about the New Testament Scriptures is that no two manuscripts are exactly alike. There may be differences in letters, words or even phrases utilized. However, the overall intent and meanings remain the same.

Because of these differences, there is good news! We can disprove the statement, doctrine, or belief that the Catholic Church had power over these Scriptures for 300 years. How? By the simple

fact that they all are different! Don't you think that if a church or person wanted to change something so that it said what they wanted it to say, they would make sure that all copies were



exactly alike?

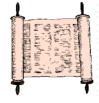
Besides, the Catholic Church observes Sunday, the first day of the week. Why not record this in the New Testament Scriptures so that the keeping of Sunday would be Scripturally justified?

And what about the birth of the Savior? If one wants to justify observing Dec. 25th as the Savior's birthday, then why not record that in the Scriptures so that there can be no argument against it?

We already know about the attempt to introduce the word Easter instead of Passover (Acts 12:4), but all we have to do is go back to the Greek or Aramaic Scriptures that are extant and we can prove that Easter was not the correct rendering, but rather, that the word was "pascha" in reference to the Passover is the correct word.

We know that the world wants to malign Yahweh's word. It hates Yahweh's word of truth and seeks to overthrow it, sow doubt and confusion concerning it everywhere. We must not join in the fray!

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Too many people in the assemblies have jumped on the band wagon and are questioning Paul's writings, the New Testament, Yahshua, Who He Was, Is and Will be, etc., etc. We must realize that we either stand or fall according to the Scriptures. We need to fear interjecting something that isn't there. The truth of the matter is that a name was given to the Savior which is a combination of the name of the Father along with the word "salvation" or "Deliverance." For us to change that name on a whim or a suspicion which cannot be proven is a real danger indeed!

The New Testament Scriptures are clear. The name of the Savior is the only name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved. Notice that! UNDER HEAVEN, AMONG MEN!

The name Yahshua identifies that He came from the Father because He not only bears the Father's power and authority, but also His very own name as well as the title Savior! May Yahweh deal with those who are sowing confusion in His own time and His own way!

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