



Hanukkah And Our Great Persecution!

Today I'd like to speak about Hanukkah and our great persecution, because I think that it's very relevant to the persecution that our ministry is going through right now... and not only our ministry but many ministries who are teaching and preaching the truth of Gods Word.

During the time of Antiochus Epiphanies our Jewish brothers and sisters went through one of the most demonically inspired times in history.. and their persecution was much greater than what most of us face today, but I want us to understand something here today.

Persecution comes like a plague. It starts out like a cold or the flu if you will. First you may feel tired, then your nose may start to run, then your throat may become scratchy... and then you loose your voice and the fever comes and that cold or that flu begins to overtake your body, and brings you closer to death than you may have expected.

And this my friends is that exact same way that persecution begins. First it starts with Gods people arguing over what is and what is not found in the scriptures.. then it moves from there to people who turn away from the truth of the scriptures and start wondering off into the man made doctrines and the traditions, and the myths of men. Then it evolves into hatred and disdain for those who don't believe in the lie.

And like a snow ball it gains momentum, and it grows until persecution is no longer about an argument or a disagreement concerning scripture... it becomes a fight between those holding fast to scripture and it's truth...and those holding fast to mans created traditions, rituals, and myths.

And soon people are being murdered in the name of God... and most of the time the people who are doing the murdering are not murdering in the name of the one true God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob... but rather they wind up murdering in the name of another god... the god of this world with out even knowing it.

And should we be surprised at this? At least not if we read our scripture. Our Messiah told us that men would murder us and our children because they would think that they were doing God a service.

Joh 16:1 "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.

Joh 16:2 They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.

Joh 16:3 And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me.

Joh 16:4 But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

Joh 16:5 But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'

Joh 16:6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

Joh 16:8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

Joh 16:9 *concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;*

Joh 16:10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;

Joh 16:11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Joh 16:12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

Joh 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Joh 16:14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

There's a lot to grasp with in these few scriptures but it's important to understand at least three major points that our Messiah is trying to make here with in these scriptures.

Number one:

The deception will become so great that those who are being deceived will kill you and think that they are offering some kind of service to God the Father.. but in reality.. they only service that they will be offering will be to the god of this world.. who is our Fathers adversary.

Number two:

It's important to understand that Yahshua our Messiah had to go in order to be able to send the Ruach Hakodesh (also known as the Holy Spirit). Why?... why was it that our Messiah had to go in order to send his Holy Spirit?...

Because as a man trapped in a flesh and bone body he did not have the power that a "Spirit" has. He had to be transformed in order to be able to come to all of his people at the same time... and to dwell with in them.. and only an ordained by God spirit.. has the power to do that.. and we looked at this scripture just last week but lets revisit it for those who may be new:

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

Number three:

There were things that our Messiah wanted to say to his Apostles but he said that they could not bear them right now.. but he said that it would be his Ruach Hakodesh... his Holy Spirit that would guide them into all truth, and that this Ruach.. this Holy Spirit.. would declare to them the things that are to come.

Notice here he does not say that he's going to send you a man or a Pope, or a Pastor, or a Priest, or a Bishop, or a Church father does he?

And so here's my point.. You can not put your faith in a Pastor, Priest, Bishop, or Pope my friends. As a Pastor my job is not to teach you to have faith in me... it is my job to teach you to have faith in him.

I am nothing more than a road sign pointing the way to him. I am nothing more than a road sign. I am an usher if you will, who ushers Gods people into his sanctuary and seats them.

I do not ask that you have faith in me, or my ministry... but rather.. that you have faith in him... he who is my Messiah... our... Messiah.. because I want to live in his eternal kingdom with you.

A true man or woman of God knows what they are here for. And a true man or woman of God understands that their job is to build the body of the Messiah up for the work of ministry, and to usher them into the coming kingdom of our Messiah and nothing more.

Our Messiah says... that it will be his Ruach Hakodesh... his Holy Spirit... he himself... along with his father that will be dwelling in you... that will lead you to all truth, and would declare the things that are to come.

In Matthew chapter 23 verse 9 our Messiah commands us to call no man our "father" on earth because we have one father who is in Heaven.

And yet all day every day all people want to do is run to the wisdom of men, and their "church fathers". And because of this... those of us who point Gods people back to God are under attack, and the persecution that many of us face comes from principalities in high places that fool and deceive even the very elect because they forget who their one true instructor really is.

As we march on preaching and teaching the truth this Hanukkah season we are coming under more and more persecution, more and more false accusations are made against us... more and more people are being lead astray by the wisdom and doctrines of men than ever before.

And even though our ranks are growing in number... there are people who are continuously being destroyed for lack of knowledge because they continuously want to compare the scripture that we are teaching.. to the doctrines and myths of men.

Once again I must say that it is important for us to respect the knowledge of our adversary. Not to respect him himself... but his knowledge and ability to deceive. Our adversary wields his sword of deception well.. and is extremely cleaver in his dealings with Gods people.. always mixing truth with lies in order to seem right to the uneducated and the ignorant sheep who are not studied and not protected by the knowledge that comes only from the Ruach Hakdodesh of God.

I want to point to two examples of letters and postings that I have received just this week from those who are weak in the faith and are being lead astray by the doctrines of men.

First is a letter from a brother by the name of brother Barns:

Brother Barns Rebuke!

Dear Scott,

December 23 2016

It is with deep regret and sorrow that I must leave your ministry. I have learned more from you in the last few months than a lifetime of being in and out of denominational churches. I can only thank you for the truth that you have brought to light.

On occasion I have heard you say the Sabbath was on Saturday which bothered me greatly every time I heard you say it. I don't know how you have reached that conclusion since the Gregorian calendar is a Catholic

derived calendar along with every day of the week being named after a false god.

Didn't God say: "Exo 23:13 "Listen to everything that I, the LORD, have said to you. Do not pray to other gods; do not even mention their names." (Good News Bible).

SUNDAY, was named after the Sun god Apollo.

MONDAY, was named after the Moon goddess Diana.

TUESDAY, was named after the god Mars.

WEDNESDAY, was named after the god Mercury.

THURESDAY, was named after the god Jupiter.

FRIDAY, was named after the goddess Venus.

SATURDAY, was named after the god Saturn.

Since, we both know that the Gregorian calendar is obviously wrong then I must ask, what calendar do you recommend?

More specifically what calendar was used in Jesus day and should it be used today? Can you describe it so that I might follow it”

With a heavy heart I must say

Shalom.

Your brother in Christ

----- Barnes

Now... I want you to notice that brother Barnes believes that we should not speak the names of these other pagan gods just like it says in Exodus chapter 23: verse 13... and he just gets done chastising me for mentioning their names.. and what does he turn around and do?

He mentions every major pagan god that represents the seven days of the week doesn't he? So is brother Barnes serious about not speaking the names of these other gods or not? You decide.

As I read this letter there is no doubt in my mind that this brother has been indoctrinated by some mans doctrine rather than by the scriptures of our Father and his Ruach Hakodesh.

It greaves my heart to watch this happen to our brothers and sisters who simply refuse to read the scriptures for themselves and who continuously fall for every wind of doctrine that comes out of the mouth of men... and yet this was nothing new even for Paul and the Apostles back in their day:

Gal 1:6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—

Gal 1:7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

Gal 1:8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

Gal 1:9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

Gal 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Brother Barnes is under the influence of another gospel... contrary to the one we preach. Another gospel that he has heard preached by men who are also under the influence of another gospel.

What brother Barnes fails to realize is that even though the calendar itself has been manipulated by men and changed several times over... the days of the week have never been changed.

The only thing changed by these calendars is how many days are in a month or how many months in a year and so on and so fourth. The seven day cycle has never been changed.

And yes our days of the week have all been named after the sun gods of paganry but we did not do this.. the Roman Catholic church did this because she was birthed from the throws of the Roman empire who believed in the Hellenistic pagan deities named after the planets.

We did not name the days of the week my fiends but we are forced to use them because we are now in bondage in a world wide Babylon who is under the rule of the god of this world who is not the one true God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob.

And so when we read Exodus chapter 23 verse 13 that brother Barnes cites for us in his letter what do we find? Lets go explore this troubling scripture that has gripped our brother Barnes to the point of leaving the ministry.

Exo 23:13 "Pay attention to all that I have said to you, and make no mention of the names of other gods, nor let it be heard on your lips.

Now it seems as though we have a dilemma here doesn't it? So the question then becomes... are we not allowed to speak the names of other gods according to this scripture?

I would submit to you my friends that this is not what this scripture says... according to the original manuscripts that this translation was taken from... and I'll prove that to you as we move forward.

First of all... are the names of other gods mentioned in your Bible?

How about the name "Baal" is that mentioned in your Bible?

Would it surprise you to know that the name "Baal" is mention over 33 times in your bible?

Numbers 22:41.. Deuteronomy 4:3 .. Psalm 106:28 .. Hosea 9:10 .. Judges 2:12-13 .. Judges 3:7 .. Judges 8:33 .. Judges 10:6

And by the way the pagan gods "Asteroth" and "Aram" are also mentioned here in Judges 10:6... and I could go on and on and on. Tammuz, Aram, Moloch, Asteroth, all of them all have

their names written in the bible.

So if we are not to utter or speak the names of these fake pagan gods then how are we to preach the scriptures to our children?

So this creates a dilemma does it not? God our Father seems to say that we can not speak these particular names.. at least according to our English translations... but then he puts them in his scripture for us to read to our children. So something's wrong here isn't there?

We're not understanding something here are we? There should be red lights and flairs going up all around us... so what do we do?

We pray... and we ask for discernment... and then we put our hands to the plow and we ask... seek... and knock... we dig... and truth will be given to us.

How many of us know that Exodus 23:13 in our modern day English Bibles today is a translation from another language?

When you translate things from one language to another can things be translated incorrectly? Can things be distorted? It all depends on how educated the "Translator" is doesn't it? It all depends on how well the "Translator" understood not only the language... but also the culture that dictates how the language was used... doesn't it?

So because Exodus 23:13 does not seem to hold up to the other scripture in the Bible that clearly speaks the names of these other pagan gods.. we need to re-examine this scripture, and really put it under the magnifying glass.

First of all the word "Mention" in Exodus 23:13 was translated from the Hebrew word "zakar" which means to remember, or to recall, or call to mind or to make a memorial.

And the word "heard" was translated from the Hebrew word "Shama" which means to listen, and to obey.

So when we look at the original wording of Exodus chapter 23 verse 13... we find a very different message being given than the one presented in English translation don't we?

So in a more concise translation... what our father was telling us was not to remember or think about these gods and do not "shema" or obey the things that they say.

Do not commit these pagan gods to your memory and speak of them in a reverent manner.

It makes no sense that he would say don't speak these names and then put these names all

through out his scriptures. He wants us to know their names and what they represent because what they represent is evil. He simply does not want us to “shema” or obey the things they represent.

If we were not allowed to speak the names of other false pagan gods we could not teach our children what to watch out for, or why... and this is why our Father puts these very names in his scripture to identify them as evil so that we would know them for what they are.

So once again this scripture that we have in English does not really stand up the the test of what was given by our Father in the original Hebrew manuscripts given to us by Moses... does that surprise you?... Because it shouldn't.

How many times is the word “Lord” written in the Bible that is used to cover up the very name of our Father.. over seven thousand times they miss-translated his very name that he obviously wanted us to know.

As far as brother Barns last question goes:

Since, we both know that the Gregorian calendar is obviously wrong then I must ask, what calendar do you recommend?

More specifically what calendar was used in Jesus day and should it be used today? Can you describe it so that I might follow it”

Lets address this question:

First of all through out my years of study I have heard several different teachings on who has the correct calendar and why. There are about 40 calendars used in the world today mostly used for determining religious dates and times.

Obviously they can't all be right according to scripture... so what we're left with... is... scripture. Who is it that the scripture says has Gods calendar, and who is it that knows when his appointments, feast days, and Sabbaths are?

There is only one people who were given Gods calendar and that was The House of Israel. No other people were given his commandments, precepts, appointments, and Sabbaths also known as his “Oricals”.

Here's who Stephen in the 7th chapter of the book of acts says has Gods calendar:

Act 7:37 This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.'

Act 7:38 This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us.

Psa 147:19 He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and rules to Israel.

Psa 147:20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his rules. Praise the LORD!

Rom 3:1 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision?

Rom 3:2 Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.

And so it is that the scriptures tell us that only the Jews have the oracles of our Father and so it is that we accept the calendar that is used by the Jewish people that God gave them to.

And I know that all kinds of people have all kinds of calendars and even Michael Rood has his own calendar that he claims is better than the calendar used by most Jews, but the scriptures says that only they have it.

In the end no matter which calendar you think is right I would simply ask that you first take these things to your prayer closet, bow your head, bend your knee's and ask in the name of your Messiah for the discernment to understand these things before you decide.

Now.. with all of that being said...could brother Barns have known these things if he would have prayed for the discernment from our Father to know these things.. and if he would have put his hands to the plow and done a little digging, and a little studying?

Yes!... he could have... but he decided to listen to men rather than to God and was deceived. And this is how Gods people are destroyed every day for lack of knowledge... because they have rejected knowledge, and chose to follow after the wisdom of men.

By the way if you can't speak the names of pagan gods then you can't say “flower” either... because the word “flower” is derived from the Greek goddess “Flora”. Many of the English words that we use today are derived from the names of pagan gods my friends. So I just wanted you to think about these things as well.

It all goes back to the scripture and the discernment that comes from our Father and his son.

Sister Gemma's Rebuke!

Very quickly let me move on to another lost sister by the name of sister “Gemma” who has posted on our “Facebook” page that we teach lies.

And the reason she claims that we teach lies is because she has been taught by men... that the

writing of the historian Alexander Hyslop is a fraud and not true.

She believes that Christ-Mass, and Good Friday, and Easter, and all the rest of it are not pagan as we teach. In one breath she says that she's against Christ-Mass... but then refutes the facts that are written in the scripture.

My reply to her was that we as a ministry of Yahovah the one true God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob do not stand on the book of Alexander Hyslop... we stand on the truth of God given scripture.

And whether or not you choose to believe the historian Alexander Hyslop or not... what he has written can be found in several other history books including but not limited to... the Roman Catholic Encyclopedia.

And the pagan practice of Christ-Mass and dragging tree's into your home can be found with in the very scriptures of God himself!

So if you don't want to believe Alexander Hyslop... then fine. Do you believe the scriptures?

Jr 10:1 Hear the word that the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel.

Jer 10:2 Thus says the LORD: "Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them,

Jer 10:3 for the customs of the peoples are vanity. A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman.

Jer 10:4 They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move.

Now I have heard Pastors trying to refute this scripture any and every way that they possibly can. And I've even heard them proclaim that this only counts if you carve the tree into an idol.. but is that what it says? No it clearly does not.

The pine tree also known as the ceder tree or the "Asherah" tree... was always the chosen tree of paganism.. and we're clearly told that in the scriptures.

Deu 16:21 "You shall not plant any tree as an Asherah beside the altar of the LORD your God that you shall make.

Deu 16:22 And you shall not set up a pillar, which the LORD your God hates.

Deu 12:1 "These are the statutes and rules that you shall be careful to do in the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth.

Deu 12:2 You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every GREEN TREE.

1Ki 14:23 For they also built for themselves high places and pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every GREEN TREE.,

2Ki 16:4 And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every GREEN TREE..

2Ki 17:10 They set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every GREEN TREE.,

2Ch 28:4 And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every GREEN TREE..

Isa 57:5 Enflaming yourselves with idols under every GREEN TREE., slaying the children in the valleys under the cliffs of the rocks?

Jer 2:20 "For long ago I broke your yoke and burst your bonds; but you said, 'I will not serve.' Yes, on every high hill and under GREEN TREE. tree you bowed down like a whore.

Jer 3:6 The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah: "Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every GREEN TREE., and there played the whore?"

Jer 3:13 Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the LORD your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every GREEN TREE., and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the LORD.

Eze 6:13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when their slain lie among their idols around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, under every GREEN TREE., and under every leafy oak, wherever they offered pleasing aroma to all their idols.

Isa 14:5 The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of rulers,

Isa 14:6 that struck the peoples in wrath with unceasing blows, that ruled the nations in anger with unrelenting persecution.

Isa 14:7 The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into singing.

Isa 14:8 The cypresses rejoice at you, the cedars of Lebanon, saying, 'Since you were laid low, no woodcutter comes up against us.'

Isa 14:9 Sheol beneath is stirred up to meet you when you come; it rouses the shades to greet you, all who were leaders of the earth; it raises from their thrones all who were kings of the nations.

But sister Gemma rebukes what's written in scripture because some man told her different and she chooses to believe man over God.

Let me ask you this my friends... Do we need Alexander Hyslop to prove to us that green trees... the Cedar tree in particular were always used in pagan worship? Does the bible not tell us these things?

Does the Bible not clearly tell us that cedar trees were used for pagan worship and this angered our Father? Were we told this once...twice... five times...ten times... how many times do we need to be told?

So we don't need Alexander Hyslop to tell us these things do we? And was Alexander Hyslop right about these things? According to scripture yes he was... at least about this he wasn't he?

Sister Gemma even went as far as to post a video by a very young man who gives homage and praise to his teachers...not God the Father mind you... but his teachers in the very beginning of his video and then he proceeds to try and destroy the work of Alexander Hyslop because he and his teachers....can't find evidence of what Alexander Hyslop wrote about.

So he laughs and mocks what he does not know... apparently not knowing what is written in his own scriptures.

Now this young man is still very young and very ignorant about what the scriptures do and do not say and I must say.. at least he's trying... but he too... is being lead astray by men... why?

Because he gives praise to his teachers rather than giving praise to God. Where does his teaching come from? His teachers. And because he teaches things that they have taught him.. he is in error concerning the wickedness of the pagan holidays set forth by Catholicism and our Fathers adversary.

And because sister Gemma has decided to follow after this young mans teachings who received his knowledge from men rather than God... she too.. is now being deceived by the teachings of men rather than the scriptures of God our Father.

But she wants to make the conversation all about Alexander Hyslop you see... and this is the sword that she's using to fight her battle. We... on the other hand are using the sword of truth that comes from the truth, who is the light... the Messiah.

So... in the end as we move into the days of Hanukkah and we remember the power of the hand of our Father, and we work on re-dedicating our Temples back to him.. I want us to remember how important it is to stay focused on the truth of his Word and what it does and does not say.

And I want us to remember where our discernment comes from, and before we point our fingers at someone else lets make sure that we've studied to show ourselves approved to the best of our ability and that we've prayed for the correct understanding that only comes from God and not from men.

As we take the center candle that represents our Messiah... the shemash candle... and we light

the first candle on our Hanukkah's tomorrow evening... let us remember the importance of discernment, and just where it comes from.

Let us remember the light that has been given to us.. and where that light comes from... and let us shine that light for the world to see.

It is you and I that have the feet that bring the good news of the one true Gospel of our Messiah!

Rom 10:15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Rom 10:16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Rom 10:18 But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

Rom 10:19 But I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, "I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry."

Rom 10:20 Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me."

Rom 10:21 But of Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."

Pray today that we do not become a disobedient and contrary people in the eyes of our Father. Of course Paul was quoting from Isaiah chapter 52 verse 7 when he said this:

Isa 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Isa 52:8 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

We see him coming... and we refuse to be a disobedient and contrary people. Spend this seventh day Sabbath with him today and praise his Holy name and thank him for sending his only begotten son to be a propitiation for our wickedness.

Thank him for clothing us in white and washing away our sin with the blood of the lamb.

And so it is that I will leave you with one last word from our Messiah himself:

Joh 14:1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Joh 14:4 And you know the way to where I am going."

Happy Hanukkah everybody... let not your hearts be troubled...