

Seeking a Spiritualized Body

“Let’s Start Asking”

I. SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:38 – “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of YAHUAH-YAHUSHA [God Jesus] for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit].’”

II. YAHUSHA [JESUS]’S SPIRITUALIZED BODY

On today’s bulletin, we have a picture of what looks like an astronaut in a space suit ascending into space. This particular photograph was used by a Messianic congregation out of Hudson, Wisconsin, as a picture to help one visualize C.S. Lewis’s commentary, from his *Miracles* book. About YAHUSHA [Jesus]’s ascension, C.S. Lewis writes “we can [spiritualize the Ascension of Christ] only if we regard the Resurrection appearances as those of a ghost or hallucination.” But then, “all Christians must explain why God sent or permitted a ‘vision’ or a ‘ghost’, whose behaviour seems almost exclusively directed to convincing the disciples that [He] was not a vision or a ghost, but a really corporeal being”.

For didn’t YAHUSHA [Jesus] Himself, in His resurrected physical body, stand in the midst of His 11 disciples and those travelers with from the Road to Emmaus appearance experience, and say: **“Peace to you”**. But weren’t they “terrified and frightened, and supposed [that] they had seen a spirit”? And didn’t He say to them, **“Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”** When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, **‘Have you any food here?’** So, they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence.” (Luke 24:36-43) Do you think that a spirit without flesh and bones can not only hungry, but actually eat a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb? In a spirit’s form, where would it settle? (Even as depicted in the cartoons such as in Casper the Ghost, food falls completely through a spirit’s form.)

From his Miracles book, C.S. Lewis continues that “the records represent Christ as passing after death (as no man had ever passed before) neither into a purely, that is negatively, ‘spiritual’ mode of existence nor into a ‘natural’ life such as we now know, but into a life which has its own new Nature.”

“It represents [Christ] as withdrawing six weeks later, into some different mode of existence. It says — He says — that He goes ‘to prepare a place for us’. This presumably means that He is about to create that whole new Nature which will provide the environment or conditions for His glorified humanity and, in Him, for ours. The picture is not what we expected - though whether it is less or more probable and philosophical on that account is another question. It is not the picture of an escape from any and every kind of Nature into some unconditioned and utterly transcendent life. It is the picture of a new human nature, and a new Nature in general, being brought into existence.”

III. A SPIRITUALIZED CORPORATE BODY OF SPIRITUALIZED CORPOREAL BODIES

A. A “WHOLE HOUSE”

Our scripture today was taken from Acts 2. In it, we come to know that in order for you and I to have a Spiritualized (with a capital “S”) body, we need to “repent”! That means that we must, according to the Miriam-Webster dictionary’s definition of *repent*, “turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one’s life, to feel regret or contrition (for our previous way of life); to change [our] mind” toward our previous way of life. Does anyone here today know what the context is for today’s scripture?

This is the same chapter in Acts, where the collective Body of MESSIAH [Christ], were all of one accord – of one mind, and in one place, a “whole house” where after total (100%) unity was achieved “they were *all* filled with the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit] and began to speak with other tongues, as the RUACH [Spirit] gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4).

Then, after the “whole house” RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit] experience, but before today’s scripture, “Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them” (Acts 2:14) – the “Jews [and] devout men [and women], from every nation under heaven” (Acts 2:50) – Men [and women] of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be

known to you, and heed my words” (Acts 2:14), “but this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘and it shall come to pass in the last days, says YAHUAH [God], that I will pour out of My RUACH [Spirit] on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My RUACH [Spirit] in those days; and they shall prophesy”. (Acts 2:16-18)

To which each replied, “each in our own language in which [they] were born, Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs — [they] hear [Peter and the collective spiritualized corporeal body of MESSIAH] speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of YAH [God].” So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” (Acts 2:8-12)

And after experiencing sermon of Peter and the togetherness of each of the spiritualized individual’s utterance, this multinational group Jews and non-Jewish converts were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do [to receive this Spirit]?” to which Peter responds...

B. THE PROMISE OF THE RUACH [Spirit] TO EVERY ONE

“Repent, and let every *one* of you be baptized in the name of YAHUAH-YAHUSHA [God Jesus] for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit]. (Comment on the definition of YAHUAH-YAHUSHA) For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as YAHUAH ELOHAYNU [the Lord our God] will call.” (Acts 2:38-39)

C. HOW A TRUE SPIRITUALIZED BODY [CHURCH] GROWS

“And with many other words [Peter] testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘be saved from this perverse generation’” (i.e., “repent” from today’s world, the people and things thereof). “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand (3,000) souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ *doctrine* and *fellowship*, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then

fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now *all* who believed were together, and had *all things* in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. (Acts 2:40-45)

“So, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising YAHUAH [God] and having favor with all the people. And YAH [the Lord] added to the church *daily* those who were being saved. (Acts 2:46-47)

IV. GAINING A PERSONAL, SPIRITUALIZED BODY

When hearing just now about the dynamic of YAHUAH [God]’s newly established church, that was built through Peter and the other Apostles, upon which YAHUSHA [Jesus] Himself prophesied... “upon *this* rock... I will build My church... and the gates of hell will not overpower it” (Matthew 16:18), how do you feel? What are you thinking? Take a look at yourself here today... No! Don’t look around you! Don’t look at your wife or husband! Don’t look at your parents, or your kids or grandkids! No! Don’t look at *any* other person or persons in this body today... Take a look at yourself!

(Insert the bright karaoke palace dream at top of the hill, Rich and Hydie after a long, tunnel of darkness, the brilliantly lit entrance, complete with Bouncer and ID check, trying to gain entrance inside)

Yes brothers and sisters, when you and I stand in fear and trembling before YAHUAH [God]’s bright white throne of grace, it will your ID alone... and my ID alone that will be checked before you alone, and I alone are allowed our separate entrance... Our ID, nor the ID of our spouses, our parents, our kids or grandkids, or the ID of anyone else in this body or outside of this body... that will allow us to enter. You, and only you, are responsible for *your* walk before YAHUAH [God], through the sacrifice of YAHUSHA [Jesus], and the indwelling transformation of the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit]...

When talking with Nicodemus in John 3, YAHUSHA [Jesus] says that “**most assuredly ... unless one is born of water and the RUACH [Spirit], he [or she] cannot enter the kingdom of YAHUAH [God]**”. And, “**that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the RUACH [Spirit] is spirit**”. And, “**do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again’.**” (John 3:5-7) Can

you imagine Nicodemus, after YAHUSHA [Jesus] criticizes him by asking him **“are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?”** ¹¹ **Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.** ¹² **If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly (spiritual) things?** (John 3:10-12)

Can you imagine Nicodemus responding, saying “well YAHUSHA [Jesus], I’m not capable of achieving this born-again, spiritualized body. You know why? It’s because my brother Joseph of Arimathea hasn’t been treating me right lately; it’s because he’s been gossiping about me to the other scribes and pharisees... so, I don’t really have a chance to be renewed myself. They distract me too much for that. Oh YAHUSHA [Jesus], and please don’t forget that I grew up in a dysfunctional family... remember, I was severely abused, and so you must know that it’s just not possible for me to be reborn into a Spiritualized body. You do understand, that, don’t you YAHUSHA [Jesus]. Oh, and one more thing YAHUSHA [Jesus], all the leaders and almost all my fellow brothers and sisters in our body are hypocritical... *they* make it impossible by their example and actions for me to be Spiritualized by You in my walk with You each day.” If Nicodemus would have even dared to put the blame for his own misunderstanding of how to begin his personal walk by being reborn into a new personal, Spiritualized body of the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit], he would have asked of’ Nick the same question he had continually asked His disciples **“Where is your Faith?”** And order him, and us as he ordered the disadvantaged, exploited, and abused adulterous woman **“Go! And sin no more.”** (John 8:11)

We paused recently in our midweek study of Hebrews. Does anyone here remember where we stopped exactly? Well, it was at the beginning of Hebrews 6, where we are told “therefore [that we must] leave the principles of the doctrine of MASHIACH [Christ], [and] *let us go on unto perfection*; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of belief toward YAHUAH [God]. Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. (Hebrews 6:1-2a) Although the very next words of verse 3 are “and this [the leaving of the principles of the doctrine of MESSIAH] will we do, if YAHUAH [God] permit” ... we as a body seeking our spiritualization through Him, have paused to review these very Messianic doctrines.

Yes, we have paused our midweek service to readdress those very basic Christian doctrines of being born again, whereby we begin to “get it”, and our lives begin to assimilate the perfection of MESSIAH [Christ] through the RUACH [Spirit] that He promised to give us through His Gospel that began with the disciples (John 17) of the early church (Acts 2). Now, in our midweek service, we are trying to look at the reasons that might be blocking, or pausing our rebirth into our personal, Spiritualized body. We have embarked on a “rebirth” journey, trying to self-analyze what might be holding each of us in bondage to a life outside of MESSIAH [Christ].

V. **“HE WILL GIVE ALL THE FAITHFUL, HIS OWN SELF FOR SPIRITUAL FOOD”**

Is there anyone else here today beside me, who sometimes what the full meaning is of the part of YAHUAH [The Lord]’s prayer that demands Him to **“give us today our daily bread”**?

As part of scripture and study that we covered during this midweek service, we analyzed what YAHUSHA [Jesus] meant when He told those seventy (70) disciples who were given dominion over the Satan and the devils... **“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you”** (Luke 10:19). We realized that YAHUSHA [Jesus]’s reference to **“serpents and scorpions”** was a reference to Satan and his demonic forces.

Today, based on this translation, we can now look at another red letter promises to give us hope over the dark spiritual bondage in our lives: **“And He said to them, ‘which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him”; and he will answer from within and say, “Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you”?’ I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.’”**

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an

egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit] to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:5-13)

VI. PROMISED SPIRITUALIZED FREEDOM FROM SATAN'S BONDAGE

Because "we [each] wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12), each day in our walk, we put on all the armor of YAHUAH [God] (referred to in the verses of Ephesians 8:10-21), but mostly now we pray as Paul says to pray, (in verse 18), "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the RUACH [Spirit], and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all YAHUSHA [The Lord]'s people.

And as we pray YAHUAH [The Lord]'s prayer, we will constantly, continually keep in mind as we demand of Him three (3) loaves of bread, that He will give us deliverance over 1) *that serpent* who is the devil... that He will give us deliverance over 2) *the scorpions* who are Satan's demons... and that He will give us instead 3) *the stone* upon which He built His church, His body: the Bread of Life, His own Self for our Holy Spiritual Food. And with that, as YAHUSHA [Jesus] also promises, He is "**the Bread of Life. [And] whoever comes to [Him] will never hunger, and whoever believes in [Him] will never thirst**".

So... let's start knocking, and keep knocking so that we will received "**the Bread of Life**" at this late hour in our world, in our personal lives... who will fully satisfy us so that we no longer hunger.

So... let's start asking, and keep asking Him for the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit]... each and every time we wake up, and each and every moment of our lives... so that we will received the "**RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit]**", Who has been promised to us who are persistent.

VII. BLESSING (Ephesians 3:20-21)

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the

spiritualize body by HA'MASHIAC YAHUSHA [Christ Jesus] to all generations,
forever and ever."

"Amen."

Credits:

- 1 "C.S. Lewis on the Ascension of Yeshua", D. Thomas Lancaster, First Fruits of Zion, May 28, 2019;
<https://ffoz.org/discover/messianic-jewish-calendar/c-s-lewis-on-the-ascension-of-yeshua.html>
- 2 "Miracles", C.S. Lewis, Harper One, ©1947
- 3 "Repent" definition, Merriam-Webster Dictionary; <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/repent>