

Fear Elohim, and keep His commandments:  
for this is the whole duty of mankind  
Ecclesiastes 12:13

## **The Woman**

### **Man's Helper or the Adversary**

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# The virtuous woman

Who can find a virtuous woman?

For her price is far above rubies.

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her,

so that he shall have no need of spoil.

She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

Proverbs 31:10-12

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*Dear reader,*

*Before you read:*

*This article is in no way the final word on the subject matter and neither do I claim the material to be a thorough study.*

*It is also not my intention for my words to contradict the Words of Scripture. If at any point you believe that there is a conflict between what I have documented and the Words of Scripture then I advise you to stop reading and heed the Words of Scripture.*

*This article was written as an aid in my personal study to document my understanding and in no way serves to enforce a hidden agenda with regards to my personal knowledge.*

*I offer this article as an aid to those searching the same avenue of Truth. I make no claim to be a teacher of the Word of YHWH but remain a humble student in search of Truth.*

**For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.**

**For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.**

**1 Corinthians 13:9, 12**

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## Introduction

I am well aware that this could be an impassioned subject for some and therefore I must point out from the beginning that the deeper message conveyed in Scripture pertaining to the 'man' and the role of the 'woman' has revealed a spiritual picture to me that must be understood by the reader in a spiritual manner. This article is not a commentary outlining controversial gender inequalities and the battle for female dominance seen in the world today. That is a subject matter that is better tackled by the secular tabloids and glossy magazines – although the spiritual element of this battle will be discussed.

This is also not an article attempting to comprehensively describe the attributes of a 'virtuous woman'. It is rather an article written from a perspective of my personal journey along the 'narrow way' and the sharing of what has been revealed to me following my desire to be the 'overcomer' mentioned many times in Scripture, and my ongoing battle with the carnal, fleshly nature.

Before I delve too deep into this subject please allow me to clarify my position with regards to the 'woman' in my life – my wife:

To illustrate this, let me use the analogy of my two hands.

I was blessed and presented with two normal and functional hands at birth. As I developed it became evident that my right hand was the dominant hand and was to become the hand of choice for writing and the leading hand when playing certain sports.

At no stage in my life though have I looked at my left hand in any disdainful way or spoken rudely about its inability to take the lead. It has functioned most usefully and without it I would be thoroughly disadvantaged, and in fact I would be somewhat disabled. I subconsciously accept and respect both my hands equally for their role in the function of my body.

Likewise I have been blessed with a wonderful wife who really does serve as my living example of the virtuous bride described in Proverbs 31. As a married couple we both accept and understand our roles in the Body of Messiah and neither of us feels inferior or superior to the other. It just happens that being the 'man' in the marriage makes me like the dominant hand. Not 'greater', just serving in a more leading role.

*In this article I would like to share my belief that the representation of the woman in Scripture reveals a broader picture of how we as the 'bride' of Y'Shua, should respond and conduct ourselves in our relationship with him.*

## Before we continue

Scripture often makes use of similitudes and parables to illustrate certain principles or to convey a deeper meaning.

Sometimes Scripture is understood with a differing interpretation but in actual fact a differing understanding may just be the understanding of Scripture on a different level. This may occasionally result in both views being correct but on a different level of understanding. This does not however accommodate an incorrect rendering of the Word. This differing interpretation understanding is referred to as **Pardes**:

"**Pardes**" refers to (types of) approaches to biblical exegesis in rabbinic Judaism or to interpretation of text in Torah study. The term, sometimes also spelled **PaRDeS**, is an acronym formed from the same initials of the following four approaches:

- **Peshat** (פֶּשֶׁט) – "surface" ("straight") or the literal (direct) meaning.<sup>[1]</sup>
- **Remez** (רֵמֵז) – "hints" or the deep (allegoric: hidden or symbolic) meaning beyond just the literal sense.
- **Derash** (דֶּרַשׁ) – from Hebrew *darash*: "inquire" ("seek") – the comparative (midrashic) meaning, as given through similar occurrences.
- **Sod** (סוֹד) (pronounced with a long O as in 'sore') – "secret" ("mystery") or the esoteric/mystical meaning, as given through inspiration or revelation.

Each type of *Pardes* interpretation examines the extended meaning of a text. As a general rule, the extended meaning never contradicts the base meaning. The *Peshat* means the plain or contextual meaning of the text. *Remez* is the allegorical meaning. *Derash* includes the metaphorical meaning, and *Sod* represents the hidden meaning. There is often considerable overlap, for example when legal understandings of a verse are influenced by mystical interpretations or when a "hint" is determined by comparing a word with other instances of the same word. *Source Wikipedia*

I mention the above to prepare you for my article which, for the most part, delves deeper than the literal, Peshat, interpretation of the Word.

Paul states in Romans 15:4 and 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11 that the things written down in the Old Testament were for our learning and were to serve as examples for us. They are shadows of the greater truth. The shadow is only an image and is therefore not the real object but a reflection. Just as the light of the moon is only a reflection of the light of the sun. How much greater is the light from the sun? We must therefore study Scripture with a view to discovering the real and not settle for the shadow. We should be motivated by the following Scripture in this regard:

**Proverbs 25:2** *It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.*

## **The first Adam and the woman**

Let's go to the book of Genesis to understand the timing and process for the creation of man and the woman.

If we look at verse Genesis 2:7 we see that YHWH formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils to bring him to life.

**Genesis 2:7** *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

And from verse 18 we see how YHWH made woman

**Genesis 2:18-24 (KJV)**

18 *And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought *them* unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that *was* the name thereof.

20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Unlike Adam, the woman was made from the body of man. YHWH did not create two 'separate' beings as such but rather created a complimentary being as an aid/ helper – a counterpart or mate (form Hebrew H5828 & H5048). The intention was always for the woman to become 'one' with the man – **Genesis 2 verse 24**.

This reveals to me that YHWH's design is for man to find his 'bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh' (his woman counterpart) and become 'one' with her through marriage – not as the world defines marriage though. They are meant to become 'one' in partnership.

You will notice that although the English word 'wife' is often used when referring to the woman in English translations, that the same Hebrew word reference is used for both i.e. H802 *ish-shaw'*, *naw-sheem'*. There is no separate Hebrew word for wife. In fact in many accounts in Scripture there is no reference to the man's woman/wife. Is this because they are viewed as one unit? I believe so. Here are some examples:

### **Exodus 12**

**37** And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot *that were* men, beside children.

**38** And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, *even* very much cattle.

**Deuteronomy 5:14** But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.

### **Joel 2**

**28** And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

**29** And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

It is evident to me that YHWH gave authority to the man as he was created first and was given the instructions pertaining to the trees for food and the prohibition of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This commandment was provided to Adam before woman was made. Adam was the one who named the animals and even named his counterpart 'woman'. It is also clear from Scripture that the man is the head of the household and is therefore the authority.

In 1 Corinthians we read that the head of the woman is the man.

**1Corinthians 11:3** But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

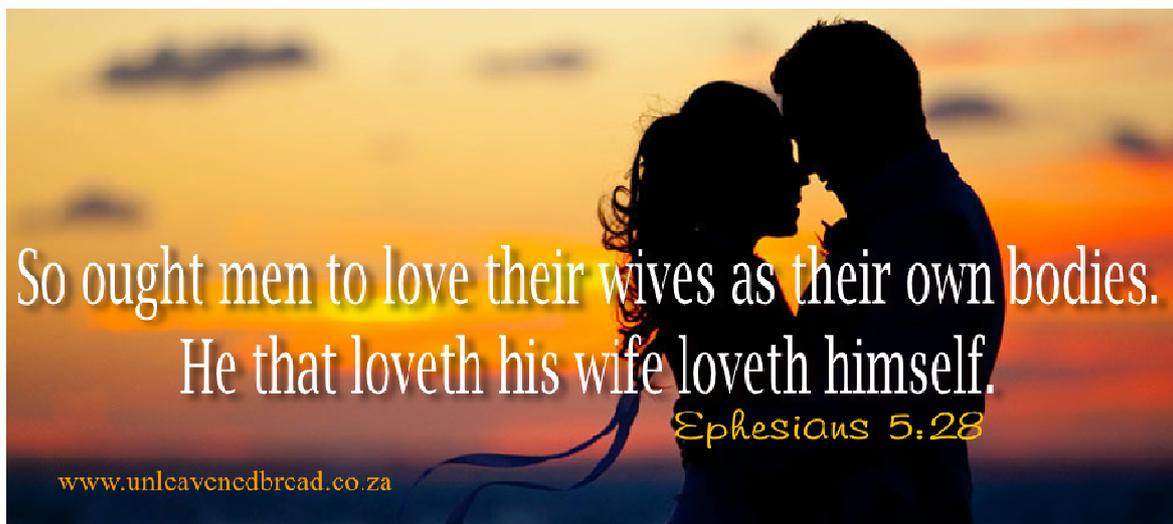
This is not so that man can rule over his wife and dominate her as a slave master rules over his servant but rather what the Father is doing is establishing order. We should not need Paul's letter to the Ephesians to tell us to love our wives either:

**Ephesians 5:28** So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Today culture and religion play a big part in how men treat their wives but Scripture is clear why and how the woman submits to her husband man.

The following are some points to illustrate this created order:

- ❖ Man was created first, woman second:
  - 1Timothy 2:13** For Adam was first formed, then Eve.
- ❖ Man and all creation was created by YHWH directly out of dust, whereas woman was created through the man's rib:
  - Genesis 2:7** And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.
  - Genesis 2:22** And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.
  - 1Corinthians 11:8** For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.
- ❖ Woman created for man:
  - 1Corinthians 11:9** Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.
- ❖ Adam named the animals and woman:
  - Genesis 2:19** And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought *them* unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that *was* the name thereof.
  - Genesis 2:23** And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.
- ❖ YHWH delegated authority to Adam alone, before woman was made.
  - Genesis 2:16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
  - Genesis 2:17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.
  - Genesis 2:18** And the LORD God said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*
- ❖ The serpent tempted Eve and she, not the man, was first deceived.
  - 1Timothy 2:14** And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.
- ❖ YHWH rebuked Adam first after they ate the forbidden fruit: Although Eve was the logical person for YHWH to rebuke first, He went to Adam, showing that YHWH considered Adam the head of the relationship:
  - Genesis 3:9** And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou?
- ❖ Man is the glory of YHWH, woman is the glory of man:
  - 1Corinthians 11:7** For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.



But having shown all this, I believe that there is much more to be understood from this leadership and dominion role of the man. You see, man was created in the image of the Father. Adam would have been filled with the spirit of his Creator who communed with him in the garden. Adam would not have been aware of sin at this stage. This is where I believe that the Scriptures are revealing a deeper message in the woman/man relationship. My view is that the **woman represents**, on a deeper level, **the soul of Adam where the carnal/earthly nature exists**. Please note that I said 'represents' i.e. in parable/similitude form.

*Did YHWH separate Adam's soul from him when he created the woman? Was this so that the soul/carnal nature, which had the propensity to sin, could be separated from the spirit filled man - Adam. Just as YHWH separated the light from the darkness. I believe this is what Scripture is revealing to us in this parable.*

In **Genesis 1** we read that YHWH made man in His image:

#### **Genesis 1**

**26** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.....

**27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him.....

*We know that YHWH is Light and there is no darkness in light:*

**1John 1:5** *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

*In Genesis it states that YHWH separated His Light from the darkness that existed on the earth:*

**Genesis 1:4** *And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.*

*This light that YHWH saw and said was 'good' symbolises His righteousness (For more information read my article 'The Greater Light').*

*In order for YHWH then to have a 'man' that could reflect His image/likeness, He would separate the 'spirit man' – the light, from the 'soul woman' – darkness. Why? Because the 'soul woman' represents man's carnal nature which has the propensity to sin if left unrestrained i.e. fall into darkness.*

*This had to be separated to enable the potential for 'man' to exist in the image/likeness of YHWH. What happened with the fall though is that the 'spirit man' joined with the 'soul woman' and became 'one' in darkness instead of the 'spirit man' drawing the 'soul woman' into his light and righteousness.*

Remember that this is a similitude being revealed in this relationship between Adam and his woman Eve. In this relationship YHWH is drawing the distinction between Adam the 'spirit filled man' and Adam's earthly soul – 'the woman'. They were not intended to be separate beings but were designed to live and to be one in harmony with each other, and with their Creator YHWH – in righteousness (light).

This soul woman and the carnal nature was provided to 'man' to enable him to experience the fullness of life in the natural, physical world. It was provided to make 'man' a 'complete' being. This 'woman' helper would enable him to experience life through the senses of the natural man. BUT, the man was to have dominion over this soul 'woman' and keep it in check using the 'instructions for life' – provided to Adam by YHWH. It is as if the 'woman' represented the freewill nature of man. YHWH did not want to create robots when he created man but wanted 'sons' who would obey His laws and seek His righteous ways out of freewill.

*The soul, or mind, is the fountain and seat of all thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, and endeavours. It encompasses our understanding and is the seat of the intellect that controls our will and character.*

The created intention was for man to reach maturity under the 'headship' of his father and then to take a wife for himself to enable him to fulfil his role as a complete natural man in the creation - to live as a free man with his carnal nature. He was to produce good fruit (offspring) who in turn would eventually mature and likewise go forth and multiply. But at this stage of maturity he was expected to have absorbed the teachings from the 'father' and be able to live a disciplined, righteous life with his partner – his woman/carnal nature.

As man matures in life from childhood to manhood the carnal nature becomes as 'the woman' that needs to be kept under righteous discipline. For anyone who has children you would have experienced how much easier it is to discipline and control a child but as they get older their freewill becomes more persistent and potentially rebellious. This is when the carnal nature becomes more troublesome to keep in check.

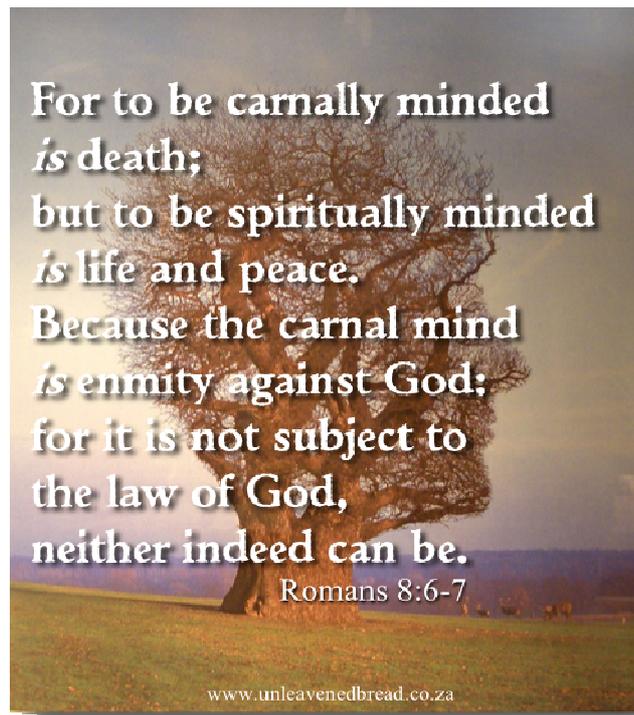
What was created to be a blessing for 'man' (Adam), introduced death when allowed to lead him astray. When Eve was attracted to the fruit of the forbidden tree in the midst of the garden and she presented the idea to Adam, he should have immediately recognised the error and used his authority to rebuke the idea and remind Eve of the commandment from YHWH.

**Genesis 3:3** But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

He was required to rule over this desire of his 'carnal nature', to have taken the thought captive, and resisted the evil. Then satan (the adversary) would have fled.

**James 4:7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**2Corinthians 10:5** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;



*It is the plan of YHWH for the 'spirit man' to be united with his 'soul woman' and to become one.*

*The intent though is for the 'spirit man' to guide the thoughts and deeds of the 'soul woman' in righteousness thereby producing a fruitful life.  
A life reflecting the Light of YHWH.*

## **The fall of Adam**

What actually took place in the garden is that Adam fell for the carnal attraction i.e. the 'lust of the eye', 'lust of the flesh' and the 'pride of life'. I say Adam because he was the authority present in the union and therefore the fault ultimately lies with him.

**Genesis 3:6** And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food (**'lust of the flesh'**), and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, (**'lust of the eye'**) and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise (**'pride of life'**), she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

And what does Scripture teach us:

**1John 2:16** For all that *is* in the world, the **lust of the flesh**, and the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

**Galatians 5:16** *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

**Galatians 5:17** For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Please tolerate me if I seem a bit repetitive but I need to be sure to make my point. The story of Adam and Eve who ate from the tree, and their removal from Paradise, must be viewed and understood as a parable. In this parable Adam (man) is the ‘spiritual’ man and Eve (woman) is his human soul containing the ‘carnal nature’ taken out of Adam (man).

Obedying the serpent brought about the attachment to the human world and the separation from light into sinful darkness. This attachment of the spirit to the human world led the soul and spirit of Adam from the world of freedom to the world of bondage, and caused Him to turn from the Kingdom of Heaven to the human world. When the soul and spirit of Adam entered the human world, he came out from the paradise of freedom and fell into the world of bondage. From the peak of purity and absolute goodness, Adam entered into the dark world of good and evil.

Before we continue lets delve a little deeper into the meaning of the **two trees** in the garden:

Scripture makes specific mention of two trees in the garden – the **tree of life** and the **tree of knowledge of good and evil**:

**Genesis 2:9** And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; **the tree of life** also in the midst of the garden, and the **tree of knowledge of good and evil**.

And YHWH commanded man not to eat of the **tree of knowledge of good and evil**:

### **Genesis 2**

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Many times in Scripture trees are used as symbols for people. Trees represent prominent leaders that stand above the grass, the masses of mankind. Some examples:

### **The righteous man**

#### **Psalm 1**

1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

### **The wicked**

#### **Psalm 37**

35 I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.

### **The great and noble**

#### **Daniel 4**

20 The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth;  
21 Whose leaves *were* fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it *was* meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation:  
22 It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.

The **fruit** of the tree is a symbolic reference to the deeds i.e. what is produced by the tree.

### **John 15**

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

**Romans 7:5** For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

**Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

**Ephesians 5:9** (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

**Proverbs 1** makes a direct connection between the deeds and the fruit of their own way:

**31** Therefore shall they eat of the **fruit of their own way**, and be filled with their own devices.

Now we know that 'fruit' was given to us for food i.e. to nourish and sustain us.

**Genesis 1:29** And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

But what did Y'Shua reveal to us when his disciples brought him food to eat:

### **John 4**

31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.

32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him *ought* to eat?

34 **Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.**

Can you see the picture that Scripture is revealing to us here?

The **tree of life** is a reference to the prominent, righteous '**man**' whose food is to do the righteous deeds of the Father – the fruit. The man whose life sustenance is derived from the 'fruit' of righteous deeds. We were told in the beginning to eat of this tree only. We were meant to exist by only eating of this fruit i.e. as Y'Shua stated in **John 4:34.** '**My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work**'. These Words should be our Words as well if we were truly followers of Y'Shua.

We must not see the 'Tree of life' as the flesh sees it i.e. as food to satisfy the flesh nature. No, we must see this Tree with spiritual eyes as our mission to produce the fruit of righteousness in the world. The tree of life exists in the realm of light i.e. righteousness.

Conversely, the tree of good and evil symbolically represents the deeds of the carnal nature – the flesh. This is not acceptable to the Father. We are to avoid this fruit. Sinful man thrives on the fruit/deeds of this tree. It appeals to the carnal nature of man. **1John 2:15-17** sums the attraction to this 'fruit' up the best:

**15** Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

**16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

**17** And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

It seems that man cannot resist this tree and the fruit thereof. But Scripture reveals that man can and He (Y'Shua) did.

The tree of good and evil signifies the human world i.e. the darkness that was separated from the light in Genesis 1:4. In the spiritual and divine world only light exists but in the human world light and darkness, good and evil – the two trees, exist side by side. Resist the 'fruit' of this forbidden tree and become an '**overcomer**'.

The Tree of life is a picture of a righteous man producing the fruits/deeds of righteousness – radiating YHWH's light in the world. The other tree is a picture of a sinful man producing the fruit/deeds of the sinful flesh – wicked darkness.

Can you see why YHWH commanded us to eat of the Tree of Life only?

Can you now see the picture of '**Y'Shua**' as the '**tree of life**'? - The righteousness of the Father, the '**bread of life**'. We must consume the ways, character and life of Y'Shua.

### **John 6**

**35** And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life:

**55** For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

**56** He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.



**Through the ‘flesh’ and ‘blood’ of Y’Shua we are now on a journey back to the Tree of Life and the Righteousness of YHWH.**

*As I continue to explore this subject it is in itself like a tree with branches going off in all directions.*

### **Back to the woman:**

The Scriptures draw on the relationship between a man and a woman (his bride), to reveal the relationship between mankind and our soul i.e. our carnal/fleshly nature – it is a similitude. This carnal nature, when untamed and unchecked, can lead one into sin and rebellion against YHWH.

This carnal/flesh/earthly nature is the simple animal (beast) nature built into the DNA of mankind that subsists using the 5 basic senses i.e. hearing, sight, touch, smell, and taste. These five sense drive the lusts experienced by man which include the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Without the control of YHWH’s spirit existing within us, this carnal nature can produce the most horrific atrocities known to man.

***There are many teachers in the church who teach that we have inherited a sinful ‘nature’ from Adam. They further teach that because of this we are unable to overcome sin. This is untrue. We have the ability, through Messiah in us, to overcome the flesh/carnal desires. The propensity to sin always existed. Y’Shua is our example and we are to follow Him.***

Mankind was not created to live in separation from YHWH using the carnal nature for moral guidance through life. We were meant to thrive as a Spiritual man in close relationship with the Father YHWH and to subject our earthly, basic carnal nature – our woman, to His blueprint for optimal life. It was always about informed discipline and control of the flesh. Man without the Creator, and His Light, is just another ‘beast of the field’. And a ghastly one at that.

*I was tempted to provide evidence to show from Scripture how ungodly man is referred to as a 'beast' but this proof would make this article too long. So I'll leave that for another discussion.*

This idea of the woman being one with the man i.e. one flesh, is also interesting when we see the man's soul (his 'woman') being seduced by the serpent. This is actually a form of adultery, the woman is listening to "another voice," one that is not her master, who entices her to disobey the commandments that her master received from YHWH - his Master. Likewise we as the betrothed of Y'Shua should listen to His voice and follow His Words only. Following any other strange voice would be akin to becoming the harlot and committing adultery – illustrated in the harlot of Revelation 17.

This other voice of course being the 'serpent'/carnal nature – the adversarial inner beckoning that seems to be present all the time. Man is drawn into sin through his soul's (woman's) attraction to the desires of the flesh and his lack of discipline to control such.

There are many examples in Scripture where the feminine soul nature is revealed through the deeds of the woman. The man often fell for the soft voice of this carnal nature (woman). It often revealed weakness on the part of man to control his 'flesh'. Some examples of this are:

**Sarah** – instead of waiting on YHWH to bring forth the promised child through her, Sarah convinced Abraham to have a child with the bond woman Hagar (Genesis 16:1- 2). Notice how their names were Abram and Sarai and not yet changed to Abraham and Sarah. They were both seemingly living in the lower nature of the flesh at this stage. This action has produced tremendous trouble in the world through the descendants of Ishmael.

**Rebekah** – convinced Jacob to deceive Abraham in order to prematurely receive the firstborn blessing (Genesis 27).

**Rachel** – stole the pagan god images from Laban her father. (Genesis 31:19). This brought about a curse on her of untimely death through Jacob's words – unbeknown to him (Genesis 21:32).

**Miriam** – challenged Moses's anointing/authority (Numbers 12:2) and was made leprous (vs10)

**Lot's wife** - Lot's wife was destroyed because she looked back. Just as the Israelites in the wilderness looked back and longed for their carnal flesh fulfilment in Egypt. They initially complained about the slavery but soon their carnal nature took over. Even when delivered from corruption the flesh desires its lusts again. The flesh will always long to satisfy its desires. It is the flesh, Lot's wife, that will not be able to enter the Promised Land. For no flesh can inherit the Kingdom. Lot had to leave his 'woman' (his carnal nature) behind in order to be saved from the fire that destroyed the city. No carnal earthly desire or nature is fit for the Kingdom of YHWH

**Jezebel** – she is the ultimate usurper of man's authority. Jezebel is the spirit dominating this world today. Through the feminist movement in the sixties woman were motivated to become equal to man. This seemed the correct move in the secular world but from a spiritual point of view this was in direct contravention to the design and order established by YHWH. This move has resulted in the breakup of the family unit. Look how many couples get divorced today. Most couples do not even see the value in a marital relationship. In today's modern world we see how woman are favoured to become rulers of companies and countries. This is bringing in the 'carnal nature' into power which will fast track mankind's downfall. Man, through neglect of his relationship with YHWH, has allowed this carnal 'woman' Jezebel spirit to totally usurp his authority and dominate him. And then we wonder why the world is in absolute chaos.

**Vashti** – the story of the rebellious Vashti from the book of Esther provides a stern warning for all believers who are deceived by their carnal nature and go whoring after the ways of their flesh. They will be rejected by the King. This story provides much insight and so a deeper analysis of Vashti/Esther will be included below under the header '*Esther – a Bride fit for a King*'.

Oh, and we must not forget how King David and King Solomon's lives were affected by their women:

**David** is led astray by the beauty of Bathsheba and seduces her. He committed a sin by committing adultery and falling victim to the lust of his flesh. The 'soul' woman enticed him and the 'spirit' man was overpowered. He subsequently causes the death of her husband Uriah the Hittite. In response, Nathan prophesies the punishment that shall fall upon him: "the sword shall never depart from your house." In fulfilment of these words David's son Absalom rebels and causes severe complications in his life.

David also seemed to disregard the warning in Deuteronomy 17:17 which prohibits the taking of many wives that would turn his heart away from righteousness. We learn from Scripture though that he took many wives (2 Samuel 3:2-5, 2 Samuel 5:13).

**Solomon** was defiled by his wives:

**1 Kings 11**

**3** And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

**4** For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, *that* his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as *was* the heart of David his father.

Clearly man is attracted to the 'soul woman' and the power of this attraction is tremendous. This must however be controlled in a righteous manner by the 'spirit man'. Otherwise calamity awaits.

Man, by design, enjoys the benefit of freewill by which he may exercise his right of choice to either obey or disobey YHWH. Paul tells us in 1 Timothy that Adam was not deceived. This tells us that Adam made a choice to disobey the command of YHWH not to eat the fruit of this tree. The one who was deceived was Eve:

**1 Timothy 2:14** And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

According to the Words in Genesis 3:13 it states that the serpent enticed her and yet Adam states only that the woman gave to him:

**Genesis 3**

**12** And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

**13** And the LORD God said unto the woman, *What is this that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

Adam was obviously not deceived. His mind was clear and he knew the fruit was from the forbidden tree. He ate because of his affection for his woman – his flesh nature. It appears to be that Adam sinned deliberately. He loved Eve (his fleshly desires) more than righteousness. He made her his idol, and for her sake he was willing to rebel against the commandment of YHWH.

It seems that once we turn away from believing the Words of Truth, YHWH sends a strong delusion that we should believe the lie because of our choice for unrighteous pleasures. Is there then a point when one considers an unrighteous act that YHWH sends this delusion? Our intent is clearly known to our Father and therefore I believe so:

## **2 Thessalonians 2**

**11**And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

**12**That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

**Genesis 4:7** teaches us that if we are drawn into temptation then we are to rule over the sinful nature, which is lying in wait at the door.

**Genesis 4:7** If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

When man's spirit nature was overruled by his carnal nature, his spirit, which was capable of communing with YHWH, suffered a fatal blow. We can see how the adversary, the carnal nature, works externally to entice man to sin. With this victory, the carnal nature puts the spirit to death. Unlike this external influence of the carnal nature (the woman), the spirit of YHWH works from within man causing him to exercise dominion over his flesh.

The soul (carnal nature/the woman) is where man expresses his free will and where sin is born. Scripture often records that it is the soul which sins. For example:

Micah 6:7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, *or* with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression, the fruit of my body *for* the **sin of my soul**?

Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: **the soul that sinneth**, it shall die.

Ezekiel 18:20 **The soul that sinneth**, it shall die.

And atonement must be made for the soul:

Exodus 30:15 The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when *they* give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul.

Numbers 31:50 We have therefore brought an oblation for the LORD, what every man hath gotten, of jewels of gold, chains, and bracelets, rings, earrings, and tablets, to make an atonement for our souls before the LORD.

*Can we see the picture in this of how our High Priest, Y'Shua (spirit man), will make atonement for His 'soul woman' – the church?*

In addition to rebellion, the fall of Adam seems to come from his desire for independence. The Tree of Life would require a life of obedience and dependence on YHWH whereas by exercising his freewill and partaking of the forbidden tree, his rebellion declared his independence. This mark of independence made Adam, whether intentionally or not, his

own god which is of course idolatry. Adam lived and communed with YHWH through his spirit but after this act of independence his spirit died and so did his relationship with the Father.

**Genesis 2:17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Other than referring to the physical death of the body this verse in Genesis is also referring to the spirit. Once man is completely under the dominion of the flesh he has no possibility of saving himself. The soul has replaced the spirit's authority and the spirit becomes dormant.

Fallen man is completely controlled by the flesh, walking in response to the desires of the carnal nature and physical passions. Unrestrained, the flesh is in firm control over man.

*The spirit, that righteous part of us, the part which should be 'one' with YHWH and ought to regulate the soul, is now under the dominion of the soul – that earthly beast nature. Unfortunately the spirit has now been stripped of its original position of authority and influence.*

*The only antidote to this predicament is the atoning blood of Messiah Y'Shua.*

## The Meaning of the name "Adam"

אָדָם 'âdâm *aw-dawm*' – H121 The same as H120; Adam, the name of the first man

As I was writing this article I was prompted in my spirit to consider the name of Adam and its significance in the role of the first 'man'. We know how ones name in Scripture carries deep meaning and often portrays the character and purpose of the individual. YHWH often changed people's names to reflect their renewed purpose or character:

e.g. Abram "high father" to Abraham "father of a multitude" (**Genesis 17:5**), Jacob "supplanter" **Genesis 27:36** to Israel 'YHWH Contended', 'Wrestles with YHWH', 'Triumphant with YHWH' "who prevails with God" **Gen 32:28 & 35:10**.

The first mention of the name Adam is in **Genesis 2:19**. It appears that this name is a description of how he was created from the earth and how he looked rather than being a proper noun. The Hebrew word for earth/soil/ground is *adama* (h127). YHWH formed man from the dust of the earth (**Genesis 2:7**), and on the simplest level, that connection with *adama*, earth, is the basis for man's name.

Once Adam sinned and ate the forbidden fruit, he introduced death into the world and was sentenced to once again return to the earth from which YHWH had created him.

There are deeper meanings within the name Adam that provide layers of insight into the character of man - and specifically the first man Adam. The name Adam points toward one's lower earthly/carnal nature. But are we really nothing more than complicated mammals?

The word Adam is comprised of the letter *aleph*, followed by *dalet* and *mem*, the letters that spell the word *dam* which means blood. We need blood to sustain physical life, but it reflects the lower aspects of man. Blood has long been associated with hot temperament and loss of self-control. The lowest aspect of one's soul, which is common to every animal, resides in one's blood. Without the blood man does not survive as a human on this earth:

**Leviticus 17:11** For the life of the flesh is in the blood:

In the name Adam, the word *dam* is preceded by the letter *aleph*. The letter *aleph* is also a word which means **Power, Authority, and Strength**. It similarly indicates leadership, as implied by the related word *aluf* which means a general or tribal head. YHWH created man with many base desires that reside in the blood, but he also gave us the means to assert our control over them and be an *aluf* over the *dam*. By being in control instead of exposed to the dominion of our impulses, man, who is created in the image and likeness of his Creator, can resemble Him. In this connection, the name Adam also alludes to the word *adameh* which means 'I will liken myself', indicating one's ability to imitate YHWH.

In addition to the *adama* being a low place in the world, there is another aspect of the *adama* which is perhaps its defining feature. The earth is a realm wherein we can plant and yield fruits, giving rise to new life which was not there before. Man's association with the ground, therefore, hints to his greatest potential.

Before creating Adam, YHWH said, "Let us make man" in the plural. Was it YHWH's intention to use Adam as the initial seed to produce mankind? I guess so. The metaphor of the ground and its centrality in man's name is no coincidence. The simple act of planting a seed is a powerful symbol of man's potential.

Therein lies the secret of YHWH's sowing truth. There is a very physical side to every human that can wreak more havoc on creation than the most destructive animal. Yet we also have the ability to transcend that downward pull and grow from the earth into something greater with almost unlimited potential.

Humans, however, have free choice. Every person has the ability to decompose and succumb to the earthly pull, or to defy the gravity of physicality and elect to follow more spiritual pursuits. Like the ground, man can produce a virtually unlimited bounty of fruits - either the fruit of the 'tree of life' or the forbidden 'tree of knowledge of good and evil'. Adam himself represented man's enormous potential, as well as revealing how far man could fall. Adam's understanding of the world was vast, and his dominion complete until he ate from the forbidden fruit. Adam himself succumbed to the *dam* in his name, and failed to rule over his inclination.

In light of the subject matter of this article, the *dam* aspect of Adam appears to reveal the 'woman' aspect of Adam - that soul that was separated from the spirit man, the carnal nature in the blood. This feminine element, *dam*, needs to be ruled over by the *aleph* - the spirit man.

*Having said this, I can't help thinking of the word madam (ma-dam) - a term used to address or refer to a woman in a polite or respectful way. Coincidence? I guess so.*

Adam introduced death into the world, something which had not applied to human beings before that point in time. Yet although through his fall he shrivelled in stature, his potential for accomplishing greatness, remained.

*Adam lived for 930 years. The Jewish Sages explain that he really should have lived for a complete millennium, but he willingly gave up 70 years of his life to someone who would use them to reverse the death sentence that Adam had introduced to mankind. Adam prophetically saw that a potential descendent of his to be born thousands of years later had not been allocated years and he sacrificed 70 of his own so that person would live.*

*The recipient of those years was none other than King David, the scion of the messianic line which would usher in the end of time. This seed sowed by Adam produced none other than our Messiah Y'Shua through whom comes eternal life, reversing Adam's colossal mistake. Adam knew this, and realized that it was critical for him to ensure that King David would live and accomplish his task in the world. Adam had brought death to the world, and to correct that, he ensured that there would be someone to bring us back to eternal life.*

It is interesting to view the name Adam as an acronym – ADaM. This stands for Adam, David and Mashiach/Messiah. Adam has the whole story of man's history built into his name, from the fall of man to the kingly line of David and his descendant, our Saviour Y'Shua.

The name Adam is therefore revealing. It describes our lower side, the tremendous downward pull and animal instinct within each of us. But it also alludes to our ability to become great -- not in spite of our physical side but because of it and through our resisting its desires, our carnal nature. By confronting our lower aspects and overcoming them, we can accomplish marvellous things. Through our earthy nature, we are planted and have the opportunity to produce good fruit. The choice is ours. We can be governed by our blood impulses, or we can become stronger and loftier, remaining in control of our destinies as we always subdue the *dam* in Adam to the *aleph* that precedes it.

Upright posture distinguishes humans from animals, and that characteristic reflects more than just an anatomical difference. Unlike other mammals which look naturally down and connect to only their instinctual and physical nature, humans stand up straight and look ahead. We can choose whether to look up, to grow from the ground, or look down, and sentence ourselves to a life dominated by our lower nature.

Each one of us is created in the image of YHWH with unbelievable potential, and the name Adam alludes to the pitfalls we must avoid, and the tremendous growth we can experience.

## **The second Adam – Y'Shua (Yahushua)**

Y'Shua is referred to as the second Adam:

### **1Corinthians 15**

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 Lord from heaven.

*As mentioned for the name of Adam, the name of our Messiah- **Yahushua**, has significant meaning. In short it means "**Yah-is our-Deliverer**". Here is a detailed study that breaks this name down to provide a deeper insight:*

<http://www.unleavenedbread.co.za/downloads/file/pdf/TransliterationstudyontheNameoftheMessiah.pdf>

Y'Shua as the husband man, the 'second Adam', said the following:

#### **John 14**

**13** And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

**14** If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

**15** If ye love me, keep my commandments.

These passages clearly indicate that we are to follow His ways. He stated that He would honour anything asked in His name, or in other words according to his Word – His Ways/character. We are not to have our own ways and agenda. We are to follow our 'man' according to His Word – which is the Word of YHWH.

*Through the Word we must become 'one' with Y'Shua. Just as a wife and her man should become one through their union in marriage and their joint obedience to the Word through the man.*

Y'Shua was the perfect example of man walking in full harmony with the Creator. He illustrated how it was possible for the spiritual man to dominate and rule the carnal nature. He was tempted by His flesh (ha satan the adversary) in His wilderness experience. He faced the full extent of the flesh nature i.e. **lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**. But He overcame this temptation and overruled this inner carnal lust by using the Word as His defence and guiding Light. Let's have a look:

#### **Matthew 4**

**1** Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

**2** And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered.

**3** And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. (**Lust of the flesh – satisfy hunger**)

**4** But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

**5** Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

**6** And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. (**Pride of life – self-importance and status**)

**7** Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

**8** Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

**9** And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. (**Lust of the eye – what he saw that he could have ruled**)

**10** Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

**11** Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Y'Shua was able to use the Word to overcome these temptations and thereby took dominion over His carnal lusts. He reminded us of his victory in John 16.33:

#### **John 16:33**

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have **overcome** the world.

Y'Shua demonstrated to us that we can resist the devil (carnal nature) and he will flee. In order though for us to be effective in this regard would require a thorough knowledge of

Scripture to be able to recognise the error in the temptation and to resist the temptation using the Word:

**1John 2:14** I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

And a point to remember is that YHWH is not the one who tempts us – according to **James 1:13**. It is our inner carnal nature – the woman.

**James 1:13** Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

But it must be understood that according to the way we are meant to pray, Matthew 6:9-13, YHWH does **lead us into temptation** otherwise why would we pray and ask Him not to. But there is a distinct difference in leading one into temptation and actually being the tempter.

**Matthew 6:13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

Does He lead us into temptation to make us grow strong and experience resisting temptation? I believe so. YHWH loves us and only does things to help us grow in righteousness.

Anyway Y'Shua knew that what He could have gained in this material world if He had yielded to His fleshly temptations was temporal. He also knew that what was awaiting Him in the eternal spiritual realm was of far greater worth. Wow, what an understatement. We should also consider and understand this:

**Isaiah 64:4**

For since the beginning of the world *men* have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, *what* he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.

**1Corinthians 2:9**

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

### **The Second Adam and his Bride:**

Solomon says what has been will be. You see, the story of Adam and his wife will repeat itself in the story of Y'Shua, the second Adam, and His woman/wife 'the church'. Only this time the second Adam does not falter in righteousness:

**Ecclesiastes 1:9**

The thing that hath been, it *is that* which shall be; and that which is done *is that* which shall be done: and *there is no new thing* under the sun.

Church /ecclesia is known as the feminine woman i.e. the 'bride':

**2Corinthians 11:2**

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ.

The relationship between man and his wife as well as Y'Shua and His betrothed (the church) is described in **Ephesians 5:**

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.  
22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.  
23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church:  
and he is the saviour of the body.  
24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own  
husbands in every thing.  
25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself  
for it;  
26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,  
27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle,  
or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.  
28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife  
loveth himself.  
29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even  
as the Lord the church:  
30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.  
31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto  
his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.  
32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.  
33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself;  
and the wife *see* that she reverence *her* husband.

The modern day ‘church’ teaches that the ‘church’ ‘Christians’ are the Bride of Messiah. This is however incorrect. The text and lesson from Genesis shows that the ‘woman/bride’ is taken out of the body of Adam – the first Adam. Likewise then the Bride for Y’Shua will be taken out of the body of the second Adam, who is Y’Shua. So who is the body of Y’Shua but the ‘church’.

1Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.  
Ephesians 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

And so this reveals how the Bride for Y’Shua will be a select ‘first fruit’ group selected from the Body of church folk i.e. believing Christians. The whole body will therefore not be the Bride of Messiah. Not all of the body submits itself to the cleansing process through the washing of water by the word – Ephesians 5:26.

But then the church people cry – ‘isn’t Israel the Bride of Messiah, His chosen people?’ Well the Bride is most certainly of ‘Israel’ but all ‘Israel’ does not become the Bride for Messiah. The Bride is the set-apart City in ‘Israel’ – the New Jerusalem:

### **Revelation 21:**

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.  
10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,  
2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

*It is important to understand that ‘Israel’ is a reference to a body of believers who have laid aside their ‘self’ life by overcoming their reliance on the efforts of ‘self’. The story of Jacob wrestling with the angel is the guiding principal for this process. I believe that this struggle and our ‘renaming’ process is what is referred to as ‘Jacob’s Trouble’ (Jeremiah 30:7).*

*To be endorsed with the name of Israel, all believers will be required to lay down their dependence on 'self', and submit to the will of the Father. Oh, and how difficult it is for us to leave our dependence on our own efforts in this world today.*

*Y'Shua shows that He also had this battle with self-will but surrendered very quickly to the will of the Father:*

**Luke 22:42** Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

*Scriptural 'Israel' is NOT a piece of land (country) in the Middle East and neither is the old city of Jerusalem what is referred to in Revelation as the 'new Jerusalem'.*

The 'Bride' (firstfruits) of Y'Shua follow Him wherever He goes:

### **Revelation 14**

**1** And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

**4** These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, *being* the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

These were **not defiled with women**. These 144,000, the 'firstfruits', were not defiled by the carnal mind. They had no relationship with it other than to take dominion over it. Their carnal nature was not allowed to carry through on its fleshly desires. The influence of their carnal nature was taken under control and disciplined by the 'spirit' man.

These were virgins it states. Virgins because they had not given themselves over to the temptations or the desires of the flesh. The spiritual nature of the 'firstfruits' was not beguiled by the flesh as is the case described in Proverbs 7.

Y'Shua goes away to prepare a place for His Bride:

**John 14:3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

Most Christians believe that they are going to be 'raptured' away by 'Jesus' at some stage prior to the tribulation period. This is not true. Y'Shua is only coming back initially to receive His Bride – the 'firstfruit' offering of the wheat harvest. The rest of the wheat field will be left for the later harvest.

The 'bride' is collected:

### **1Thesalonians 4**

**16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

**17** Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Although some people try to harmonize this Theselonians account with the doctrine of the Second Coming, it is actually a different event which takes place before the Second Coming. Here believers i.e. the Bride, will be taken from earth to heaven, whereas in the Second Coming, Y'Shua will come back from heaven to earth with his Bride to set up His kingdom. The Theselonians event will happen at the 7<sup>th</sup> trump of

Yom Teruah i.e. the last trump, whereas the Second Coming will take place at the Feast of Sukkot when Y'Shua will 'tabernacle' with man.

***He that hath an ear, let him hear***

*A very important point to note is that when YHWH made the wife from Adam's body, a deep sleep fell upon Adam. His body was asleep in order for this to take place:*

***Genesis 2:21*** And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof

*Can we see and agree that the 'body' of Y'Shua i.e. the church, is asleep at this present time whilst the wife/woman for Y'Shua – The Bride, is in the process of being made ready to be taken out.*

*Hear again the Words of Solomon:*

***Ecclesiastes 1:9***

*The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.*

**The harlot bride**

The **harlot** (the woman riding the beast of Revelation 17) is the wayward 'church' that is not following her betrothed Y'Shua's instructions/ways and is therefore playing the harlot. This 'harlot' church has become influenced and ruled by her carnal nature. She has 'worldliness' on her mind – the pleasures and rewards of the carnal nature. She follows the ways of Babylon and not her betrothed – Y'Shua ha Meshiach. She has not learnt how to rule her carnal nature. She does not understand who/what satan (the adversary) is and is therefore easily led astray.

This harlot church is not an 'institution' as most believe, but comprises the collective of each individual of the church/ecclesia that is following his/her carnal nature and not submitting to the head/man/bridegroom i.e. Y'Shua. We are called to follow Y'Shua as our head i.e. husband, in every way. That means embracing/obeying every Word that He says and everything that He does.

We are supposed to deny our fleshly desires and 'follow him':

***Matthew 16:24*** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

***Matthew 8:22*** But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

**Proverbs 7** provides some beautiful insight into the carnal nature at work and shows how the woman succeeds in seducing the young man:

- 1 My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.
- 2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.
- 3 Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.
- 4 Say unto wisdom, Thou *art* my sister; and call understanding *thy* kinswoman:
- 5 That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words.

6 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,  
7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man  
void of understanding,  
8 Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,  
9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:  
10 And, behold, there met him a woman *with* the attire of an harlot, and subtil of  
heart.  
11 (She *is* loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:  
12 Now *is she* without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)  
13 So she caught him, and kissed him, *and* with an impudent face said unto him,  
14 *I have* peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.  
15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found  
thee.  
16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved *works*, with fine  
linen of Egypt.  
17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.  
18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with  
loves.  
19 For the goodman *is* not at home, he is gone a long journey:  
20 He hath taken a bag of money with him, *and* will come home at the day  
appointed.  
21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips  
she forced him.  
22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the  
correction of the stocks;  
23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not  
that it *is* for his life.  
24 Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my  
mouth.  
25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.  
26 For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong *men* have been slain by  
her.  
27 Her house *is* the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

This analogy of a harlot in Proverbs 7 is used to portray how we are led astray by our ‘feminine’ carnal nature when we let our guard down or don’t understand Scripture. She encourages the man by declaring that the ‘goodman’ is not at home, he is gone a long journey – verse 19. This is a reference to Y’Shua, our betrothed who is seemingly not present – but away on a long journey to prepare a place for His Bride - **John 14:3**.

See how the young man is referred to as a ‘man void of understanding’ – verse 7. This takes place in the night time, a time of wickedness without the ‘Greater Light’ (see article ‘The Greater Light’).

He is attracted through her devious words and worldly offerings and in his weakness he falls prey to the ‘lust of the eye/lust of the flesh’.

The morning is a reference to the time when the ‘Bridegroom’ returns i.e. Y’Shua. The closing verse warns us not to go the way of the carnal/flesh nature which leads to hell.

**Proverbs chapter 2** on the other hand shows that following the path of righteousness will deliver one from the flattering words of this strange woman – verse 16. Verse 19 states that those who succumb to her will not return to the path of life:

**1** My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding;  
 3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding;  
 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;  
 5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.  
 6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.  
 7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly.  
 8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.  
 9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; *yea*, every good path.  
 10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;  
 11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:  
 12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil *man*, from the man that speaketh froward things;  
 13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;  
 14 Who rejoyce to do evil, *and* delight in the frowardness of the wicked;  
 15 Whose ways *are* crooked, and *they* froward in their paths:  
 16 To deliver thee from the strange woman, *even* from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words;  
 17 Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.  
 18 For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.  
 19 None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.  
 20 That thou mayest walk in the way of good *men*, and keep the paths of the righteous.  
 21 For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.  
 22 But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

Proverbs 4, 5&6 continue to provide great insight into this ‘evil/whorish/strange woman’ (the evil carnal nature) and the much desired ‘woman of great worth’ (the obedient spirit guided woman):

#### **Proverbs 4**

**4** Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.  
**5** Get wisdom, get understanding: forget *it* not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.  
**6** Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.  
**7** Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.  
**8** Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.  
**9** She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.  
  
**13** Take fast hold of instruction; let *her* not go: keep her; for she *is* thy life.  
  
**19** The way of the wicked *is* as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.  
**20** My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.  
**21** Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.  
**22** For they *are* life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

#### **Proverbs 5**

- 1 My son, attend unto my wisdom, *and* bow thine ear to my understanding:  
 2 That thou mayest regard discretion, and *that* thy lips may keep knowledge.  
 3 For the lips of a strange woman drop *as* an honeycomb, and her mouth *is* smoother than oil:  
 4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword.  
 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.  
 6 Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, *that* thou canst not know *them*.  
 7 Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.  
 8 Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:
- 20 And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

### Proverbs 6

- 20 My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:  
 21 Bind them continually upon thine heart, *and* tie them about thy neck.  
 22 When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and *when* thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.  
 23 For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:  
 24 To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.  
 25 *ust* not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.  
 26 For by means of a whorish woman *a man is brought* to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

See how in Proverbs 3 that the pursuit and finding of wisdom and understanding leads one to the 'virtuous woman' described in Proverbs 31. She is a '**tree of life**'.

### Proverbs 3

- 13 Happy *is* the man *that* findeth **wisdom**, and the man *that* **getteth understanding**.  
 14 For the merchandise of it *is* better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.  
 15 **She is more precious than rubies**: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.  
 16 Length of days *is* in her right hand; *and* in her left hand riches and honour.  
 17 Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness, and all her paths *are* peace.  
 18 **She is a tree of life** to them that lay hold upon her: and happy *is every one* that retaineth her.

### Proverbs 31

- 10 Who can find a virtuous woman? **for her price is far above rubies**.  
 11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.  
 12 **She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life**.

*I highly encourage you to read the full portion of these chapters in order to receive the full message.*

## Esther – a Bride fit for a King

Don't you just love the film '**One night with the King**' based on the Tommy Tenney novel about Esther. Wow, it is absolutely fantastic. If you have not seen it then you really should.

As much as this is a beautiful story the book of Esther provides the seeker with a very profound lesson on the type of bride who would be considered 'fit for a King'. And to think that early scholars almost rejected the book of Esther from the Scriptures because the name of YHWH was not mentioned.

The story of Esther is truly a beautiful story and there is good reason why this story excites your spirit. When one stands back and admires the story as one would a precious work of art hanging on a wall, the spiritual picture you see should be that of a powerful, loving King, and his selection of a perfect bride who would ultimately be the saviour of her people. This painting portrays the love story of YHWH – a picture of Scripture.

Other than the literal interpretation of this love story I believe that this account is foretelling truth on two other prophetic levels. Firstly it is a prophetic picture of Y'Shua as the pleasing and acceptable 'renewed covenant bride' for The King YHWH, who serves as the saviour of his people. Secondly it provides insight into the attributes of the bride for Y'Shua who will return with the bridegroom to assist in saving the rest of the body of Messiah.

Vashti is a representation of the Kings (YHWH) existing bride who rebels and follows her own cravings. Vashti is a picture of that rebellious soul that has gone astray in pursuit of her fleshly desires. She is a representation of harlot Israel - the bride of YHWH who Jeremiah writes about.

**Jeremiah 3:6** The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen *that* which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.

Ahasuerus, the King, wanted to summons his beautiful wife to show off her splendour to his kingdom. But she was too full of carnal self-interest to obey the call.

The King held a banquet but at the same time queen Vashti held her own banquet for the women of the kingdom. Are we not to feast on the Word and rejoice in the ways of the Father? Or do we want our own ways (banquet), to feast on our own desires. Does Y'Shua not say in Revelation 3:20 that if we open the door for him that we will dine with him?

The intention was surely for the King and His bride to be one. In any marriage the man and his woman are to become one. This is why Y'Shua stated in John 10:30 'I and the Father are one'. The king is a picture of YHWH who is Spirit (John 4:24). Vashti represented the soul. This soul woman, who represents the tribes of Judah/Israel, was drawn away by her fleshly desires into rebellion against the King. This rebellion caused the righteous King (YHWH) to put away this wife and find a more worthy bride. One who would seek the will and pleasure of her King. One who is undivided in her attention/devotion.

The soul and the spirit should have a joint purpose - one goal and one vision. And the 'spirit' man is the head of the 'soul' woman. She should follow his lead and not go astray. The soul is the seat of the will and emotions and must be controlled. Vashti brought about division by holding her own feast. It was against YHWH's design for mankind – that of

unity through marriage. But YHWH has created man to have free will, the freedom to choose.

Vashti and Ahasuerus had a problem. One was required to give up their banquet, their 'way', for the sake of the other. Who should do such a thing? Should the spirit (king) be subservient to the mind of the soul, or should the mind yield to the leading of the spirit. Could the two exist as 'one' yet continue in their own ways? Clearly the woman was to put aside her individuality and submit to the king.

In 1:2 it states that the King sat on the throne of his kingdom. The spirit reigns in the affairs of men whether it appears so to us or not (Daniel 4:17 – *the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men*). The spirit (King) rules.

At the king's banquet there were seven princes (1:14). These men are the type and shadow of the seven spirits of YHWH (Isaiah 11:2 – spirit of the Lord, spirit of Wisdom, spirit of Understanding, spirit of Counsel, spirit of Strength, spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord). Verse 14 states that they saw the king's face and that they sat first in the kingdom. Seeing his face means that they knew him intimately and were 'one' with him i.e. of the same mind.

The seven spirits of YHWH are what should draw us into the presence of the King. It was these seven wise men who counselled Ahasuerus concerning the disobedient and unworthy queen Vashti. These men, full of wisdom, gave their advice to the king and he accepted it.

Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment – 1:12 (This is a picture of Judah/Israel failing to comply with the beckoning of YHWH). The view and concern was that if she refused to come at the bidding of the king, then all the women in the kingdom would see this disobedient/rebellious behaviour and would follow her lead by despising their husbands – 1:17. This is what has happened in the church today. The early church went astray and most of Christianity has followed on after her into rebellion and sinfulness. Just like Judah/Israel, the New Testament 'church' has ignored her husband – the spirit, and gone her own way. And many there are who dine at her feast.

*Remember, many are called, but few are chosen (Matthew 22:14).*

According to the king's law (1:15), Vashti was no longer to be in the presence of the king. Her reign as queen had ended. Jeremiah 3:8 reveals a similar fate for Judah/Israel:

**Jeremiah 3:8** And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

*Vashti represents the rebellious soul, the infected carnal mind which seeks its own worship as god itself.*

By ignoring the call to choose life (feast of the King – Tree of Life), Vashti chose to remain in the realm of death (feast of self - Tree of the knowledge of good and evil). She knew the king and the king's way but she was willing to sacrifice all that she had with the king for her own desires. Yet, even in choosing the queen knew her reign would be over and she would lose everything. But still she chose the same. The 'spirit'/heavens (the King) rules at all times - not the earth (the soul - the will, and the emotions).

As queen, Vashti lived in the realm of life, the soul was in the place it didn't have to die. She was part of the king's rule in the kingdom. Yet, she chose to remove herself from such

a heavenly place and seek to be "king" of a lower order – the carnal world, the realm of death. This is the struggle of man. Man seeks a pre-eminent standing in life and wishes to be in control - as a god.

The spirit has to be joined with the soul that is willing, with the same desire for the manifestation of YHWH in the flesh. The soul (Vashti) which seeks to be a law unto itself must die because it is in sin, acting as a god itself. The soul that sets itself up as the rule or law sins and must die.

**Ezekiel 18:4** Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

The king, like YHWH, would not allow the collapse of his kingdom. The king made provision by selecting another bride – Esther. Esther is a picture of Y'Shua. Esther means 'star' in Persian. Y'Shua is the 'morning star' (Revelation 22:16). Just as Esther was used to save her people from destruction, YHWH also uses Y'Shua to save His people.

The book of Esther does not discuss the selection of Vashti and how the king found her for a bride. But it does discuss the selection of Esther, the new queen. The selection of Esther as the new bride reveals intimate details of how Y'Shua found favour with the King and also informs regarding the selection and attributes of the bride for Y'Shua.

We must be cautious not get caught up in the gender confusion in this bride analogy. It is more about the unity and headship of the marriage union that is the point for understanding.

Clearly the king was looking for a beautiful woman to be a bride. *Margaret Wolfe Hungerford* is claimed to have stated "beauty is in the eye of the beholder". Beauty and what pleases a man is different for every man. The king wanted a beautiful woman but one that was a maiden, an original and uncorrupted person. He sought a woman who had purity and innocence and someone that he could be 'as one' with.

Hegai, the king's eunuch, was in charge of the women that were selected. Hegai is a picture of the set-apart spirit of YHWH. The one sent to 'seal' the bride. Mordecai was the foster carer of the bride, Esther. Mordecai is a picture of the body of Y'Shua i.e. the church – the guardian of the bride which when called and anointed comes out of the church body.

Hegai (the helper) was to guide her and advise her on her conduct for she was to be the saviour of her people. He was to prepare the soul (woman/Esther) for the spirit (king). She had neither father nor mother (Esther 2:7). The concept of neither father nor mother speaks of the Melchizedek order (Hebrews 7:3) of which Y'Shua was. The bride of Y'Shua will join this Melchizedek order when they are joined in union with Y'Shua to rule and reign with him during the millennium as 'kings' and 'priests'.

**Hebrews 7:3** Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

Esther found favour with Hegai (2:9). Favour/grace is evident here and not the works of the flesh/Law. She was given seven choice maidens to help her. This is symbolic of the seven spirits of YHWH to guide and develop her spiritual attributes. Plus she was elevated to the best place in the harem of the king. When one walks with the guidance and influence of the spirit one does not pursue the lust of the flesh and one walks in the special favour/grace of YHWH.

## Galatians 5

16 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

17 *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*

18 *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*

Chapter 2 verse 12 reveals that the women were given 12 months for preparation. Twelve is the number of divine government and completeness in scripture. One year represents a time of fullness. A lamb of one year without spot or blemish was offered to YHWH (Numbers 7:15, 27, 51). So, this young maiden without spot or blemish is prepared and offered before the king.

Note that the first six months was a time when myrrh was used with oil. Myrrh speaks of suffering and the oil of anointing. When Y'Shua was born the wise men brought gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11). They saw Y'Shua as divine (gold), anointed (frankincense) and sacrificial (myrrh). If we are to enter into the realm of the Spirit (king) we must first humble ourselves, which speaks of myrrh, suffering. The oil speaks of anointing. When you and I are humbled and overcome through the sacrifice of self, then the anointing will follow.

In the last six months, the time of suffering was over and the use of spices takes place. These spices are used to give the maiden a pleasant aroma and make her more appealing.

### **2 Corinthians 2:15** For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ...

On sixteen different occasions in the book of Leviticus, an “aroma” is mentioned as something pleasing to YHWH. Specifically, the aroma of a sacrifice is important to YHWH.

The importance of a sacrifice's aroma is not the smell but what the smell represents—the substitutionary atonement for sin. The very first mention of God smelling the aroma of a burnt offering is found in Genesis 8:21. Noah offered a burnt offering of clean animals and birds after leaving the ark. We are told it was a “pleasing” aroma to YHWH. The idea is that Noah's sacrifice was a propitiation, or satisfaction, of YHWH's righteous requirement. YHWH was pleased with the sacrifice and then gave the promise to never again destroy every living creature with a flood.

### **The pleasing aroma of Esther reflected the much more desired sacrifice of 'self and the desires of her flesh before the king.**

The New Testament reveals Y'Shua as the final sacrifice for sin, the ultimate propitiation: “Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour” (Ephesians 5:2). Y'Shua, the firstborn Son of YHWH, was the only one who could provide the eternally pleasing sacrifice/aroma –the Lamb without blemish. He alone is the one of whom the Father says, “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased” (Mark 1:11).

### **We are to follow the example of Y'Shua. Will we be a pleasing aroma before our King?**

So Esther is prepared and ready to appear before the king. But there is a problem. One cannot just go before the king when one is ready! If you go when you are not summoned by the king, you will not be accepted, that is, you will not be allowed to enter into his presence. All the preparation is wasted if the soul (Esther) goes in unto the king when he is not ready for her. The soul must understand the spirit (king). These two are to be one. The soul must desire the will of the spirit and not be presumptuous and present herself when she deems appropriate because if she does, she is like Vashti.

Y'Shua (our king and bridegroom) has gone away to prepare a place for us. He will return for his bride, prepared by and anointed by the spirit, when the Father says he can. The bride will not approach him before they are collectively chosen and called - at the last trump.

So, Esther waits. When her time comes (Esther 2:14), she seeks the advice of Hegai. She does not dress in the colour she looks best in nor does she wear the perfume that she feels most comfortable with. Esther 2:15 states:

*'she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed'.*

She was fully prepared based only on what Hegai (the spirit –helper) had advised. She did not lean on her own understanding or perception of the king's desires. She submitted fully to the leading of the helper. She pleased the king more than all the other maidens because she appeared as his nature/character to him. What a union. Let us learn from this as we prepare for our King. We were made in the image of our King not in our own image.

*Oh, that our soul desires not its own way but the way of YHWH!*

Guided by the spirit, the soul is always found to be acceptable. In the seventh year, in the year of completion, she came forth and accompanied the king. She established his reign because the soul and the spirit had become one. The seventh year is a reference to the seventh millennium which will be when Y'Shua returns and takes his bride.

The carnal mind, that 'Vashti' type, is part of the flesh nature. That thing which is at enmity with YHWH for it stands as god in the house of YHWH.

But the soul that is married to the spirit, and "he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:17) can overcome the flesh.

The marriage of the king to Esther is a perfect picture of the future marriage of Y'Shua to his bride.

#### **Esther 2:**

**17**And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

**18**Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, *even* Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.

Let us rejoice at the beauty of the marriage supper of the Lamb which is none other than the spirit and the soul becoming one! (the soul being the woman/bride of the 'spirit man' Y'Shua).

**Proverbs 31:30** Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

## Ha satan – the adversary

Matthew chapter 4 makes reference to the devil as the tempter. If you believe the common church understanding that this devil or satan (Satan) is some **fallen angel** at war with YHWH then you are mistaken. But this is a complex study and requires a paradigm mind shift. It is not easy to shake of this indoctrination without a deep desire for the Truth, eyes to see and ears to hear. But this article unfortunately must leave that lengthy proof out. One taster though:

This character is referenced as 'ha satan' in Hebrew (from H7853) which means 'the satan' i.e. 'the adversary'. It is not Satan with a capital 'S' to denote a person/being.

### H7853

**śâtan** saw-tan' A primitive root; to *attack*, (figuratively) *accuse*: - (be an) adversary, resist.

Here is another clue:

### Jeremiah 17:9

The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Above all things? Surely satan must be the most deceitful. Well mainstream Christians would say so.

Oh, I can't resist another:

### Matthew 16:

**22** Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

**23** But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

How could Y'Shua have called Peter 'satan' - that evil beast. Unless of course Y'Shua was referring to the 'adversary' coming out in Peter that was against the will of YHWH. This incident is serving as a picture reflecting Peter as the 'woman' - the helper. He was the 'adversary' that was attempting to attract Y'Shua to eat of the forbidden fruit – the deeds of the carnal nature. But unlike the 'first Adam', Y'Shua was committed to the plan and ways of His Father and rebuked the 'woman'. This is what the 'first Adam' should have done with Eve.

Yes, this is that old ever present carnal nature again (**ha satan**). Undisciplined and untamed through lack of knowledge and ignorance. The Word states in Hosea:

**Hosea 4:6** My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:

But we are all the same. We are all on a journey of enlightenment/sanctification - *precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little* Isaiah 28:10

There is so much to be understood on the subject of satan- the devil, and the misunderstanding of Scripture in this regard. Oh how the Truth sets you free. I am no

longer scared of the boogeyman. Just my own wicked lusts which with the help of YHWH, self-discipline and focus, I should be able to overcome.

*Ha satan, the devil, is the woman – that earthly carnal nature, operating as the adversary to the spirit man.*

There are a number of authors/teachers who have written meaningful material on this misunderstanding within the Christian church but in my opinion the person who has done the most complete research and conclusive teaching is **James R Brayshaw**. He has written at least three books on this subject and seems to have covered the issue thoroughly (<http://imagineosatan.com/>).

## **Closing comments**

There is a theme running throughout the scriptures of two woman:

**The woman of light** - the righteous woman of worth, the virtuous woman.

**The woman of darkness** - the strange woman, the harlot.

When YHWH formed the woman out of Adam she had the potential, if left unrestrained to become the adversary rather than the helper.

We are told to come out of her in the book of Revelation. We are not to go in and commune with her and partake of her offerings.

**Revelation 18:4** And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins**, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Here is some wisdom for Proverbs:

### **Proverbs 22**

**14** The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein.

### **Proverbs 23**

**27** For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit.

**32** At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

**33** Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

The carnal nature wants to satisfy its own desires/lusts and be god. Notice the repeated mentioning by the king of Babylon of **I will** in Isaiah 14:

### **Isaiah 14**

**13** For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

**14** **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

**15** Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

But Y'Shua, as our example, teaches us in Mark 14 that **our will** should not be the focus or priority in our lives but rather the will of the Father:

**Mark 14:36**

And he said, Abba, Father, all things *are* possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Luke 22

**42**Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: **nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.**

Matthew 26

**39**And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: **nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.**

Y'Shua only wanted to please the Father:

**John 5:30** ....because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

I believe that the very reason YHWH created man was so that He could have a son, and a family. This family was meant to glorify Him and reflect His righteousness in all the earth. The pattern of the first son, Adam was designed to be fruitful and to multiply, filling the earth with sons and their families.

Scripture provides the evidence for this role of mankind:

Genesis confirms this purpose of multiplication through the bond of man and woman:

**Genesis 2:24** Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

**Genesis 1:28** And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth....

The wife is to submit to her husband who is her covering:

**Ephesians 5:22** Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

**1Corinthians 11**

6 For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

7 For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

8 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.

9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

The man must love his wife:

**Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Deuteronomy makes provision for a man to divorce his wife but this was not the heart or original design of YHWH:

**Deuteronomy 24:1** When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness

in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house.

In fact Y'Shua teaches us that it is because of the hardness of man's heart that divorce was enabled through the law of Moses:

**Matthew 19:8** He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

You see there is an order in the union of man and his woman. An order of love and respect for their different roles. But an order of discipline and obedience as well. The man is to provide the righteous guidance in the home and take dominion over the woman. This is described in **Numbers chapter 30** as the vows of the woman:

### **Numbers 30**

2 If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.

3 If a woman also vow a vow unto the LORD, and bind herself by a bond, *being* in her father's house in her youth;

4 And her father hear her vow, and her bond wherewith she hath bound her soul, and her father shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand.

5 But if her father disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the LORD shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her.

6 And if she had at all an husband, when she vowed, or uttered ought out of her lips, wherewith she bound her soul;

7 And her husband heard *it*, and held his peace at her in the day that he heard *it*: then her vows shall stand, and her bonds wherewith she bound her soul shall stand.

8 But if her husband disallowed her on the day that he heard *it*; then he shall make her vow which she vowed, and that which she uttered with her lips, wherewith she bound her soul, of none effect: and the LORD shall forgive her.

9 But every vow of a widow, and of her that is divorced, wherewith they have bound their souls, shall stand against her.

*And neatly tucked away in this story of the man and his wife is the hidden parable of the loving relationship between man and his soul. Designed to be an aid in his natural life but left to run wild becomes the beast that devours his very being.*

*This woman, should be overseen with a righteous eye by the man. The unrighteous temptations of the flesh should never be allowed to take hold.*

*The desires of his flesh should not bind him to anything that conflicts with the Word and Will of his Father YHWH or the Firstborn Y'Shua.*

*The 'soul woman' in your life can be a blessing or a curse. And the man plays a large role in the outcome.*

*Choose life and follow righteousness.*

### **A Final comment**

This article started off with my desire to document my thoughts on this subject for my personal study purposes and also to share my finding with others. As I was writing though, the subject matter just grew and grew. And I still feel that this article and subject is still way bigger than my mind can comprehend or write down. It is my prayer that if nothing else, this article stimulates your desire to seek out additional Truth on this subject from Scripture.

As always, this article is a 'work in progress' and will be updated from time to time as new revelation is received.

Shalom.

