



**MISSION STATEMENT  
and  
OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**Pursuing Truth Ministries  
Congregation**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>P.T.M. MISSION STATEMENT.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PREFACE: Introduction to our Statement of Faith.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>I. The HOLY SCRIPTURES / THE BIBLE.....</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>II. YHWH ELOHIM (Creator / Heavenly Father).....</b>	<b>5-6</b>
<b>III. YESHUA HAMASHIACH (Jesus the Christ, The Messiah).....</b>	<b>6-8</b>
<b>IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT "NAMES" .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>IV. RUACH HAKODESH (The Holy Spirit).....</b>	<b>8-9</b>
<b>IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT "TRINITY" DOCTRINES.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>V. MANKIND / HUMANITY.....</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>VI. satan (hasatan /adversary / the devil ).....</b>	<b>11-12</b>
<b>VII. SIN.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>VIII. REPENTANCE.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>IX. SALVATION (The Gospel – Good News).....</b>	<b>13-15</b>
<b>IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT TRUE SALVATION.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>X. TORAH / INSTRUCTIONS – LAW of YHWH.....</b>	<b>15-16</b>
<b>XI. FAITH &amp; FRUIT.....</b>	<b>16-17</b>
<b>XII. BAPTISM.....</b>	<b>17-18</b>
<b>XIII. THE SABBATH DAY (The Lord’s Day).....</b>	<b>18-19</b>
<b>XIV. BIBLICAL HOLY DAYS (Feasts of YHWH).....</b>	<b>19-22</b>

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT MODERN DAY RELIGIOUS TRADITIONAL HOLIDAYS.....	23
<b>XV. CLEAN and UNCLEAN (Dietary Instructions).....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>XVI. THE CHURCH (Qahal {Hebrew} / Ekklesia {Greek}) – Body of Believers.....</b>	<b>25-26</b>
<b>XVII. EVANGELISM and Missions – The Great Commission.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>XVIII. SPIRITUAL GIFTS.....</b>	<b>26-27</b>
IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT “TONGUES” .....	27-28
<b>XIX. STEWARDSHIP.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>XX. CONDUCT and ACCOUNTABILITY.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>XXI. MARRIAGE and THE FAMILY.....</b>	<b>30-31</b>
<b>XXII. CONSUMMATION OF ALL THINGS – End of Days.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>RIGHTS of RESERVATION of P.T.M. ....</b>	<b>32</b>

## MISSION STATEMENT

At Pursuing Truth Ministries, We examine every aspect of our faith and hold it to the test of the Holy Scriptures. We hold the Bible as the sole source of final authority and absolute truth.

We believe the Bible, in the original manuscripts, to be the inspired Word of God without contradiction or error. We strive to deeply examine and study the Scriptures in order to

**“*Rightly Divide* (correctly teach) *the Word of Truth*”**

as instructed in **2 Timothy 2:15**

We believe that we don’t interpret the Bible but rather that the Bible interprets itself. Scripture that is understood correctly will never contradict itself but instead will agree and build upon itself to teach

and confirm a unanimous doctrine of the **Great Story of Yahweh’s (God’s) Redemption** of sinful mankind through His only begotten son **Messiah Yeshua (Jesus the Christ)**.

We believe that the whole Bible (Old and New Testament) is true, relevant, and applicable to our lives today. If you would like more information about us after reviewing this Statement of Faith,

please feel free to contact by phone at **(706) 455-0714**; by email at

**[PursuingTruthMinistries@gmail.com](mailto:PursuingTruthMinistries@gmail.com)**;

or visit us online at: **[www.PursuingTruthMinistries.com](http://www.PursuingTruthMinistries.com)**

# PREFACE

The Pursuing Truth Ministries Official Statement of Faith is designed to be as informative and comprehensive as possible in order to present our basic core beliefs. Our desire is to keep it concise enough for one to read it fully without losing the attention of, or stimulating confusion to, its reader. This statement of faith is designed to be progressive in nature and should be read in numerical order to allow each article to build upon one another.

This statement of faith is not an all-encompassing teaching of everything P.T.M. believes and stands for, but rather a general statement of our beliefs.

Pursuing Truth Ministries understands that, despite our best efforts, our Statement of Faith may disagree with and thus even unintentionally offend some people. Even so, we are striving with all diligence to avoid dogmatic, restrictive, and abrasive language without sacrificing clarity concerning our Biblical stance on various topics pertaining to our faith.

Thank you for your consideration of these efforts.

## I. The HOLY SCRIPTURES / THE BIBLE

- A.** The Bible is the inspired Word of YHWH (God) and is infallible without contradiction or error in its original form and language. Though thousands of years, at least one language, and an entire culture separate us from the original manuscripts, we believe that YHWH (God) has preserved His Word for all time. Therefore, all Scripture is true and trustworthy. Through diligent study and help of The Holy Spirit we can properly understand its original meaning and message. (**2 Timothy 2:15**)
- B.** The Complete Scriptures include sixty-six (66) books, from Genesis to Revelation. The Torah is the first five (5) books of the Bible (Genesis – Deuteronomy) and is foundational for understanding the rest of Scripture. The **Tanakh** is the Torah, Prophets, and Writings otherwise known to us as **The Old Testament**. It is essential to understanding the apostolic writings of the B'rit Chadashah, better known to us as **The New Testament**.
- C.** The Bible (both the Old and New Testament), written by men divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit in word and thought, is one unified and glorious message to mankind revealing the redemptive plan of YHWH (God) through Messiah Yeshua (commonly known as Jesus the Christ).
- D.** The teachings of Yeshua (Jesus) and the apostles are not in opposition to the Tanakh (OT). Likewise, the Tanakh (OT) is not contrary or in opposition to the New Testament. All Scripture is a testimony to Yeshua Messiah (Jesus the Christ), Who is Himself the entire focal point of divine revelation from YHWH (God).

- E. "All Scripture [both OT and NT] is given by inspiration of YHWH and is profitable [beneficial] for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness." **(2 Timothy 3:16).**
- F. The Bible is the ultimate authority and source of absolute truth in a believer's life in all matters of faith and human conduct.

#### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

**Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Deuteronomy 8:3; Deuteronomy 17:18-19; Psalm 12:6-7; Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119:89; Psalm 119:97-98; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 119:110; Psalm 119:142; Psalm 119:151-152; Psalm 119:160; Isaiah 28:10; Isaiah 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; Matthew 4:4; Matt 7:24; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33; John 8:31-32; John 17:17; Acts 17:11; Acts 28:23; Romans 10:17; Romans 15:4; Ephesians 6:17; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-4; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Revelation 22:18-19**

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## **II. YHWH ELOHIM (Creator / Heavenly Father)**

- A. We believe in the one true and living Elohim, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – The God of Israel. The Scriptures reveal to us His personal name, YHWH, and apart from Him there is no other. He is infinite in holiness and perfect in every way.
- B. YHWH (God) is self-existing, omnipotent [all powerful], omniscient [all knowing], and omnipresent [ever present]. His perfect knowledge and power transcend both time and space which includes all things past, present, and future, including the free will decisions of mankind.
- C. YHWH is the sole Source of all life, Creator of heaven and earth, Sustainer of all things, and the Author of human salvation and redemption.
- D. YHWH (God) is merciful, holy, just, and righteous. We owe all our love, reverence, and loyal obedience to Him.
- E. YHWH (God) is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.
- F. The Eternal God, in His love and mercy, has chosen to expressly manifest Himself to mankind in tangible ways through the distinct attributes of Father (YHWH), Son (Yeshua Messiah), and Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh).
- G. Scripture clearly teaches us that YHWH does not change. **(Malachi 3:6)**

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

**Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:14; Exodus 6:2-3; Exodus 15:11-13; Exodus 15:18; Exodus 20:1-2; Exodus 34:6-7; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Deuteronomy 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10-13; Psalm 68:4; Psalm 102:27; Isaiah 33:22; Isaiah 42:5; Isaiah 43:3; Isaiah 43:10-11; Isaiah 43:15; Isaiah 44:6; Isaiah 45:18; Isaiah 45:22; Isaiah 46:9-10; Isaiah 48:12-17; Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; Jeremiah 17:13; Matthew 6:9; Matthew 7:11; Matthew 7:21; Matthew 23:9; John 4:23-24; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; Hebrews 12:9; Revelation 1:8; Revelation 22:13**

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### **III. YESHUA HAMASHIACH (Jesus the Christ, The Messiah)**

- A.** Yeshua (Jesus) of Nazareth is the Word of YHWH (God) Who became flesh, is the express image and visible manifestation of the invisible God (YHWH), and is the fullness of the Godhead bodily.
- B.** He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin (**Matthew 1:18-25**).
- C.** Yeshua (Whose name means Salvation of Yah) is the promised Messiah of Israel, the Savior of the world, Who was prophesied in the Scriptures (**John 1:45**). He is The Prophet that was to come after Moses (**Deuteronomy 18:15-19; John 1:21; John 6:14; Acts 3:22**)
- D.** Yeshua willingly divested Himself of His heavenly position and took upon Himself human nature and identified Himself completely with mankind. He subjected Himself to the same temptations as all of humanity, yet He never sinned.
- E.** He lived a sinless life, walking out the divine and holy Law of YHWH perfectly, both in letter and in spirit, through His personal obedience. Yeshua lived out and correctly taught the law [Torah] in its fullness as was always originally intended. His life and message provides the only means for salvation and our only perfect example to live by.
- F.** Messiah Yeshua dismantled the man-made "oral traditions" (Talmud / Mishnah) that were built in a futile attempt to "protect" the Law. He exposed the traditions of men that nullified the commandments of YHWH.
- G.** Yeshua stated clearly that He did not come to abolish The Law or the Prophets, but that He came to fulfill it (fill it full; fully teach it; magnify it). (**Isaiah 42:21; Matthew 5:17-18**)
- H.** Yeshua even commended those who taught obedience to the Law (Torah) without relaxing even the least of the commandments. (**Matthew 5:19**)
- I.** Yeshua restored the Torah (Law) to its proper position. He demonstrated perfect obedience to it and He then willingly bore our penalty of death for breaking it. As the spotless Lamb of YHWH (God), He took upon Himself the punishment that we deserved for our disobedience to YHWH's instructions.

- J.** His substitutionary and atoning death by crucifixion, as our Passover Lamb, made provision for the redemption of man from sin and reconciled us back into fellowship with YHWH through faith in His Name.
- K.** Yeshua was crucified to death on Passover, buried in a borrowed tomb, and was resurrected from the dead 3 days and 3 nights later on the Feast of Firstfruits. He ascended to Heaven and now ministers as our High Priest and King in the heavenly tabernacle at the right hand of the Father.
- L.** As our Risen Lord, He is the One Mediator between YHWH (The Father) and mankind.
- M.** Salvation is attained only by grace through faith in Yeshua (Jesus) alone, apart from works. There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. **(Acts 4:12)**
- N.** Scripture teaches that Yeshua, in the same manner as YHWH, does not change. **(Hebrews 13:8)**

**His nature is mysterious (1 Tim. 3:16), therefore we seek to simply affirm what the Scriptures teach/state:**

1. **Yeshua is the Divine Angel [representation] of YHWH manifested in the flesh** -  
(John 1:1; Phil. 2:6,11; Titus 2:13-14; John 20:28; Isaiah 43:10-11; Romans 9:5; Hebrews 1:3-14; Zechariah 12:1,10; John 14:9; Acts 20:28; John 10:30-33; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Matthew 1:23; Revelation 1:8, 17-18)
2. **Yeshua is One with the Father** - (John 10:30; John 17:20-21)
3. **Yeshua is eternally existent, without beginning or ending** -  
(Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 44:6; Isaiah 48:12 Micah 5:2; John 17:5; John 8:58; Hebrews 7:1-3; Revelation 1:17-18)
4. **Yeshua is the only begotten Son of YHWH (God)** -  
(Mark 1:1, 3:11; John 3:16-18)

#### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

**Genesis 3:15; Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Psalm 22:14-18; Psalm 110:1-7; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 33:22; Isaiah 42:1-4; Isaiah 42:21; Isaiah 50:5-7; Isaiah 53:1-12; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:18-25; Matthew 3:17; Matthew 5:17-19; Matthew 7:24; Matthew 8:29; Matthew 11:27; Matthew 12:1-14; Matthew 14:33; Matthew 16:16; Matthew 16:27; Mark 1:1; Mark 3:11; Luke 1:35; Luke 4:41; Luke 11:27-32; Luke 22:70; Luke 24:44; Luke 24:46; John 1:1; John 1:14-15; John 1:29; John 3:13; John 3:16-17, John 5:26; John 5:39; John 6:14; John 10:30; John 10:38; John 11:25-27; John 12:44-50; John 14:6-13; John 17:1-8; John 21:25; Acts 3:22; Acts 5:31; Romans 5:8; Romans 8:34; Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:15-20; 1 Timothy 2:5;**

**1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:1-4; Hebrews 2:9-18; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 5:7; Hebrews 8:1-2; Hebrews 13:8; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 2:1-14; 1 John 4:9-10; 1 John 4:15; 1 John 5:11-13; 1 John 5:20; Revelation 1:8; Revelation 1:12-18; Revelation 22:13**

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### **IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT "NAMES":**

Pursuing Truth Ministries believes that The Almighty Creator of the Universe has a proper and personal name as revealed over 6000 times in the Hebrew Scriptures of the Old Testament,

which is **יהוה** (known as the Tetragrammaton "**YHWH**" in English).

The Name is translated in most English Bibles as "LORD" in all capital letters. Though we have come to understand that His name is pronounced as "**Yahweh**" (Yah-way), we acknowledge that certainty of the exact pronunciation may have been lost to antiquity.

We also recognize and believe that the promised Messiah of the Bible was Hebrew (in first century context) and His original name is **Yeshua** (**Yahshua** or **Yehoshua**) and known as **Jesus** in most English Bible versions. The Greek transliteration of **Yeshua** was "**Iesous**", being the same name as Joshua the successor of Moses in the Old Testament (See Acts 7:45 and Hebrews 4:8)

The Greek name "**Iesous**" is the source of the English name "Jesus".

While P.T.M. uses the Hebrew names of our Heavenly Father and Messiah, we are not dogmatic or critical toward those who do not. We reject the concept that the English name "Jesus Christ" is pagan because of its Greek linguistic origins. We believe that the names of our Creator and Messiah transcend human language and acknowledge that many have come into the faith through the English name of Jesus. We also reject the idea that the English titles "LORD" and "God" are pagan in origin.

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## **IV. RUACH HAKODESH (The Holy Spirit)**

- A.** The Holy Spirit or "Spirit of Holiness" is both the Spirit of YHWH (God) and the Spirit of Messiah (Christ), fully divine. The Holy Spirit is the power of God and of life eternal.
- B.** The Holy Spirit is the "Comforter / Helper" Who is promised by Yeshua (Jesus), the Spirit of Truth, Who brings to remembrance all that Yeshua (The Word made flesh) has said to us and enables men to understand truth. (**John 14:16-17,26**)
- C.** The Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh) gives spiritual birth to true believers/followers of Yeshua. The Ruach empowers believers to testify of Yeshua and to advance the Kingdom of Heaven.



- D. The Holy Spirit is the very “breath” or spirit that goes forth from Almighty YHWH (God) to accomplish His sovereign will. The Holy Spirit inspired the writing of the Holy Scriptures, convicts of sin, effects godly repentance, and instructs in righteousness.
- E. Upon true repentance and conversion (regeneration), The Holy Spirit seals the believer and is the earnest (down payment) of our promised inheritance unto the day of final redemption. (**Ephesians 1:13-14**)
- F. The Spirit of YHWH provides and bestows spiritual gifts for the work of the gospel by which they serve YHWH through His Church. (See **Article XVIII** – Spiritual Gifts for more details)
- G. The fruit (evidences) of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control.
- H. The Spirit indwells all true believers, imparts power to all individual to live in accordance with YHWH’s Word, and to help them overcome sinful temptations of satan and the flesh.
- I. With the New Covenant gift of the Holy Spirit, the Torah of YHWH (Law of God) gets written upon our hearts (**Jeremiah 31:31-33**). The Spirit causes us to walk in the Father’s statutes and carefully observe His ordinances (**Ezekiel 11:19-20, 36:26-27**).
- J. The Spirit enables us to follow the Savior and to walk as He walked, in obedience to the Father (**John 8:12; Colossians 2:6**).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Walking in obedience to YHWH’S Torah (God’s Law) **IS NOT** what saves us. Obedience, out of love, is simply the fruit of / evidence of our salvation (**James 2:14-26**).

#### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

**Genesis 1:2; Psalm 51:11; 2 Samuel 23:2; Job 33:4; Isaiah 63:10-11; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:19-20; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Joel 2:28-29; Matthew 1:18; Matthew 3:11; Matthew 3:16; Luke 11:13; John 3:5-8; John 4:24; John 6:63; John 7:37-39; John 14:16-17; John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:13; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:38; Acts 5:1-4; Acts 5:32; Acts 7:51; Romans 5:5; Romans 8:9-11; Romans 8:14-16; Romans 8:26-27; Romans 15:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 1 Corinthians 12:3-13; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; 2 Corinthians 5:5; Galatians 4:6; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 1:13-14; Ephesians 2:22; Ephesians 4:30; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Timothy 1:14; Titus 3:5-6; Hebrews 2:4; 1 John 4:13**

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## **IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT "TRINITY" DOCTRINES:**

We, at Pursuing Truth Ministries, are not dogmatic pertaining to the doctrine of Trinity. Though the Scriptures clearly speak of and reveal God through the distinct personalities of Father / Son / Holy Spirit, we neither claim ability to fully understand or explain this mystery completely. We also do not accept the idea that any person has the ability to do so.

At P.T.M., if you genuinely acknowledge that Yahweh (YHWH) is one, that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Promised Messiah of The Holy Scriptures, and that the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh) is indeed both the Spirit of YHWH and Spirit of Yeshua dwelling within the hearts of all true believers, we are not dogmatic pertaining to how one personally views or verbally expresses his or her understanding of this concept. We accept the reality that we all "see through a glass darkly" as Paul the Apostle states in **1 Cor. 13:12**. In other words, our current understanding of divine things is imperfect and incomplete. Therefore, we do not make or permit this topic to be a divisive matter within the confines of our fellowship / assembly.

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## **V. MANKIND / HUMANITY**

- A.** Mankind was created in the image of YHWH (God) and therefore is the highlight and crowning work of His creation. He created them male and female and furnished them with both mental and spiritual capacity of reason and choice.
- B.** Both men and women, being made in the image of Elohim (God), have equal value and dignity as blessed by our Creator.
- C.** Our Creator and Heavenly Father formed Adam and Eve from the dust of the earth and therefore created only one race of people which is the Human Race.
- D.** YHWH (Almighty God) created all of mankind as equal and is "no respecter of persons". He therefore does not show favoritism in regard to race, nationality, and/or languages.
- E.** In the beginning, man was innocent of sin and was granted by Elohim (God) dominion over all the earth and freedom to choose whether to obey our Creator. Through the temptation of the serpent (satan) in the garden of Eden, mankind chose to disobey YHWH's commands and brought sin into the world. (**Genesis 3:1; Rev. 12:9**).  
(See **Article VI** – "satan" for more details)
- F.** Through Adam and Eve's disobedience, all of mankind fell from their original state of innocence and became universally sinful in both nature and practice.
- G.** Though displayed and designated through different roles, the woman was created to be the helper of the man as an equal partaker in caring for and subduing the earth.
- H.** The man's headship over the woman came as consequence of the fall of humanity through rebellion against YHWH. (See **Article XXI** – Marriage and The Family for more details)

- I. Because of Adam's fall to temptation and disobedience to YHWH in the Garden of Eden, man must "earn his bread by the sweat of his brow" all the days of his life. (**Genesis 3:19**)

#### SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

**Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:7; Genesis 2:18-25; Genesis 3:1-13; Job 33:4; Psalm 8:4-8; Psalm 14:2-3; Psalm 103:14-16; Psalm 119:73; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 17:5-9; Jonah 4:11; John 3:16; Romans 2:10-11; Romans 3:10-18; Romans 5:12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:3; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Galatians 3:28-29; 1 Timothy 2:10-14**

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### VI. **satan (hasatan /adversary / the devil )**

- A. "**satan**" is a real entity and personality who was created by YHWH (God), who fell from his heavenly status through pride and rebellion. He became the originator of sin and the father of lies. He is the archenemy of YHWH and the souls of mankind.
- B. "**hasatan**" (in Hebrew) is referred to in the Bible in diverse and numerous ways including: satan, the adversary, the devil, serpent, dragon, enemy, deceiver, tempter, evil one, liar, murderer, prince of demons, prince of the power of the air, roaring lion, accuser of the brethren, and even the "ruler of this world" (**John 16:11**).
- C. "**the adversary**" is in constant opposition and rebellion against YHWH (God). The devil is the originating source of evil, deception, discord, and disobedience among mankind in an attempt to destroy the body of believers.
- D. "**the serpent**" demonstrates his evil character and purpose throughout time with his continual resistance toward YHWH by tempting our first parents (Adam and Eve) to sin, perpetual opposition against Yeshua Messiah (Christ) from the time of His birth all the way to the crucifixion, toward His apostles and disciples, and toward His kingdom.
- E. "**the devil**", though active in this world, has limited power and Christians (followers of Yeshua) are able to resist the temptations of satan through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit.
- F. Believers must beware of false doctrines and teachings because satan is a deceiver who disguises himself as an "angel of light" and his ministers also disguise themselves as "ministers of righteousness" (**2 Corinthians 11:12-15**)
- G. The influence of satan, along with his demons, will cease at the glorious return of Yeshua Messiah (Jesus the Christ) at the end of the age where the devil, his demons, all unbelievers, death and hell will be destroyed in the lake of fire.

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

**Genesis 3:1-15; 1 Chronicles 21:1; Job 1:6-7; Zechariah 3:2; Matthew 4:1-11; Matthew 13:37-39; Mark 3:22-23; Luke 10:17-18; Luke 13:16; Luke 22:3-4; John 8:44; John 13:2; John 13:27; John 16:11; John 17:15; Acts 5:3; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 2 Corinthians 11:12-15; Ephesians 2:2; Ephesians 6:12; 1 Thessalonians 2:18; 1 Thessalonians 3:5; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11; 1 Timothy 5:14-15; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 12:3-10; Revelation 12:17**

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## VII. SIN

- A.** Sin is transgression (the breaking) of YHWH's commandments [Torah /Law / Instructions]. **(1 John 3:4)**
- B.** Sin is lawlessness, which is disobedience to the will of YHWH and is the result of rebellion against our Heavenly Father (Almighty God of the Bible).
- C.** Since sin entered the heart of mankind through Adam and Eve, humanity has been bound in the chains of a sinful nature that manifests itself in a constant inclination towards self-centeredness, pride, and self-serving interests over YHWH's commands and His will for mankind.
- D.** "All have sinned and come short of the glory of YHWH" and "the wages [payment / penalty] of sin is death". **(Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23)**
- E.** All humans are sinners and therefore under the righteous judgment of YHWH.
- F.** As sinners, all men are separated from YHWH (God) and in desperate need of salvation that is only available through repentance and living faith in Yeshua Messiah (Jesus the Christ), the Son of YHWH.

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

**Genesis 4:7; Genesis 39:9; Exodus 20:20; Exodus 32:30-31; Exodus 34:7-9; Deuteronomy 30:1-20; 1 Samuel 15:24; 1 Kings 8:46; Isaiah 43:27; Isaiah 64:6; Daniel 9:11; Matthew 5:19; Matthew 9:13; Romans 3:10-19; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12; Romans 6:12-15; Romans 6:23; Romans 7:14-25; Romans 8:12-13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Colossians 1:21-22; 1 John 3:4; Revelation 21:8**

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## **VIII. REPENTANCE**

- A.** Repentance, in the Bible, literally means: to be genuinely sorry; to be moved with regret; to change one's mind; to think differently; heartily to amend with abhorrence (repulsion) of one's past sins.
- B.** True repentance is a changing of an individual's mind and attitude towards YHWH (God). It is a result of conviction by the Holy Spirit that is grounded in the Holy Scriptures (Word of YHWH).
- C.** Repentance involves and encapsulates an awareness of our personal sinfulness in light of YHWH's holiness and the perfect obedience of Yeshua Messiah. It is accompanied by a positive response to YHWH's calling.
- D.** Repentance toward YHWH (God) leads to a real and personal faith in Yeshua Messiah (Jesus, The Christ) of the Bible and a converted life of continuing sanctification by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

**2 Chronicles 7:14; 2 Chronicles 30:6-9; 2 Chronicles 34:26-27; Job 42:6; Psalm 51:1-19; Ezekiel 18:21-23; Ezekiel 18:31-32; Jonah 3:4-5; Matthew 3:2-8; Matthew 4:17; Matthew 9:13; Matthew 12:41; Mark 1:15; Mark 6:12; Luke 3:3; Luke 5:32; Luke 11:32; Luke 13:3-5; Luke 15:10; Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Acts 8:22; Acts 11:18; Acts 17:30; Acts 19:4; Acts 20:21; Acts 26:20; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10; 2 Timothy 2:25; Hebrews 6:1-6; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 2:5; Revelation 2:16; Revelation 3:3-19; Revelation 9:20-21; Revelation 16:11**

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## **IX. SALVATION (The Gospel – Good News)**

- A.** Since all mankind are sinners, we are in need of a Savior to save us from the penalty of sin which is eternal death / separation from YHWH (God).
- B.** Salvation is a gift of grace (unmerited favor) from YHWH (God) available only to those who acknowledge Yeshua Messiah (Jesus, the Christ) of the Bible as Lord and Savior through genuine repentance (turning away from sin) and by placing one's faith wholly in Him (Yeshua) for redemption.
- C.** True repentance and faith towards Yeshua leads a person to being spiritually born again, which is regeneration by an indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This is observably demonstrated by the fruit (works / actions / decisions) of one's life.

- D.** Salvation is not merited (earned), attainable (achievable), or secured in whole or in part by human efforts through the “works of the Law”. (**Ephesians 2:8-10; Galatians 2:16, 21**) No one can work (earn) his or her way to Heaven.
- E.** There is no other “name” under Heaven whereby a person can be saved except by [through] the name of Yeshua Messiah (Jesus, The Christ).
- F.** Those who are truly born again by the Holy Spirit (Ruach) are kept by YHWH’s power alone and are therefore secure in Christ for salvation.
- G.** All genuine believers in Christ will be sanctified by His Spirit, will endure and persevere to the end, and will not turn away from the faith.

## **IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT TRUE SALVATION**

**True Biblical Salvation is Three-Fold. It is (1) Past, (2) Present, and (3) Future.**

**1) Salvation is “Past Tense”.** This is commonly known as Justification.

**Justification** is the condition in which a person has been saved from the “Penalty” of his or her sin. Justification cannot be earned through human effort/works and is only available through personal faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus Christ) of the Holy Bible.

**2) Salvation is also “Present Tense”.** This is commonly known as Sanctification.

**Sanctification** is the condition in which a person is being saved from the “Power” of sin over his or her life, enabling them to strive toward obedience to YHWH’s Word by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**3) Salvation is also “Future Tense”.** This is commonly known as Glorification.

**Glorification** is the condition in which a true believer / follower of Yeshua (Jesus) ultimately will become saved from the very “Presence” of sin.

This will occur upon the personal and visible return of Yeshua Messiah to the earth in power and great glory at the end of days. Only those whose names are found in the Lamb’s Book of Life will receive a glorified body.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

**1 Samuel 11:13; 2 Samuel 22:3; Job 13:16; Psalm 62:6-7; Isaiah 12:2; Isaiah 33:24; Isaiah 45:17; Isaiah 45:21-22; Isaiah 51:5-6; Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:68-69; Luke 1:77; Luke 2:28-32; John 1:11-14; John 1:29; John 3:13-18; John 3:36; John 5:24; John 10:9; John 10:28-29; John 17:3; Acts 2:21; Acts 2:38; Acts 4:12; Acts 8:22; Acts 15:11;**

**Acts 16:30-31; Acts 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; Romans 3:23-25; Romans 3:27-28; Romans 4:7; Romans 5:6-10; Romans 6:6-8; Romans 8:1-4; Romans 8:29-39; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 1 Corinthians 15:16-22; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:16; Galatians 3:13-14; Ephesians 1:7; Ephesians 2:2-10; Philippians 1:19; Philippians 2:12; Philippians 3:8-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2 Timothy 2:10; 2 Timothy 3:15; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 5:8-9; Hebrews 9:24-28; 1 John 2:19; Revelation 3:20**

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## **X. TORAH / INSTRUCTIONS – LAW of YHWH**

- A.** The Torah is referred to most commonly in English as “The Law of God”. However, the Torah is better translated into English as “Instructions” of YHWH.
- B.** The Torah’s author is YHWH (God) and it was given to man through Moses and the Prophets which contains loving instructions from our gracious Creator intended for the good of mankind.
- C.** Torah is the source of blessings when obeyed and of curses when rejected. (**Deuteronomy 28:1-68**)
- D.** The Torah teaches us specific and reasonable guidelines to fulfill the “Two Greatest Commandments” of loving YHWH and loving our neighbor as ourselves.
- E.** The Torah is The Word of YHWH and Yeshua Messiah (Jesus the Christ) is The Word made flesh. Our Savior Yeshua (Jesus) is the very essence of Torah (The Law).
- F.** Yeshua came to “magnify the Torah and make it honorable” (**Isaiah 42:21**).
- G.** Yeshua did not come to abolish/destroy the Torah (Law), but rather came to fulfill it (fully preach / correctly teach it) (**Matthew 5:17-19**).
- H.** Obedience to the Torah (Instructions of YHWH) is not the means of salvation, but rather the evidence of salvation. It is the “fruit” of salvation, not the “root” of salvation.
- I.** Faith does not void (put an end to) Torah, but rather establishes it (**Romans 3:31**).
- J.** The Law (Torah) is what gives mankind the knowledge and identification of sin and points to our need for a Savior. (**Romans 7:7; 1 John 3:4**)
- K.** The Torah, once written on tablets of stone at Mount Sinai, is now being written on the hearts of believers in the New Covenant as prophesied in **Jeremiah 31:31-33** and confirmed in **Hebrews 8:10**.

**L.** According to the testimony recorded in Scripture:

“Those who keep YHWH’s commandments are the ones who love Him”, and “those who claim to know (have a personal relationship with) Him (Christ), but do not keep His commandments are liars and the truth is not in them.” (**John 14:21-24; 1 John 2:3-6**)

#### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

**Exodus 12:49; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Deuteronomy 10:13; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Deuteronomy 17:18-19; Deuteronomy 30:11; Joshua 1:7-9; Joshua 8:34; 1 Kings 2:3; Nehemiah 9:13-14; Psalm 1:1-3; Psalm 12:6-7; Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 78:1; Psalm 119; Psalm 119:44; Psalm 119:142; Psalm 119:160; Proverbs 3:1-12; Proverbs 4:2; Proverbs 4:20; Proverbs 30:6; Isaiah 40:8; Isaiah 42:21; Isaiah 48:17-18; Isaiah 51:4; Isaiah 53:1-12; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Malachi 4:4; Matthew 5:17-19; Mark 13:31; Luke 11:27-28; John 14:21-26; John 15:9-11; John 17:17; Romans 3:31; Romans 7:14; Romans 7:22; Romans 8:5-8; Romans 13:8-10; Romans 15:4; Hebrews 8:10; 1 John 2:3-6; 1 John 3:3-6; Revelation 12:17; Revelation 22:14**

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## **XI. FAITH & FRUIT**

- A.** The decisions and actions of a person’s daily life are the manifested evidences of a person’s true inner faith (belief system) concerning all aspects of life including and especially pertaining to faith in The Word of YHWH (The Bible) and in Yeshua (Jesus) as the promised Messiah (Savior) of the Holy Scriptures.
- B.** “Fruit” and “Works” are metaphors often used throughout the Bible to describe a person’s actions / decisions / manner of life whether they be “Good Fruit” (righteous actions) or “Bad Fruit” (sinful deeds).
- C.** Professed Faith (belief) that is not expressed through the attitudes and actions of one’s life is a vain / useless / dead faith. (**James 2:14-18**).
- D.** Good works play no part in the salvation of man, but rather are the expression of love toward / for YHWH (God the Father) and Messiah Yeshua (Jesus the Christ) as evidence of the transformation of the believer’s heart and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (**Jeremiah 31:31-33; Ezekiel 11:19-20; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Hebrews 10:15-16**)
- E.** The Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control. (**Galatians 5:22-23**)



- F.** The (sinful) Works of the Flesh are manifested (made known), which are: Adultery, Fornication, Impurity, Promiscuity, Idolatry, Sorcery (Including Drug Abuse), Hatred, Rivalry, Jealousy, Outbursts of Anger, Strife, Divisiveness, Heresies, Envy, Murder, Drunkenness, Wild Partying, and things such as these..... (**Galatians 5:19-21**)

#### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

**Jeremiah 31:31-33; Ezekiel 11:19-20; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Matthew 16:24-26; John 3:19-21; John 15:4-11; John 15:16; Romans 6:15-18; Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:24-25; Ephesians 2:8-12; Colossians 3:9-11; Hebrews 10:15-16; James 2:14-18; 1 Peter 4:3; 1 John 1:6-10; 1 John 2:1-6; Revelation 9:20-21**

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## **XII. BAPTISM**

**Water Baptism** is the first act of obedience commanded by Yeshua Messiah (Jesus The Christ) and is an outward public profession of faith in the Lord Yeshua (Jesus) as the promised Messiah of the Tanakh (Old Testament Scriptures).

- A.** Biblical Water Baptism is a “believer’s baptism” by total water immersion into Messiah Yeshua in the name of (on behalf of) The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- B.** Water Baptism is a physical symbolic expression of one’s personal belief of the following:
  - 1)** The Perfect and Sinless Life, Crucifixion Death, 3 Day/3 Night Burial, and Physical Resurrection of Yeshua Messiah (Jesus Christ) as testified in the New Testament.
  - 2)** Symbolizes a believer dying to the selfish will of the flesh and submitting to the Will and Lordship of Messiah Yeshua to rule and reign over the life of the believer.
  - 3)** Testifies to a person’s true repentance (turning away) from sin, burial of the old life, and being raised in the Spirit to walk in the newness of life where “old things pass away and all things become new”.
  - 4)** Water baptism is NOT the final step of salvation NOR is it the means by which one receives forgiveness for sin. However, IT IS an outward symbol of the remission (forgiveness) of sin received by/through the answer of a good conscience toward YHWH (God) through faith in the resurrection of Yeshua Messiah.
  - 5)** Expresses one’s personal faith in the final and physical resurrection of the dead at the end of the age.

## **Baptism of the Holy Spirit:**

In addition to water baptism, there is a baptism of the Holy Spirit that is given by Yeshua. This baptism is the identifying mark of a true believer / follower of Yeshua (Christ). It is the source of power and boldness to spread the Gospel of Messiah, and makes way for deeper understanding and relationship with our Heavenly Father.

(See Article **XVIII: Spiritual Gifts**)

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

**Matthew 3:5-6; Matthew 3:11; Matthew 3:13-16; Matthew 21:25; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 1:4-5; Mark 1:8-9; Mark 11:30; Mark 16:16; Luke 3:3; Luke 3:16; Luke 3:21-22; Luke 7:29-30; John 1:26-34; John 3:22-23; John 4:1-2; Acts 1:5; Acts 2:38; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12-39; Acts 9:17-18; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 11:15-18; Acts 16:30-34; Acts 19:1-8; Romans 6:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:12-17; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:27-28; Ephesians 4:4-5; Colossians 2:12-13; 1 Peter 3:18-22**

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## **XIII. THE SABBATH DAY (The Lord's Day)**

- A.** The Sabbath is a perpetual sign between YHWH and His people "throughout their generations" forever. (**Exodus 31:12-17**)
- B.** The Fourth Command of the Decalogue (10 Commandments) instructs the people of YHWH to observe the Sabbath Day, which is identified in the Bible as beginning at sunset on what we today call Friday until sunset Saturday.
- C.** The weekly Sabbath Day is the seventh day of each week (commonly known today as Saturday) and is the only day recorded in the totality of the Holy Scriptures as being "The Lord's Day".
- D.** The Sabbath day is a blessing from our Creator and is set apart by YHWH (God) for worship and rest in which believers are to remember and keep it holy by resting from our secular occupational labor, to abstain from causing others to work, to refrain from preparation of meals, and to hold a Holy Convocation (collective assembly of believers for reading The Word, worship, and fellowship).
- E.** The Sabbath Day is to be observed by everyone including male and female servants / employees, foreigners within our gates (cities/property), and even our working animals (**Exodus 20:10; Deuteronomy 5:14**)

- F. The Sabbath Day looks both backwards in time as a memorial to when YHWH “created the Heavens and the Earth and all that is in them” in six days and forward in time to when Yeshua will return to rule and reign as King forever in which all will be Sabbath.
- G. The Sabbath was made for man and Yeshua Messiah is “Lord of the Sabbath Day”  
(**Matthew 12:8; Mark 2:27-28; Luke 6:5**)

#### SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

**Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 16:23-30; Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 23:12; Exodus 31:16; Exodus 34:21; Exodus 35:2; Leviticus 19:3; Leviticus 19:30; Leviticus 23:3; Leviticus 23:15; Leviticus 24:8; Leviticus 25:2; Leviticus 25:6; Leviticus 26:2; Numbers 15:32-36; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; 1 Chronicles 23:31; Nehemiah 9:14; Nehemiah 10:31; Nehemiah 13:15-22; Isaiah 56:2-6; Isaiah 58:13-14; Isaiah 66:23; Jeremiah 17:21-27; Ezekiel 20:12-24; Ezekiel 22:8; Ezekiel 22:26; Ezekiel 23:38; Ezekiel 44:24; Matthew 12:8; Matthew 12:11-12; Matthew 24:20; Matthew 28:1; Mark 1:21; Mark 2:27-28; Mark 3:4; Mark 6:2; Mark 15:42; Mark 16:1; Luke 4:16; Luke 4:31; Luke 6:1-9; Luke 13:10-16; Luke 23:54-56; John 5:9-18; John 7:23; John 9:14-16; John 19:31; Acts 13:14; Acts 13:27; Acts 13:42-44; Acts 15:21; Acts 16:13; Acts 17:2; Acts 18:4; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 4:9; Revelation 1:10**

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#### **XIV. BIBLICAL HOLY DAYS (Feasts of YHWH / Feasts of The LORD)**

- A. In addition to the weekly Sabbath, YHWH set annual “Moedim” (Appointed Times) by designating Seven Annual Festivals that include certain Annual Sabbath Days which the people of YHWH are to observe as a prophetic memorial, that ultimately point to Yeshua Messiah. (**Leviticus 23:1-44; John 5:39; Colossians 2:16-17**)
- B. The Biblical method for determining the timing of YHWH’s appointed times (Holy Days) is done by the first visible sighting of the New Moon (sliver crescent) of the biblical year and again each month following. (**Genesis 1:14; Exodus 12:2**)
- C. **Passover (Lord’s Supper): Nisan 14<sup>th</sup> [in the evening]**  
(**Exodus 12:6; Exodus 23:18; Exodus 34:25; Leviticus 23:5; Deuteronomy 16:6; Numbers 9:5, Numbers 28:16; 2 Chronicles 35:1; Ezra 6:19; Ezekiel 45:21; Matthew 26:2; Mark 14:1; Luke 2:41-42; John 2:23; Acts 18:21**)

1. The Passover meal commemorates Yahweh's physical salvation of the children of Israel from the Egyptian slavery by the application of the "blood of the Lamb" around the doorframe of the houses of the children of Israel. This event foreshadows the spiritual salvation / redemption provided to us today by the perfect and precious blood of Messiah Yeshua (Jesus), Who is our perpetual (once and for all) "Passover Lamb".

**D. Unleavened Bread: Nisan 15<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> [1<sup>st</sup> Day and 7<sup>th</sup> Day are Sabbaths]**

**(Exodus 12:15-20; Exodus 23:15; Exodus 34:18; Leviticus 23:6-8;**

**Deuteronomy 16:3-4; Deuteronomy 16:8; Deuteronomy 16:16; Ezekiel 45:21;**

**Matthew 26:17; Luke 22:1, 1 Corinthians 5:7-8)**

1. Following the Passover Meal at sundown, The Feast of Unleavened Bread was originally instituted as a seven day memorial of The Exodus from Egypt. The children of Israel left in haste before their dough had time to rise. Israel's physical freedom from Egyptian bondage was symbolized by crossing through the Red Sea, which was a foreshadow symbol of water baptism.
2. Yeast (Leaven) in Scripture is symbolic of sin and Egypt is symbolic of the world.
3. This feast is ultimately symbolic of our redemption from the bondage and penalty of sin in our lives through the perfect atoning sacrifice of Messiah Yeshua (Jesus the Christ).
4. The removal of leaven from our homes and the emphasis on eating unleavened bread during this feast serves as a physical reminder that we are to continually strive to be spiritually unleavened by searching out and removing sin from our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit, being conformed to the image of Messiah.
5. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> days of this Feast are "High Days" (Sabbaths) in which no servile work is to be done. They are days of rest and Holy Convocation (sacred assembly).

**E. Firstfruits [1<sup>st</sup> day following the weekly Sabbath immediately after Passover]**

**(Exodus 23:16; Exodus 34:22; Leviticus 23:10-11; Numbers 28:16;**

**1 Chronicles 31:5; Nehemiah 10:34-36; Nehemiah 12:44; Proverbs 3:9;**

**1 Corinthians 15:20; 1 Corinthians 15:23)**

1. "Firstfruits" falls during the week of Unleavened Bread and marks the beginning of the "Counting of the Omer" (Feast of Weeks).
2. Also known as "Reishit", this feast consists of the celebration of the beginning of the spring barley harvest. No one was permitted to eat of the harvest until the "firstfruits" of the harvest were presented to YHWH in thanksgiving for His provision.
3. This day ultimately points to the resurrection day of Yeshua Messiah (Yah's Salvation to mankind) in which He became the "Firstfruits" of the resurrection of the dead.

**(John 20:17-18; 1 Corinthians 15:20,23)**

4. This day also points to the promise of the future physical resurrection of all believers upon the return of Yeshua. (**John 5:28-29**)

**F. Shavuot / Pentecost [7 weekly Sabbaths + 1 day following Passover]**  
(**Exodus 23:16; Exodus 34:22; Leviticus 23:15-16; Numbers 28:26;**  
**Deuteronomy 16:16; Acts 2:1-4; Acts 20:16; Romans 8:23; Romans 11:16;**  
**1 Corinthians 16:8**)

1. Pentecost (formerly known in the O.T. as Shavuot) is also known as Feast of Weeks, Feast of Harvest, and the Latter Firstfruits. Shavuot is the last day of the Counting of the Omer (Feast of Weeks) which consisted of counting 7 weekly Sabbaths which are to begin at the 1<sup>st</sup> weekly Sabbath following Passover equaling 49 days +1 day.
2. "On the morrow" following the 7<sup>th</sup> Sabbath (or 50<sup>th</sup> Day) is Shavuot (today known as Pentecost - which simply means 'Fifty'). This feast day was ordained by YHWH as a celebration time to show thankfulness for the summer wheat harvest.
3. Shavuot is also referred to in Hebrew as "Matan Torah" (Giving of the Law) because it is believed by many to be the same historical day that YHWH gave the children of Israel the TEN Commandments written on tablets of stone, being on the 50<sup>th</sup> day of the Exodus from Egypt.
4. Pentecost is celebrated today by followers of Yeshua (Christ) as the day that commemorates when YHWH sent the Holy Spirit to write His Torah on the new hearts of believers and give them the desire and strength to obey His commandments through love.

**G. Day of Trumpets (Yom Teruah) [1<sup>st</sup> day of the Seventh Biblical month]**  
(**Leviticus 23:24; Numbers 29:1; Nehemiah 8:1-2**)

1. This day is literally known as the "day of shouting" or "day of the shofar sound". "Yom Teruah" begins what is known traditionally as the "Ten Days of Awe" leading up to the Day of Atonement and also marks the beginning of the Fall Feasts.
2. This Moed (in Hebrew) or appointed time is the start of the last harvest month of the year and begins the call to repentance in which we, as believers, are to reflect upon our lives in preparation of the final harvest at the return of Yeshua Messiah when the "trumpet" shall sound and all who have died in Him will be raised from the dead and those who live and remain on earth at that time will be changed to a glorified body in "the twinkling of an eye".  
(**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**)
3. Yom Teruah is an Annual Sabbath Day, a memorial of blowing shofars (trumpets), and a Holy Convocation (sacred assembly). (**Leviticus 23:24**)
4. No "servile work" is to be done on this biblical Holy Day. (**Leviticus 23:25**)

**H. Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) [10<sup>th</sup> day of the Seventh Biblical month]**  
(**Leviticus 16:29-31; Leviticus 23:26-32; Numbers 29:7; Hebrews 9:6-14; Acts 27:9**)

1. Yom Kippur is considered to be the Holiest day of the year because it represents YHWH's final judgment upon mankind at the end of the age. It is an annual High Sabbath day.
2. The Day of Atonement is the culmination of what is referred to today as "the 10 Days of Awe", which is a call to repentance, self-examination, and prayer. It is to be a solemn Annual High Sabbath day during which we are commanded to "afflict our souls". On this day, many people participate in fasting (abstaining from food). (**Leviticus 16:29, 23:27; Acts 27:9**)
3. In the O.T., two male goats would be chosen. The high priest would sacrifice one for a sin offering to YHWH and the other would be presented alive before YHWH to make atonement for sin. The priest would place his hands upon the head of the live "scapegoat" and confess all of Israel's sins. The high priest would then send this goat out into the wilderness to never be seen again.
4. Yom Kippur, today, is observed as a memorial of how Yeshua became our High Priest, how He also paid the penalty for our sins by His death upon the cross, took upon Himself our sins and removed them from us to be remembered no more.

**I. Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) [15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> day of the Seventh Biblical Month] (Exodus 23:16; Exodus 34:22-23; Leviticus 23:33-36; Deuteronomy 16:13-16; Numbers 29:12; Ezra 3:4; Nehemiah 8:17-18; Zechariah 14:16; John 7:2; John 7:14; John 7:37)**

1. The Feast of Tabernacles (also known as Festival of Booths or Sukkot) is the last of YHWH's Moedim (appointed times) to be observed each year. It is a seven day festival followed up by a last "great" (eighth) day. (**Numbers 29:35**)
2. The first day and eighth day of this feast are Annual Sabbaths in which we are to do no servile work and hold Holy Convocations (sacred assemblies). (**Leviticus 23:39**)
3. This Feast also commemorates the end of the harvesting time each year. It is a time of celebration for YHWH's blessings of provision. NOTE: This feast does not signify the end of the annual year, but rather the year's end time of ingathering of crops (harvest).
4. Sukkot looks back in time to when YHWH dwelt (or tabernacled) among the children of Israel in the wilderness of the exodus out of Egypt.
5. This Festival also looks back to the time in which Yeshua (YHWH's Salvation) came and dwelt among men in a tent of flesh made in the likeness of men. (**John 1:1-14; Philippians 2:7**).
6. Feast of Tabernacles also looks forward to when Yeshua will return, gather His elect from the corners of the earth, and dwell with His people for all of eternity at the end of the age.
7. The last "Great" 8<sup>th</sup> Day of this feast is prophetic to the time in which Yeshua will cleanse the earth and make all things new. This is discovered by understanding the Hebrew symbolism of the number eight which implies "New Beginnings".

## **IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT MODERN DAY RELIGIOUS TRADITIONAL HOLIDAYS:**

- **Sunday Observance :** Though daily collective worship of YHWH (God) is encouraged and acceptable for all believers / followers of Yeshua, Sunday is not the Sabbath Day of YHWH (God) as set apart in the Bible.  
The "first day of the week" (what we today call Sunday) is only mentioned 8 times in the entire New Testament and is never identified in the totality of Scripture as a weekly day of special religious observance.  
Neither Yeshua nor the apostles observed Sunday as a special day of worship in the New Testament with the sole exception of Shavuot [Pentecost] which always falls on a Sunday.
  - **Christmas and Easter:** These popular mainstream holidays and their traditions are rooted in idolatrous worship of pagan false deities (gods) in which YHWH (God) forbids the worship of Himself to be intermixed with such pagan worship traditions and practice **(Deuteronomy 12:30-32)**. Syncretism (the blending together) of the "holy things and the profane" is a defilement (pollution) of worship to YHWH and is unacceptable and is denounced by the Holy Scriptures **(Ezekiel 22:26; 44:23)**.
  - **Hanukkah and Purim: Hanukkah** (known as the Festival of Dedication) originates in the Apocryphal books of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Maccabees (nonbiblical books) and is only mentioned once in the entire Bible **(John 10:22)**. It was/is celebrated by many Jewish people to commemorate the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem (2<sup>nd</sup> Century B.C.), but it is not a commanded Holy Day of observance found in the instructions of YHWH throughout the totality of Scripture (Bible). **Purim** (as mentioned in the book of Esther) was/is a created holiday to commemorate the defeat of Haman's plot to massacre the Jews (4<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.). In the same manner as Hanukkah, Purim also is not commanded to be observed in the Bible by YHWH as an appointed time (Moed).
  - **Pursuing Truth Ministries, as a corporate assembly, does not observe holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Easter, Lent, Halloween, and/or Purim that are not commanded/instructed for observance by YHWH in the Holy Scriptures.**
  - **SPECIAL NOTE:** PTM does not celebrate Hanukkah and Purim as a collective assembly practice. However, we acknowledge that these holidays were not originally celebrated with modern inclusions that are linked to folklore, false worship practices, and traditions.
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## **XV. CLEAN and UNCLEAN (Dietary Instructions)**

- A.** The dietary instructions concerning clean and unclean animals, as found in the pages of the Holy Scriptures (Bible), are given to all of mankind by our loving Creator. They are to be observed and respected in accordance to Yahweh's will. Through the pages of the Bible, certain meats are declared "food" for human consumption, while certain other meats are not intended to be eaten by man.
- B.** The dietary laws / instructions, as found in **Leviticus 11**, are not meant to be restrictive and exclusive, but rather these instructions are given to mankind by a loving and compassionate Heavenly Father that are intended to be good and protective. These dietary guidelines were given for our healthy benefit. (**Deuteronomy 6:24, 10:13**)
- C.** There is no such foundational idea in all of Scripture concerning different "Laws" for Jews and Gentiles. According to Scripture, there is only "**One Law for everyone**" (**Exodus 12:49; Leviticus 24:22; Numbers 15:15-16**)
- D.** Contrary to some popular belief, The Law of "Clean and Unclean Animals" did not change after Messiah Yeshua was crucified. Even the Apostle Peter, in his vision recorded in **Acts 10** (approx. 3.5 Years after Christ was resurrected), declared 3 times to the Holy Spirit that he had never eaten anything "unclean". Though initially confused at what the vision might mean (**Acts 10:17**), Peter finally realized that our Heavenly Father was using the unclean animals as examples of symbolism to represent Gentiles whom the Jews considered to be unclean. (**Acts 10:28; 11:8-18**)
- E.** Noah knew which animals were clean and unclean (**Genesis 7:1-3**)
- F.** When Messiah Yeshua (Christ) returns to judge the nations, certain meats are still unclean and considered to be an abomination. (**Isaiah 66:15-17**)

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

**Genesis 7:1-3; Exodus 12:49; Leviticus 11:1-47; Leviticus 24:22; Numbers 15:15-16; Deuteronomy 6:24; Deuteronomy 10:13; Isaiah 66:15-17; Ezekiel 22:26; Ezekiel 44:23; Hosea 2:18-23; Acts 10:17; Acts 10:28; Acts 11:8-18; 1 Timothy 4:1-5**

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## **XVI. THE CHURCH (Qahal {Hebrew} / Ekklesia {Greek}) – Body of Believers**

- A.** The Church is the community of believers who truly confess Yeshua Messiah as their Lord and Savior, having been born again of the Holy Spirit. It exists universally and locally to worship YHWH, to serve humanity, and to proclaim worldwide the Gospel of salvation through faith in Yeshua.
- B.** The Ekklesia of Yahweh is of ordained origin, established by the prophets and apostles with the chief cornerstone being Yeshua Messiah. It includes all who have placed themselves under the Lordship of Yeshua and have received forgiveness for their sins.
- C.** The “Assembly of Believers”, meaning all who come to faith in Yeshua Messiah, are the “Israel of Elohim (God)” (**Galatians 6:16**) and include the regathering of the “lost sheep of the house of Israel” as referenced by Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) in the Bible. (**Matthew 15:24**).
- D.** Believers should regularly gather themselves together in local assembly for worship, prayer, study of the Scriptures, fellowship, and observance of the Moedim (Holy Days) of the Bible as prescribed by YHWH which acknowledge and testify of Messiah Yeshua (Jesus the Christ).
- E.** We believe in the priesthood of all believers and practice the self-governing autonomy of each local assembly, as we work in association with others for a more effective witness.

**1) Israel:** We believe that Israel has always been made up of a nation of spiritual faith rather than a nation of physical race. “*Not all from Israel are Israel*”. (**Romans 9:6**) Those that have faith in Yeshua are the seed (children) of Abraham. Believers are brought into citizenship of Israel by and through faith in Messiah. (**Ephesians 2:12-13**) All true believers in Messiah are grafted into the “olive tree” (Israel) and are made partakers in the promises made to Abraham. (**Romans 11**)

**2) The Elect:** P.T.M. rejects the idea / doctrine that Yahweh has two separate elect groups commonly referred to today as “Israel” and “the Church”. Followers of Messiah Yeshua have not REPLACED Israel, but rather the followers of Yeshua ARE Israel. We denounce and reject all forms of Dispensationalism and Replacement Theology. We believe that there is one universal assembly (Ekklesia) and that this body of believers is the “Commonwealth of Israel” and the “Israel of YHWH”. It is made up of both physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob [Israel] as well as those of all nations through faith in Yeshua as the promised Messiah of the Holy Scriptures. (**Ephesians 2:11-12 and Galatians 6:16**)

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Exodus 19:5-6; Hosea 2:18-23; Romans 2:28-29; Romans 3:22; Romans 8:14-16; Romans 9:6-8; Romans 10:12; Romans 11:1-26; Galatians 3:7-9; Galatians 3:28-29; Galatians 4:6; Galatians 4:28-31; Galatians 6:15-16; Ephesians 2:11-14; Ephesians 2:19-22; Ephesians 3:4-6; Philippians 3:3; Colossians 3:11; 1 Peter 2:5, 1 Peter 2:9-10

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## **XVII. EVANGELISM and Missions – The Great Commission**

- A. The primary function and purpose of the Ekklesia / Church / Body of Believers is the spreading of the Biblical Gospel of Yeshua Messiah (Jesus the Christ) by and through public preaching and personal witness displayed by a lifestyle of holiness for the advancement of the Kingdom of YHWH in all the earth.
- B. While salvation is certainly intimate and personal in nature, all who become believers in Yeshua are chosen for the high calling of bringing others into the faith by the truth of YHWH's Word.
- C. It is the privilege and duty of every individual follower of Messiah and Collective Assembly of believers to make disciples of all nations by **"baptizing them in the name of (on behalf of) The Father, The Son, and Holy Spirit; and teaching them to observe all that Yeshua commanded."** (Matthew 28:19-20)

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Isaiah 6:8; Ezekiel 3:17-19; Daniel 12:3; Matthew 5:16; Matthew 9:37-38; Matthew 10:1; Matthew 13:18-30; Matthew 13:37-43; Matthew 16:19; Matthew 22:9-10; Matthew 24:14; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15, Luke 9:2; Luke 9:6; Luke 10:1-16; Luke 46-53; John 3:16; John 5:24; John 12:26; John 14:11-12; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; Acts 10:42-43; Romans 1:16; Romans 10:13-17; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 1 Corinthians 9:16; 1 Corinthians 9:22-23; 2 Corinthians 5:11; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21; Colossians 1:28; 2 Timothy 4:5; Philemon 1:6; Hebrews 2:1-4; 1 Peter 3:15

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## **XVIII. SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

- A. YHWH (God), through the Holy Spirit (Ruach Hakodesh), bestows upon all members of His Ekklesia (Church) spiritual gifts to be utilized for the purpose of advancing the Gospel of Yeshua, for the common good of the universal Body of Believers (The Church), and the benefit of all of humanity.

- B.** The Holy Spirit, Who distributes to each individual as He wills, provides gifts of talents, abilities, and ministries for the building up of the Church to fulfill its divinely ordained function and purpose.
- C.** According to the Scriptures, these various spiritual gifts include: Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles (or Powers), Prophecy, Discernment of spirits, Various Other Languages (tongues), and Interpretation of Languages. **(1 Corinthians 12:6-11)**
- D.** By His Spirit, Elohim (God) has gifted some with teaching ministries in order to equip others for service, to edify the congregation toward spiritual maturity, and to promote unity of the faith and truth of YHWH's Word.
- E.** He gifts some men to be ..... "Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Messiah, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of YHWH's Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Messiah's fullness." **(Ephesians 4:11-13)**
- F.** The congregation (Church) is designed to guard against the destructive development and influence of false doctrine when the body of believers employ their spiritual gifts as faithful stewards.
- G.** The Scriptures also teach the "laying on of Hands" and "anointing with oil" by the elders through "prayer of faith" in the name of Messiah Yeshua for healing and forgiveness. **(James 5:14-15)**

#### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

**Isaiah 28:11; Zephaniah 3:9; Matthew 25:14-30; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-15;  
Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 1 Corinthians 12:27-28;  
1 Corinthians 14:1-33; Ephesians 4:11-16; James 5:14-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11;  
Jude 1:4-8**

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#### **IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT "TONGUES":**

At Pursuing Truth Ministries, it is the general belief and stance that "speaking in tongues" as presented in the Bible was (and is) the supernatural ability (as gifted by the Holy Spirit) to speak in other earthly human languages that were never learned or studied.

In context, this is what is mentioned and described both in

**Acts 2:1-15 and 1 Corinthians 14:1-33.**

In accordance with the Scriptures, we believe the above statement to be what the Bible teaches and infers concerning "tongues speaking" within biblical context, description, definition, and correct biblical interpretation throughout the totality of Scripture.

Pursuing Truth Ministries does not believe in the modern day Charismatic definition or practice of what is commonly referred to today as “speaking in tongues”, being defined as an “ecstatic angelic heavenly prayer language”. Such practice shall not be allowed in corporate worship at PTM assembly.

**If you would like more information and bible study on this topic, please contact the Pastor(s) and/or elders of P.T.M. about this subject.**

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## **XIX. STEWARDSHIP**

- A.** The source of all blessings, both spiritual and physical, is from YHWH our Heavenly Father and all that we have and are belongs to Him.
- B.** As believers and followers of Yeshua the Messiah, we are spiritually indebted to serve Yeshua towards the advancement of the Kingdom of YHWH with our time, opportunities, talents, abilities, spiritual gifts, and material possessions.
- C.** Both the Old Testament (Tanakh) and the New Testament (Brit-Hadasha), by principle and example, teach that the work of the Assembly (Church) is to be funded by the financial support of its members.
- D.** YHWH’s work has always been supported by tithes and freewill offerings.
- E.** Tithes and Offerings are an expression of a believer’s faith, worship, and love for YHWH.
- F.** Disciples of Yeshua (Biblical Christians), in and through love, will be motivated to contribute cheerfully, freely, regularly, and liberally for the purposes of:
  - (1)** Preaching the Gospel of Yeshua to the uttermost parts of the earth.
  - (2)** Biblical Teaching, Discipleship, Strengthening and Growth of the Church.
  - (3)** Providing for the widows and the orphans.
  - (4)** Helping the poor and needy.
  - (5)** Assisting in the preparation and participation of the celebration of YHWH’s Feasts in obedience to the Holy Scriptures.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

**Exodus 35:5; Exodus 35:21; Exodus 35:29; Leviticus 27:30; Nehemiah 13:10-13; Proverbs 3:9; Proverbs 16:3; Proverbs 28:27; Malachi 3:6-11; Matthew 6:19-21; Matthew 6:24; Matthew 25:14-30; Mathew 25:34-40; Luke 6:38; Acts 2:44-47; Acts 20:35; Romans 12:6-13; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 9:4-14; 2 Corinthians 8:1-4; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; 2 Corinthians 11:8-9; Galatians 6:6-10; Philippians 4:15-16; Colossians 3:23; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 Timothy 6:10; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; 2 Timothy 2:3-6; James 1:17; James 1:27; 1 Peter 4:9-11**

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## **XX. CONDUCT and ACCOUNTABILITY**

- A.** Followers of Yeshua are called to be a set-apart (holy) and righteous people whose thoughts, words, and deeds are in harmony with biblical principles in all aspects of their personal and social life.
- B.** The Christian Life was not intended to be a life of solitude, isolation, or seclusion. YHWH created and designed humans as social beings with both desire and need for fellowship and interdependency. This establishes and promotes “iron sharpening iron” (accountability) to aid us in our individual and collective walk of faith.
- C.** Walking alone without fellowship and accountability to and with other believers can place individuals in danger of both falling prey and/or stumbling into false (unbiblical) doctrines and sinful temptations of the flesh.
- D.** We believe it is YHWH’s will that we become more like Him through the process of sanctification. YHWH is Holy and calls His children to be sanctified and holy.
- E.** Sanctification happens as we grow in knowledge and truth of YHWH’s Word (The Bible), which begins at conversion and continues throughout a person’s entire life.
- F.** A holy lifestyle that is pleasing to YHWH and a testimony to mankind is attained through prayer, regular Bible Study, attendance to holy convocations (assembly worship services), and fellowship with other believers.
- G.** While disciples of Yeshua are not to blindly follow any teachings or leadership without testing all things to Scripture, they should submit themselves to be held accountable by a local body of believers for the purpose of continued discipleship and sanctification.
- H.** We are called to provoke one another unto love and good works, to refute false teachings / doctrines, to reach out to those who have gone astray from biblical truth, to confess our sins one to another, and to pray for one another so that we may be healed.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

**Exodus 31:13; Proverbs 12:15; Proverbs 24:24-25; Proverbs 27:5-6; Proverbs 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Jeremiah 17:10; Ezekiel 3:18-19; Ezekiel 33:8; Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 7:3-5; Matthew 18:15-17; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 17:3; Romans 8:6-8; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 1 Corinthians 13:4-6; 1 Corinthians 13:13; 1 Corinthians 16:13-14; Galatians 6:1-5; Ephesians 4:2-3; Ephesians 5:21; Colossians 3:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; 1 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 Timothy 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 6:3-7; Hebrews 3:12-13; Hebrews 4:13; Hebrews 10:24-25; Hebrews 13:5; Hebrews 13:17; James 2:10; James 3:1; James 4:17; James 5:16; James 5:19-20; 1 Peter 1:13-17; 1 Peter 4:1-5; 1 John 4:1; Revelation 20:12**

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## **XXI. MARRIAGE and THE FAMILY**

- A.** The sanctity of marriage was established by YHWH (God) in the week of creation in the Garden of Eden. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment intended for a lifetime (as long as both parties shall be alive).
- B.** The marriage covenant is naturally dissolved (released) upon the physical death of either the husband or wife. Like the Sabbath Day, marriage dates from creation week and is inherent in YHWH's law for humanity.
- C.** YHWH (God) instituted marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. To this end, we believe that marriage is exclusively the covenantal union of one genetic male and one genetic female.
- D.** The marriage covenant should be entered into only by a man and woman who share a common faith. Scripture instructs believers not to be "unequally yoked" with unbelievers. (**2 Cor. 6:14**)
- E.** YHWH (God) created man and woman as unique biological opposites made to complement and complete each other. Marriage is a beautiful gift from YHWH to provide the framework for human society, intimate companionship, the biblical method of sexual expression, and the means of procreation of the human race.
- F.** The marriage bond is a reflection of the relationship between Yeshua Messiah (Christ) and His Church. A husband is to love his wife the way Yeshua loves the church. The husband has a calling and responsibility to provide for, protect, and be the spiritual leader of his family. The wife is to submit herself to the servant leadership of her husband as the head of the family just as the church submits to the headship of Christ.
- G.** By living example, parents are to raise their children to love, revere, and obey our Heavenly Father by following the life example of Yeshua Messiah.
- H.** Children, from the moment of conception, are living souls and are blessings from YHWH. Parents are to raise their children by biblical example and train them up in reverent "**fear and admonition of YHWH**" (**Eph. 6:4**). Children are to honor their parents in accordance with the Scriptures.
- I.** Regarding divorce, the marriage covenant should only be unnaturally broken as a result from fornication / adultery by either spouse. In this case, the innocent party is free to remarry.
- J.** Anyone practicing types of physically intimate relationships such as heterosexual cohabitation outside of marriage, homosexuality, incest, or such as these will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven according to the Scriptures. (**1 Corinthians 6:9-10**)

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

**Genesis 1:27-28; Genesis 2:18-24 Exodus 20:12; Exodus 22:19; Leviticus 18:6-24; Leviticus 20:19-21; Proverbs 1:8; Proverbs 6:20-22; Proverbs 12:4; Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 14:1; Proverbs 17:6; Proverbs 18:22; Proverbs 22:6; Proverbs 22:15;**

**Proverbs 23:13-14; Proverbs 29:15; Proverbs 29:17; Proverbs 31:10-31;  
Ecclesiastes 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; Matthew 19:1-9; Mark 10:6-12;  
Romans 1:24-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Corinthians 11:3; 2 Corinthians 6:14-15;  
Ephesians 5:21-33; Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 2:8-15;  
1 Timothy 5:8; 1 Timothy 5:14-15; Titus 2:1-8; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Jude 1:7;  
Revelation 21:8**

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## **XXII. CONSUMMATION OF ALL THINGS – End of Days**

- A.** YHWH, in His perfect timing and sequence, will bring this present world to its appropriate end.
- B.** Yeshua Messiah, as He prophesied, will return personally, physically, and visibly in power and great glory to judge the earth and reign over all nations in the manifested consummation and sovereign Kingdom of YHWH.
- C.** The event of Christ's return will inaugurate the resurrection(s) of the dead and the reward of the saints.
- D.** In whatever sovereign order and timing YHWH has purposed for these events to occur, the righteous will receive their glorified bodies and dwell with YHWH forever.
- E.** Satan, unrighteous sinners, death, and hell will be ultimately cast into the lake of fire to perish.
- F.** YHWH will place all enemies under Yeshua's feet and Yeshua will deliver the Kingdom back to The Father YHWH.
- G.** Heaven and Earth will be made new, and YHWH will provide the redeemed with an eternal home free of grief, pain, and death where He will dwell with His people for all eternity.
- H.** It is the understanding of P.T.M. that, regardless of the sequential timing of events concerning the return of Yeshua Messiah at the end of the age, we are to be prepared to meet our Creator at any time. For even if a person were to understand all "End Time Prophecies" and yet not be spiritually ready when his/her name is called to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, all of such knowledge would be in vain.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

**Isaiah 2:4; Isaiah 25:8-9; Isaiah 26:19-21; Isaiah 27:6; Isaiah 27:12-13; Matthew 16:27;  
Matthew 19:28; Matthew 24:29-31; Matthew 24:44; Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 8:38;  
Luke 12:40; Luke 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; Acts 17:31; Romans 14:10-12;  
1 Corinthians 15:12-26; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:10-11; Philippians 3:20-21;  
1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-28; 2 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:8;  
Titus 2:12-13; Hebrews 9:27-28; 2 Peter 3:7-18; 1 John 2:28; 1 John 3:2;  
Revelation 1:17-18; Revelation 11:15; Revelation 19:11-16; Revelation 20:4-15;  
Revelation 21:1-5; Revelation 22:14**

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## **THE RIGHTS of RESERVATION of PURSUING TRUTH MINISTRIES**

Pursuing Truth Ministries and its congregation is comprised of brothers and sisters in Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ) of the Bible who are striving to avoid unbiblical teachings and unbiblical traditions in order to live more like our Savior by searching the Holy Bible in active pursuit of the truth contained within its pages. Pursuing Truth Ministries Assembly holds to the belief that no one Church (Ekklesia), Denomination, or individual person holds all understanding and absolute truth pertaining to the Word of YHWH (The Holy Scriptures). We don't claim to have all the answers, nor do we claim to have everything right. We are simply in diligent pursuit of the absolute truth contained in YHWH's Word in order to live a life of obedience, out of love for YHWH. Therefore, P.T.M. and its members hold to what we refer to as "Rights of Reservation". We reserve the right to be proven wrong and/or corrected at any time. If we have misunderstood or erred and can be corrected by / through the Word of YHWH, it simply brings truth to light and draws us closer to our Creator and Savior. Shalom.