

A COMPARISON OF KINGS

*There is much to learn from the saga of Saul and David and a comparison of the two.
By Jerry Healan*

Samuel had been established as a priest and judge in Israel because of the unfaithfulness of Eli and his sons. But when Samuel was old, his own sons weren't faithful to walk in his ways turning aside after lucre, taking bribes, and perverting justice (1 Sam. 8:1-3). The elders of Israel came to Samuel complaining about this and demanding a king to judge them like all the nations around them.

This displeased Samuel and He prayed to Yahweh concerning the situation. Yahweh told Samuel, "Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. **According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken Me, and served other elohim**, so do they also unto thee," 1 Sam. 8:7-8.

Notice that Yahweh said that Israel had forsaken Him since the day He brought them out of Egypt unto that very day that they demanded a king.

In verses 9-18 Samuel told Israel what this king would do in taking their sons and daughters, land, tithes (taxes) etc. Samuel warned the people in accordance with Yahweh's words, but the people replied, "Nay; but we will have a king over us; **20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.**"

CHOOSING SAUL

The people were adamant in their desire for a king, so..., "Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of Yahweh.

22 And Yahweh said to Samuel, 'Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king.' And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, 'Go ye every man unto his city,' vv. 19-22.

Later, Yahweh told Samuel that Saul was the one who He wanted to reign over the people (1 Sam. 9:17).

Saul is introduced in 1 Samuel, chapter 9 thusly, "Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was **Kish**, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of **Aphiah**, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.

2 And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people," vv. 1-2.

The name "Kish" is very revealing in itself. It is number 7027 in the Hebrew Lexicon of *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* and is defined as "a bow." It comes from another Hebrew word "qowsh" which is number 6983 being defined as "a primitive root; to bend; used only as denominative for 3369, **to set a trap.**"

A search into the name "Aphiah" also reveals that in its primitive origins, it has to do **with bringing into a snare!**

The name Saul actually means “asked.” The people asked for a king to rule over them and Yahweh gave them what they asked for. There is a commercial that says, “You asked for it, you got it.” Such is the case for Israel.

Yahweh told Samuel that the people hadn’t served Him since He brought them up out of Egypt. Now that the people were rejecting His rulership over them, He was going to set a trap or lay a snare for them.

THE PATTERN

While we can understand that Yahweh chose Saul in order to set a trap, bringing Israel into a snare, we still need to ask the question, Why did Yahweh choose a man of the tribe of Benjamin? Especially, since the Patriarch Jacob/Israel had prophesied, “**The sceptre shall not depart from Judah**, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be,” Gen. 49:10. Jacob understood that the kingly line would come from the tribe of Judah and not that of Benjamin. So again we must ask, Why did Yahweh choose a man of the tribe of Benjamin?

The answer is, In order to fulfill the Biblical pattern of first and second. Paul effectively answers the question, “But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? 36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: 37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: 38 But Yahweh giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. 39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. 40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. **There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.** 45 And so it is written, **The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.** 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 **The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Sovereign from heaven.** 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly,” 1 Cor. 15:35-49.

This pattern flows throughout the Scriptures. There was the first world before the flood and the second world after the flood; the first Adam, the second Adam, the first heavens and earth, the new heavens and earth, the first covenant, the second covenant, the first Israelite kingdom, the second Israelite kingdom (yet to come), the first circumcision, the second circumcision, the first natural, physical, carnal, corruptible, mortal body and life that we live and the second spiritual, glorious, honorable, incorruptible, immortal life. There is a first death and a second death, first birth and second birth, etc., etc.

Saul was chosen to be the first king of Israel as a type of the first man of the earth, which is sown in corruption, dishonor and weakness. He was a son of the tribe of Benjamin.

Yahweh knew that he would fail. The true kingly line would come out of Judah, as prophesied.

THE FAMILY OF JESSE

As we have searched into the name of Saul and his fathers, let's look into the family of Jesse. The name Jesse comes from a series of Hebrew words which mean, to stand out, **exist**. The name David has to do with loving or beloved or both.

They are of the tribe of Judah. There was a conflict going on between Jacob's wives, Rachel and Leah, for his affection. Yahweh had opened Leah's womb and allowed her to bring forth four sons because He saw that she was hated. Each son is named with a purpose in mind. Leah's firstborn was Reuben, which means "see, a son." Her second son was named Simeon which means "to hear intelligently," or simply, "to hear," because she called out to Yahweh in her plight and He heard her. Her third son was named Levi, which means "unite," or "united," because she considered that since she had three sons, her husband would be united more closely to her. When she brought forth her fourth son, she named him Judah for she said, "Now will I praise Yahweh." Judah has to do with the "praise of," or "to" Yahweh!

But looking at the name more closely in the Hebrew alphabet certainly adds even greater understanding. Judah in Hebrew is *hdwhy*. The name of the Creator Yahweh in Hebrew is *hwwhy*. Comparing the two, we find only one difference which is the "dalet" (English "D"/Hebrew "d") in Judah.

Interestingly, the Hebrew letter "dalet" (d) is an hieroglyphic for a door. Isn't it interesting that even the English word "door" begins with a "D," which is equivalent to the Hebrew "dalet" (d)? Is it any wonder that the second kingly line was chosen from the tribe of Judah? Is it any wonder that Yahshua, the door (Jn. 10) would be born of the tribe of Judah?

The kingly line of Judah is the second dynasty to rule over the children of Israel. This line represents the eternal, spiritual, incorruptible, immortal kingly line of Yahshua the Messiah, of the tribe of Judah, through Whom Yahweh is truly praised.

When are we men going to come to understand that the Scriptures are the inspired word of Yahweh? When are we men going to learn that the Scriptures were put together by a mind and intellect that is so far superior to man that there is no comparison? When are we men going to turn to our Creator and give Him the honor, praise and obedience that only He deserves, and desires?

ANIMAL ASSOCIATION

Saul is introduced in 1 Samuel chapter 9, "Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power. 2 And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people. 3 And **the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost**. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses," vv. 1-3.

David is introduced in 1 Samuel chapter 16, “And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, **he keepeth the sheep**. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. 12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And Yahweh said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit Yahweh came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Rama,” vv. 11-13.

Isn't it interesting that the animals associated with Saul are asses, while the animals associated with David are sheep? Could this be Yahweh's way of prophesying their character? An ass typifies an obstinate, stupid, silly, foolish attitude. Isn't that pretty much the character that Saul exhibited? After all, he does typify the first Adam who foolishly took of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil bringing sin, corruption, mortality, and death not only on himself, but his posterity. Through Adam's act of disobedience and rebellion, he and his posterity were forbidden access to the tree of life. Through Saul's acts of disobedience and rebellion, his posterity were forbidden access or right to reign over Israel.

Sheep were associated with David. Sheep can also be considered as a dumb, stupid animal and David, who considered himself on one hand, to be a sheep of Yahweh (see Psa. 23), did make some grievous mistakes. But sheep were and are considered to be clean animals because they chew the cud and split the hoof, while an ass is unclean. We must keep in mind also, that David was a keeper or shepherd of sheep, which puts him in a much greater capacity.

Yahweh reveals in Scripture that He is a Shepherd (Isa. 40:10-11) and Yahshua reveals Himself as the true Shepherd (Jn. 10). David is truly in the best of company.

SAUL'S ATTITUDE

Saul was anointed king over Israel and he started out right. Yahweh placed His Spirit upon him and his heart was changed (1 Sam. 10:6-9). He was a humble individual and when Samuel called the tribes of Israel together to openly anoint him as king, he hid from them (v. 22). His nature soon changed, however.

His son Jonathan smote a garrison of Philistines in Geba, but Saul blew the trumpet throughout the land declaring that he, Saul, had smitten the garrison (1 Sam. 13:3-4). When the Philistines gathered a huge army against Israel, Saul and his few men trembled in fear (vv. 5-7). Saul waited for Samuel seven days and when Samuel failed to appear, Saul took upon himself the role of the high priest, offering a burnt offering to Yahweh (8-10). When Samuel confronted him concerning this, Saul excused himself (vv. 11-12). Samuel prophesied that the kingdom wouldn't continue under his leadership (v. 14). It appears that this disqualification came after only serving as king over Israel for a brief period of two years.

Saul's son Jonathan began another conflict against the Philistines, which culminated with Yahweh's intervention causing the earth to quake and sow such confusion among the Philistines that they began to lift up their sword against each other (1 Sam. 14). Saul and his men had been cowering in fear, but when they saw the tumult they entered into the fray. He then made a foolish declaration, “Cursed be the man that eateth any food until

evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies,” 1 Sam. 14:24. The people became so weak and faint that at the end of the day they flew upon the spoil immediately slaying sheep, and oxen eating them with the blood (v. 32). Of course, Saul did rectify the situation, but his own proclamation brought about the circumstance.

Later Saul was commanded to eradicate the Amalekites for their attack against Israel while they were wandering in the wilderness, but Saul spared their king Agag and the choicest of the sheep and oxen. When questioned by Samuel, Saul placed the blame upon the people. (1 Sam. 15). Samuel told Saul that he had been rejected as king over Israel for this rebellion and that the kingdom would be given to a neighbor who was better than him (1 Sam. 15:26-28). It is after this episode that David was anointed as king over Israel (1 Sam 16).

The Philistine army gathered against Israel in Ephes-dammim. Both armies showed themselves in battle array, but the Philistines had a great champion named Goliath whose height was six cubits and a span (1 Sam. 17:1-4). Goliath challenged any of the Israelites to a one on one duel. If any Israelite would fight with and overcome him then the Philistines would become their servants, but if He slew the Israelite then they would become servants of the Philistines. Saul was the king of Israel. He was at least a head taller than any of them. Israel had wanted a king to fight their battles for them. He should have been the one who took the challenge to fight with the Philistine but he was dismayed and greatly afraid (1 Sam. 17:5-11).

DAVID’S ATTITUDE

David had already been anointed to replace Saul as king over Israel, but he was still just a young lad, a shepherd boy. He was sent by his father to take victuals to his three older brothers who were with Saul and his army and to find out how they were faring (1 Sam. 17:17-18). When David saw what was transpiring between the opposing armies, he was angered that an uncircumcised Philistine was being allowed to defy the armies of the living Elohim (v. 26). He took the challenge upon himself. After all, he was the newly anointed king over Israel.

When Saul learned that David was willing to take the Philistine’s challenge, he discouraged him by saying, “Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth,” 1 Sam. 17:33.

But David revealed something concerning his character, “Thy servant kept his father’s sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: and I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant smote both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living Elohim.’ David said moreover, ‘Yahweh That delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.’ And Saul said unto David, ‘Go, and Yahweh be with thee,” 1 Sam. 17:34-37.

Look at David’s attitude! He was a shepherd of his father’s sheep. A lion came to satisfy his hunger with one of his father’s sheep. Most shepherd boys would run for their lives and allow the lion to have his way with the flock. After all, the reasoning would be, these are only animals. I am my father’s son and worth much more to him than these sheep. I

will preserve my life so that my father will not be saddened by the loss of his son. Besides, I want to live and my own life is worth much more to me than the lives of these sheep, these animals. This was not David's attitude. David's name means loving or beloved. He loved his father so much that he was not willing that his father suffer loss of his sheep. He was willing to put his life on the line for his father's sake and for the sake of the sheep. He faced the lion and the bear with a courage that is rare at any time in history.

Yahweh is also a Shepherd as we have already learned and His people Israel are His sheep. David was willing to face this giant of a man, Goliath, because He trusted in and loved the living Elohim Yahweh. He was willing to put his life on the line for Yahweh's sheep. David had a Spirit, faith, confidence and courage that none other had in all of Israel.

THE TRUE SHEPHERD

Is it any wonder that Yahshua the Messiah came from the loins of a man like King David!? Yahshua declared to His disciples, I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. 12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. 13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. 15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. 17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father," Jn. 10:11-18.

David faced the giant of a man, Goliath, for the sake of Yahweh's sheep. Yahshua faced the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air, Satan, for the sake of Yahweh's sheep. Do you begin to get the picture? The battle between David and Goliath was a forerunner, a type of the battle that would take place far, far into the future between Yahshua and Satan. While David did put his life on the line, he did walk away from the battle alive. Yahshua's face-off was greater because He had to lay down His life. Oh, He did do spiritual battle first in order to get the victory. This face-off came immediately after He was baptized when He was driven into the wilderness to fast and pray for forty days and nights. He had to get the initial victory over Satan, but the final victory came when He poured out His breath and blood on the tree, and was subsequently resurrected three days later.

Yahshua told His disciples, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.** 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you," Jn. 15:10-14.

Yahshua is the True Shepherd! He is the Greater Shepherd by far! He willingly laid down His life for us. He expects us to exhibit the same spirit. He set an example for us that we should follow in His steps. (1 Pet. 2:21)

OUR SITUATION

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time the Messiah died for the unrighteous. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 **But Yahweh commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, the Messiah died for us.** 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, **when we were enemies, we were reconciled to Yahweh by the death of his Son**, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life," Ro. 5:7-10.

Peter adds, "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25 **For ye were as sheep going astray**; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls," 1 Pet. 22-25.

Again, Paul writes, "Grace be to you and peace from Yahweh the Father, and from our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah, 4 **Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world**, according to the will of Elohim and our Father: 5 To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen

Look at these terms again! We were sheep going astray. We were yet sinners. We were Yahweh's enemies because we were sinners. Yet, He was willing to allow His Son to die for us. Yahshua was willing to lay down His life for us. What are we to do now? Let's allow Yahshua to begin the instructions, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; **as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.** By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another," Jn. 13:34-35.

"This I My commandment, **That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.** Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you," Jn. 15:13-14.

Now let's allow a couple of the apostles to finish the thought, "But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for **ye yourselves are taught of Elohim to love one another,**" 1 Thes. 4:9.

"For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that **we should love one another.** 12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. 13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. 14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because **we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.** 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. 16 **Hereby perceive we the love of Yahweh, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.** 17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of Yahweh in him?" 1 Jn. 3:11-17.

David's name has to do with love. He exhibited the true love because he was not only willing to lay down his life for his father Jesse's sheep, but also for Israel, Yahweh's sheep. Yahshua became a descendant of David in the flesh. He exhibited the greater love for He willingly laid down His life for His Father's sake and for the sake of the sheep (spiritual Israel).

Now, it's our turn. We are expected; we are commanded to lay our own lives down for Yahweh's and Yahshua's sheep, the brethren. This present evil world with all of its gadgets and gizmos, with all of its riches and pleasures truly puts pressure on all of us to take our focus off of the true way and get more involved with it. Also, when we look at other brethren, we can generally detect certain specific problems, which seem to give us reason not to follow through with this commandment. Then again, some will even seek to turn to become our enemies. We can then justify ourselves in turning away from this command. But David didn't and Yahshua especially didn't. They are our example.

A FINAL TEST

From Biblical history we know that such great persecution came upon believers that many had to give their lives for the faith. The book of Revelation reveals that that same test is coming upon believers in the very last days, "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of Yahweh, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Sovereign, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, **until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled,**" Rev. 6:9-11.

It is a fact that the overall preponderance of the Jewish community around the world holds fast to the belief that it is an abomination punishable by death to pronounce the Heavenly Father's Sacred name. It is also a fact that Freemasonry upholds the same idea and belief as the Jewish community. The Sacred name is to them an ineffable (unpronounceable, unknowable) name. Whether you know it or not, the great overall preponderance of those who are established as leaders in this world are members of some branch or arm of Freemasonry. Freemasonry bases its teachings and beliefs on a work called the Cabala (sometimes also referred to in the various renderings of Kabbalah or Qabbalah) from whence Jewish mysticism also receives its own teachings.

Don't think for one moment that the establishment hasn't been watching what has been going on in the Sacred Name movement. One day soon, we could all wake up in a world that will reveal itself hostile to those of us who cherish, love and cling to the true names of the Father Yahweh and His beloved Son Yahshua. According to the scriptures, there will be a persecution brought upon believers which will culminate in the death of many, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death," Rev. 12:11.

This will be the time when we will all be tested as to our faithfulness to Yahweh's word of truth, the witness of Yahshua and our love for the brethren.

THE COMPARISONS

Saul and David were types. Saul was a type of the first Adam and his failings. David was a type of the second Adam and His successes. Oh, David did have his faults and failings, but the difference between the two is that Saul always excused and justified himself in some way while David confessed his faults and threw himself on the tender mercies of Yahweh.

We can even go so far as to compare Saul and David with two great figures in the spirit realm, Satan and Yahshua. Satan always excuses himself while he accuses everyone else. While Yahshua never sinned and therefore, never earned the penalty of death, He willingly took that penalty upon Himself in order to make excuses for others (through grace).

Saul knew that the kingdom was to be taken from him and given to another better than himself. He eventually discovered that David was anointed to replace him as king over Israel. Saul pulled out all stops in order to destroy David even though he knew that David was Yahweh's anointed. David, on the other hand, even though he had to run for his life, time, after time, after time, would not lift his hand against Saul who was the first anointed king over Israel. David trusted in Yahweh and waited for His appointed time to give him the kingdom.

Satan is the god and prince of this present evil world. Yahshua has been anointed to replace him. Satan sought to destroy Yahshua and still seeks to wage war against Him and His disciples today. Yahshua, like David, is waiting for His Father's appointed time to give Him the throne and kingdom over this world.

Yahshua's disciples asked Him, "Master, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" Acts 1:6. Yahshua replied, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth," vv. 7-8.

We are born into this world with the spirit of the first Adam, but we are lacking in the Spirit of the second. At sometime in our lives, we must be called by Yahweh, given the opportunity to confess our sins, repent, be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the second Adam, Yahshua. We must then "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Sovereign and Savior Yahshua the Messiah," 2 Pet. 3:18. This means that we must not only have that grace and knowledge, but we must put it to work in our lives. The study and application of the Scriptures and the examples we find there are the best ways of doing this.

SELF EXAMINATION

When approaching the annual Passover ceremony, Paul encourages us to examine ourselves (1 Cor. 11:28). In another place he exhorts self-examination again, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Yahshua the Messiah is in you, except ye be reprobate?" 2 Cor. 13:5.

Yes, we must examine ourselves, especially those of us who are called to be of the household of faith. Are we truly walking in those oh so worthy footsteps? Are we truly

putting our lives on the line for our Heavenly Father, our wondrous Savior, our brethren and even our enemies?

Then there are those who are still walking around with only the spirit of the first Adam. Are you committing grievous errors and excusing yourselves? Are you like Saul who blamed everything on others or if you are caught doing wrong, dreaming up some lame duck excuse in order to justify yourself?

Let's all compare ourselves to Saul and David. Then we can compare ourselves to the first Adam and the second Adam. Finally, we can compare ourselves to the spirit of Satan and Yahshua. If we are honest with ourselves, we will find so many, many areas where we are lacking in following David and Yahshua. But it isn't too late to turn our lives around. As long as there is life, there is hope.

What we should do is examine ourselves thoroughly, confess our short-comings and sins to the Father Yahweh, ask for forgiveness and the strength and Spirit to make drastic changes in our lives. We have the examples recorded for us, let's study them out and then follow through.

Let's exhibit the love and faith that will cause us to not only put our lives on the line for Yahweh's and Yahshua's sheep, but be willing to lose our lives in this day and age if need b.

We must set our goals on the kingdom of heaven and the life to come. This present life perishes with the using. Let us turn to Yahweh's word, the Holy Scriptures, and learn to exhibit the spirit of faith and courage to face all of the evil giants of this world. The examples are replete in the Scriptures if only we will pay heed and follow.