

Chapter Five: Yah Revealed in Yahshua's Parables

**‘This is why I speak to them in parables:
‘Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing,
they do not hear or understand.’ In them is fulfilled
the prophecy of Isaiah: ‘You will be ever hearing but
never understanding; you will be ever seeing but
never perceiving. For this people’s heart has become
callused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they
have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see...
hear... understand... and turn, and I would heal
them.’ But blessed are your eyes because they see,
and your ears because they hear.” - Matthew 13:13-16
(NIV)**

In the preceding Scripture, Yahshua’s stirring words were spoken privately to His apostles, the select few who were spiritually hungry enough to want to understand their Master’s teachings ahead of the crowd. These words from our Savior’s lips are also a clear reminder that the Gospel of Truth is impossible for the spiritually dull-witted to understand.

The parables of Yahshua are, in one sense, a rebuke against those who do not have the Holy Spirit indwelling them as a beacon to guide the way. The unsaved stumble about in the darkness, unable at times to grasp the simplest spiritual truths. But to the saved, Christ’s parables will appear ripe with meanings. However, this is only true for those believers who diligently ask Yahweh to open their hearts and minds to understand. When the word pictures in each parable are earnestly pondered and prayed over, God *will* reveal their allegorical meanings. Some parables are filled with many layers, or aspects of truth, and their depth makes them beautiful to those who seek and love God.

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Each one of us is a living parable. Each one of us has a unique spiritual story to tell. In fact, God speaks to us in every created thing in the Universe using His silent Language. Yahweh communicates His passion and desire to us through all the things we can see, taste, and touch. In fact, *everything Yah created is a parable meant to entice us with its hidden depths.* Everything on Earth, and everything in heaven has a story to tell us. We just have to look beyond the surface of all things to find it.

There are many layers of meaning everywhere in Yah's Creation. Thus far in this book series, we've found dual meanings in every star, planet, mountain, ocean, plant, tree, and person. Furthermore, we've discovered that these hidden truths can only be seen if we look beyond the obvious connotations of objects seen in the natural world, or in the dream visions, and parabolic word pictures that fill the Bible.

Though this truth is new to many of us, there is ample evidence that our ancestors knew of it, as structures like the Great Pyramid and Great Sphinx attest. In Books One, Three, and Four of the "Language of God" Book Series, it is shown that insightful people who lived long before the Great Flood may have built these symbolic prophecies in stone. Furthermore, these people appear to have utilized the Language of God in their megalithic monuments as a method of creating lasting spiritual records for future generations. In fact, it will be shown that the Great Pyramid may be a colossal symbolic altar that was originally dedicated to God's Son long before He was born!

Job Saw the Bigger, Secret Picture

Most of the writings in the Bible, and the objects in the Universe, have a literal and allegorical meaning. The righteous man Job saw this prophetic duality inherent in Creation, and in the visions and parables given by Yah through His prophets. In fact, in the Old Testament book by his name, Job commented twice on the duality of God's dealings with man. Here are the two references Job made to this peculiarity of God's nature:

"For God (El) speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the

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night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealetH their instruction..." - Job 33:14-16 (KJV)

"Behold, God works all these things, twice, in fact, three times with a man..." - Job 33:29 (NKJ)

The first of the preceding Scriptures was taken from the King James Version of the Bible. This is because it translates the Hebrew in that passage literally. The Hebrew literally says that *"God speaks once, then twice, but men do not perceive this (duality)."* Job understood it, however, and he therefore saw the world with his spiritual eyes and ears open. He knew that his dreams and visions were Yah's way of showing him the right spiritual path. Parables are like visions and dreams, yet they silently allow God to speak to all of us, at all times, and in every culture.

As shown in the second of the preceding Bible quotes, Job repeated this belief that Yah often reaches out to people two or three times in an effort to get His spiritual messages through to them. This is true in nature, in the Star Gospel, and in the Bible - especially in its Old and New Testament prophetic books. Just as Yah reveals His truth in each person's life two or more times, so He has done in history. In fact, most prophecies have a dual, or even triple future application. This truth is shown repeatedly in Book Four, "The Language of God in Prophecy." Parables also share this duality in that they have an obvious literal meaning, as well as a hidden spiritual application.

Everything Hidden Is Made Known Through Christ

One of the most obvious truths gleaned from the parables of Yahshua is that ***Yahweh has filled the natural world we live in with hidden spiritual truths.*** Yahshua saw them immediately, and often used examples observed in nature to illuminate religious principles. His parables convey a world of spiritual meaning using simple word pictures that even a child can understand. Underneath a veil of apparent simplicity, however, Yahshua's parables are filled with

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hidden meanings - meanings that He compels us to seek through His indwelling Spirit. When we follow the lead of the Holy Spirit, and ask to comprehend those hidden meanings, we are initiates, learning the Language of God from the Master Himself. Just as prophesied in Psalm 78, Yahshua shared parables with us in order to instruct us about the hidden things of the past:

*"O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. **I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old - what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD (Yahweh), his power, and the wonders he has done.**" - Psalm 78:1-4 (NIV)*

By relaying parables, Christ meant to inspire His listening audience to look beyond superficialities, and truly grasp what He so eloquently taught. Each parable was an easily remembered spiritual "window" into what Yahshua, and His Father deem important in this world. Beyond their superficial meaning, they also carried a world of hidden truths. The Apostle Matthew refers to the parabolic prophecy in Psalm 78, applying it unquestionably to Yahshua:

*"Jesus (Yahshua) spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: **I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.**" - Matthew 13:34-35 (NIV)*

This passage makes it clear that parables are the hidden things that have existed *since the world was created!* In other words, these parables have always permeated God's Creation to instruct us. Though Yahshua primarily came as our Redeemer and deliverer from death and sin, He also came to enlighten us. He came to reveal the great spiritual truths that He authored at Creation – some that had never been disclosed, and others that had become hidden or obscured as time passed, and as men fell deeper into ignorance and sin. Sadly, mankind in general is in a perpetual state of spiritual ignorance. In the Gospels, it is made clear that the

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people who were not receiving Yahshua's private interpretations would not understand what He was saying in His parables:

"And the disciples came and said to Him, 'Why do You speak to them in parables?' He answered and said to them, 'Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.' "
Matthew 13:10-11 (NKJ)

In other words, through Yahshua's instruction, the apostles were being taught *"the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven."* That is, they were being shown that Yahshua had come to reconcile all things to Himself, and save all things from sin through the establishment of His everlasting Kingdom. Nonetheless, even the apostles didn't understand Yahshua's parables yet. They had to ask Yahshua what His parables meant before they did:

"Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.' "
Matthew 13:36 (NKJ)

This indicates that only one Person in the Universe can correctly interpret Yah's symbolic Language, and that is Yahweh Himself! So, while Yahshua was dwelling on the Earth, a select few were being shown the keys to correctly interpreting His secret wisdom, while others had no idea what He was talking about most of the time. In fact, most of Christ's followers came to see Him perform miracles rather than hear Him preach. This is because most of them were looking for a sensation rather than good moral and spiritual teachings. After all, miracles are tangible things that we can see and understand, while spiritual and moral concepts are hard to understand, and even harder to apply to our lives. In fact, it is as impossible to apply these teachings correctly without the Holy Spirit, as it is to understand God's allegorical Language of symbols. One comprehensive study of repeated Israelite failures to apply God's moral wisdom is all one needs to see that ***wisdom that is given without God's Spirit and Grace cannot save us from sin.***

God Gives Secret Wisdom To Make It Known

Now, when Yahshua was taken up to Heaven after His death and resurrection, the apostles suddenly lost their only source of perfect secret wisdom. This is why Yahshua gave the apostles the baptism of the Holy Spirit in power at Pentecost, to show all of God's hidden truths to them. At that time, the same Spirit of God that the apostles were filled with was eventually given to all who truly believed that Yahshua was the Son of God, died for their sins, and rose from the dead to show their victory over sin through Him. Though the Spirit of God did not seem to manifest itself as powerfully in the disciples as it did in the apostles, the New Testament is filled with examples where the disciples could also work miracles, preach secret wisdom, and prophesy.

Many of the Holy Spirit's insights that were given to me are touched upon in my "Language of God" Book Series. Saint Paul speaks of this secret wisdom in his letter to the Corinthians:

"No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord... However... 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him' - but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all... the deep things of God." - 1 Cor. 2:7-10 (NIV)

The preceding Scripture indicates that the Spirit of God within born again believers reveals the secret things regarding God's Kingdom, and shows Christ's purpose for these things to them. In the process, the Spirit reveals the deep, hidden things of God that humanistic philosophers, scientists, atheists, and Pagans in our world know nothing about. In the past one hundred years of Church growth, some of this secret wisdom has come to light for the first time in perhaps a millennium, or more. This book series reveals many of these long hidden secrets. In fact, it is the most comprehensive compendium of this hidden knowledge available today that maintains an unswervingly biblical worldview. In this way it is a fulfillment of Yahshua's declaration that all beneficial knowledge of God will eventually be revealed, and brought to light:

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"And He said to them, 'Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.'" - Mark 4:21-22 (NKJ)

When Yahshua said this, He was speaking to His apostles in private, not to the primarily unbelieving and incredulous crowds who gathered around Yahshua to see His miracles. At this time, Yahshua was telling His apostles that they would soon become His lamps; called to share the light of the wisdom Yahshua was telling them in secret with a lost and dying world. The apostles did not yet understand their calling, however. The knowledge of their lofty mission for Christ would not be fully apparent to them until after Pentecost, when Yahshua's own Spirit filled them with supernatural power and understanding.

In this chapter, we will primarily concentrate on the remarkable hidden messages found in Yahshua's parables, as the Holy Spirit revealed them to me. The messages in these parables were fully understood by Yahshua's apostles, and the spiritual truths within them are reflected in many of their teachings found in the letters of the New Testament. Before examining Yahshua's most important parables, however, let's review some of the analogies Yahshua used to describe his Father Yahweh's qualities.

How Yahweh Shows His Nature in the Physical World

As shown in Book One, the Bible is filled with many fine examples of Yahweh revealing His Will in, and through the natural world. One example of this is when Yahweh is described as bringing forth only light, and in whom there is no darkness, since light and darkness cannot coexist (Psalm 27:1, 89:15; Isaiah 60:19-20; John 1:4-9, 3:19-20, 8:12, 9:5; Romans 13:12; 1 Peter 2:9). Upon examining the preceding references in Scripture, we can see that, in these cases, light and darkness are metaphors for good and evil. A particularly good example of this is found in the Fourth Gospel, Chapter 1: Verses 4-9:

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*"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came... to bear witness of the Light, that all... might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. **That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.**" - John 1:4-9 (NKJ)*

Here, John describes Yahshua as a Light that illuminates people's hearts with light, and shows them spiritual truths. This analogy is not that unusual, since we can readily observe the qualities of good and evil in the properties of light and darkness. For example, light is always accompanied by warmth. Light and warmth are essential to life and growth, and are needed for the production of usable forms of energy, but nothing can live and grow in the frigid oblivion of absolute darkness. Light tends to make things become clearly visible and apparent, while darkness prevents accurate vision, and provides a hiding place for danger. Light dispels and obliterates darkness and its consequences, and vice versa. Many of us also fear and dread being in the dark, while only those of us with something to hide would tremble at the thought of walking out into the daylight. In the same way, the light and spiritual enlightenment of Christ that is given to us through His Holy Spirit dispels spiritual darkness. This is partly why Yahshua said *"I am the Light of the World"* (John 8:12, 9:5).

Yahweh also describes Himself through the qualities of water. We know that water is essential to life. All living organisms would eventually, in the absence of a water supply, suffer great thirst, dehydration, and delirium before dying. Yahshua boldly proclaimed Himself to be able to give us Living Water, a supernatural kind of water that can quench our spiritual and physical thirst forever:

*"Jesus (Yahshua) answered and said to her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, "Give Me a drink," you would have asked Him, and **He would have given you living water.**' " - John 4:10 (NKJ)*

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Though Yahshua is speaking of physical thirst in the above passage, He was alluding to the spiritual thirst we all experience for Yahweh's love and knowledge (See also John 7:37-39). Though we may not recognize our human want and need to be loved and given truth as a thirst, it is. All believers were once unsaved, outside of the love of God, thirsty for love and truth, but unable to find it outside of God. Yet even after we know God well, we all experience terrible times of testing. With our limited vision, we often see ourselves as living in an emotional and spiritual desert wasteland. These times of testing are very hard, but if we trust Yah, He can equip us with everything we need to resist the devil:

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God... will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape..." - 1 Corinth. 10:13 (NKJ)

In the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew, we are instructed to ask Yah: *"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"* (Mat. 6:13 NKJ). This is because Yahshua wanted to stress how important it is to ask Yah for help in resisting temptation. The way each of us responds to these trying periods will determine our otherworldly destination at God's Judgment. Some of us will fail to hold fast to our love for, and trust in God. Instead, even after experiencing God's love and forgiveness, some will come to revile God, renounce their faith, and - as a result - lose their salvation:

"It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened... who have shared in the Holy Spirit... tasted the... word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace." - Hebrews 6:4-6 (NIV)

In the preceding passage, the writer of Hebrews is not saying that, once someone is saved, they can still lose their salvation. This is impossible, for those who are truly saved believe that Yahshua is the Son of God who came to save them from their sins. In addition, true believers have chosen to subject themselves

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to the power of Christ to transform them. They are therefore born again, Spirit-filled members of the Kingdom of God who are slowly being transformed to reflect Christ's perfect image.

Once started, this process of spiritual transformation can *never* be stopped - not even by death. This is why Paul said: "*He who has begun a good work in you will complete it*" (Philippians 1:6) However, anyone who rejects the Word of God, and His Spirit after experiencing their power couldn't have been born again in the first place, because being born again means having the seed of Christ's nature planted into our souls by the Holy Spirit, who is the seal that guarantees our salvation:

"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory." - Ephesians 1:13-14 (NKJ)

This clearly suggests that someone who is truly born again, and has the seal of the Holy Spirit as a *guarantee*, will be incapable of ever rejecting God completely. Therefore, anyone who finally rejects Christ never had His Spirit deposited in their hearts to begin with. Therefore, they were not fully saved! Furthermore, these same unsaved people - when they return to their rebellion against God - will never be saved unless they accept Yahshua as their Savior, and allow His Spirit into their hearts. However, this cannot occur until they humbly accept their complete inability to be righteous and good without Christ's help. Unfortunately, in this modern world where self-esteem, self-worth, and self-empowerment are being claimed without a need for God, too many think they are self-sufficient, and already god-like, so they scoff at, and belittle anyone who says they need a Savior. We will explore this subject a bit more when we examine the Parable of the Sower, which shows that people have various levels of faith. Those whose faith remains without any depth are destined to spiritual ruin and destruction.

Another analogy Yahshua used to show that His disciples had to have faith in His sole ability to be righteous is found in Yahshua's reference to the Rock that the Church would be built upon:

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"Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus (Yahshua) answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father... in heaven. And... you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church...'" - Matthew 16:16-18 (NKJ)

It is important to note here that Yahshua was not just addressing Peter in the above passage of Scripture. He was actually addressing many of his disciples, which likely included most of the apostles (Matthew 16:13). In this passage, Yahshua used a parable-like allegory to indicate that the Apostle Peter would become one of the many living stones, or saints, who would make up Yahshua's Church. Yahshua's Church, made up of many people in different churches, would be united into one body by a shared belief in Peter's declaration that Yahshua is the Messiah, and the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16). Incidentally, God is often referred to as the Rock in the Old Testament (Genesis 49:24; Deuteronomy 32:4; 2 Samuel 22:2; Psalm 18:2, 19:4, 92:15; Isaiah 26:4). The fact that Yahshua was addressing all of his disciples is also made clear in the next sentence, for immediately after declaring that the disciples are the rock that Yahshua will build His Church upon, Yahshua said:

"And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." - Matthew 16:19 (NKJ)

Yahshua said this very same thing to a group of his disciples later on, as indicated in Matthew 18:1-18. During this discourse, it is clear that Yahshua was not speaking to Peter alone, but to all those who followed Him at that time:

"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." - Matthew 18:18 (NKJ)

Contrary to the false doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church, the Apostle Peter is *not* the foundation of the Universal Church of Christ! Rather, ***the disciples' faith in Yahshua as the***

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Rock is the real foundation of the True Church. Our shared belief that Yahshua is the Rock of our Salvation, and the Son of God is the glue that binds us together as the one True Church. This means that *all of the saints* have the ability to bind, and loose spiritual power to affect change on Earth as well as in heaven.

In the book of Exodus, Moses is recorded as having been ordered by Yahweh to strike a rock in the desert with his Staff so that water would gush out of it, and quench the thirst of the suffering Israelites (Exodus 17:5-6). In this Scripture, we see a direct correlation to Christ, and His giving of the Holy Spirit in the statement: *"Strike the rock and water will come out of it."* As was shown previously, we can see that the rock relates to Christ, who was struck for our transgressions upon the Cross, and the water relates to the Holy Spirit - who quenches our spiritual thirst. This means that - as Christ provides us with the bedrock support we need for our faith - the Holy Spirit fills us with the knowledge and love of Christ so we can live truly righteous lives.

This analogy of the Rock being Yahweh and Yahshua also alludes to the prophecy of the capstone that the builders (the Jews) rejected (Psalm 118:22; Matthew 21:42). Since then, however, people of every race, religion, and culture have rejected the same Capstone, and stumbled over the same Rock. ***Because they do not want to admit their powerlessness, Yahshua is the Rock that makes men stumble and the stone that makes them fall.*** No person can perform his or her own transformation into the holy, spotless, perfect, Spirit-filled being that Yahshua is. Until they admit their need for Christ, and ask Him to share His holiness with them, people are, and will remain, spiritually dead. Unless they accept Christ's sacrifice and ask Him into their lives, their fate is eternal separation from Yah, and they are destined to go to Hell.

Yahshua, in His role as Creator God, said:

"I am (He Yah) the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." - Rev. 22:13 (NKJ)

This same idea is echoed in the Book of Isaiah, where our Redeemer and King Yahshua is called the First and the Last, as well as the Rock, to show that He is an integral part of the triune God Yahweh:

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"This is what the Lord (Yahweh) says -- Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty (Yahweh Tsavout): 'I am the first and the last; apart from me there is no God (Elohim)... You are my witnesses. Is there any God (Eloah) besides me? No, there is no other Rock, I know not one.'" - Isaiah 44:6,8 (NIV)

In both preceding Scriptural passages, it is Yahshua in His role as our Creator who proclaims that He is the eternal God Yahweh. Saint Paul proclaims this same truth in the Epistle to the Colossians:

*"He has delivered us from the power of darkness... into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of... God, the firstborn over all creation. **For by Him (Yahshua) all things were created that are in heaven and... on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones... or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."** - Colossians 1:13-17 (NKJ)*

Quoted earlier as it appears in the New International Version of the Bible, this scriptural passage leaves no ambiguity as to Yahshua's identity. ***Yahshua acted on behalf of His Father to create all things.*** This means that Yahshua is the Creator God who has existed, and will exist, for all eternity. By being both our Creator and our Redeemer, Yahshua is uniquely qualified to reconcile all things to Himself through His Blood Covenant with us on the Cross. The most profound and remarkable mystery of our religion is that ***Yahshua was fully man, and died as one. Yet He is also Yahweh - our Rock, and our Redeemer.*** He is the holy, spotless Creator God who inhabited a flesh and blood body to become the only perfect sacrifice for sin. We will delve into the full meaning of His sacrifice, and what it truly means to us in Chapter Eight.

There are numerous examples in the Bible of Yahshua's use of elements in our natural world to describe Himself and His followers. Yahshua called His disciples the salt and light of the Earth. He referred to Himself through analogies to light, water,

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bread, and wine. He painted vivid word pictures of His relationship to His followers using such imagery as a shepherd and his sheep, a master and his servants, a farmer sowing seeds, a landowner with a vineyard, and a bridegroom coming for his bride. He revealed His own nature and the nature of good and evil by drawing analogies between them, and the natural processes in our world.

The Gospels show that, during Yahshua's ministry, He revealed spiritual truths with word pictures created using analogies to natural things like conception, birth and death, lamps and lamp stands, sheep and goats, grapes and vines, wine and wineskins, wheat from chaff, growing seeds, and sowing and reaping at harvest to convey deep spiritual truths. These analogies are found in the parables of Yahshua.

Parables – Spiritual Windows into the Mind of Yahshua

From all these comparisons it can be seen how personally and intimately involved Yahshua is with our way of life on Earth. ***He has taken nothing fore granted, proclaiming His will in every aspect of our lives and world!*** The parables of Yahshua are filled with examples of this. For instance, in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats found in the Gospel of Matthew (Chapter 25), Yahshua refers to those who willingly care for the poor, sick, and needy as the sheep who will enter His Millennial Kingdom. Conversely, He refers to those who don't care about the needs of others as goats:

“All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.” - Matthew 25:32-33 (NKJ)

Yahshua then explains that the sheep are those who truly wish to care for the needs of others, and who - by their selfless characteristics - have shown their right to dwell in His Millennial Kingdom, which will also be an everlasting one (Matthew 25:34-40). The goats, however, are doomed to Hell because of their selfishness (Matthew 25:41-46). But what makes this parable even more compelling, and unforgettable can come only with a shepherd's knowledge of the differences between sheep and goats. In today's

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world, not too many of us are familiar with the stark differences between these animals. But in Yahshua's day, the common people would have been well acquainted with the behavior peculiar to sheep and goats. This is what they would have known:

Though sheep and goats often graze together on the same pastures, have similar eyes, and emit similar sounds, they are very different from one another temperamentally. Unlike timid sheep, goats are very bold and brash. Goats are also far cleverer than the fairly dumb sheep that share their pastures. Sheep tend to be blind followers. They will follow their shepherd faithfully, even if it means plunging headlong to their deaths. In contrast, goats are wily creatures that aren't easily led. As a matter of fact, goatherds tend to *follow* the goats in their care rather than lead them! In addition, sheep are fairly docile creatures when not being provoked, but goats are bullies!

Goats sassily climb on top of, push around, kick, or bite the more docile barnyard creatures confined to the same pens with them. For example, I have personally witnessed a goat leap onto the back of a prostrate cow, and chew on her ears until the cow finally stood up to get the goat off of her back! This amazed me, but what surprised me even more was how that cow reacted. She could have easily run the goat through with her horns. Instead, however, the cow just shook her head almost as if in resignation as she lazily walked the other way.

Only when these animal traits are observed and understood can we hope to perceive what Yahshua is saying in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats. Since those who will be saved are referred to as sheep, then Yahshua considers the intrinsic nature of sheep to be a closer approximation of the traits that His righteous followers should have. His assignment of goats as reflective of the character of the damned is also quite telling. To be saved, we must follow Yahshua unerringly like sheep, even if it means we must die for our beliefs. We must be willing to admit that we are completely unworthy to lead ourselves, and we need Yahshua's guidance, love, and direction if we are to find everlasting life. Furthermore, we should be meek and mild-mannered like sheep in behavior if we are saved, for these are gentle qualities far more in keeping with the gifts of the Holy Spirit than being brash bullies like goats.

People who embody goats always want to lead. Goats walk or leap right over other barnyard animals in their way, just as

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overly ambitious people often do. They boldly and carelessly climb over people who get in their way on their climb up the success ladder. People who think they can find their own salvation through self-motivated good works also epitomize goats. They deny their need for the free gift of Grace, and therefore allow their pride in themselves to keep them from the very things they are striving so hard to attain. In this analogy between sheep and goats then, we have a powerful example of teaching spiritual truths through seemingly commonplace things.

Many parables utilize various aspects and objects of farming to convey great truths. These parables reveal Yahweh's desire to bless us with spiritual gifts that help us overcome our preoccupation with ego gratification, and the acquisition of physical wealth. One analogy Yahshua used, though not a true parable, reveals how many of us allow the concerns of everyday life to so overwhelm us that, even though we are saved from eternal hellfire, we are burdened down under a hellish weight of our own making. This is the crushing weight of despair and hopelessness so many fall victim to, causing even those who are saved to lose sight of Yahweh, and His ability to unburden us. Yahweh does not wish us to be slaves under a yoke of worldly oppression, but freed from our material and emotional burdens so that we can do the work He calls us to do without growing weary and faint. As Yahshua said:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest, Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." - Matthew 11:29,30 (NIV)

Here Yahshua is telling us that He did not come to burden us with rules, but to free us with His Spirit!

Faith and Love - Indispensable Weapons Against Evil

The Apostle Paul understood what Yahshua meant in using this analogy of the farmer's yoke on beasts of burden. He pictured us as oxen yoked to, and pulling around the heavy load of our earthly cares and worries. Without the freedom we have through