

Born Again

Where will you be a thousand years from now?

You will be somewhere. You'll either be with G_D or apart from G_D. You see, there are only two destinies. The Bible is very clear about it. It's either that you will be with G_D - and that's eternal joy ... that's what the Kingdom is - or you will be separated from G_D; that's eternal judgment ... that's what hell is. **And if you're not sure that you're saved ... you're not sure you are going to be with G_D ... you're not sure that you are with G_D ... then you're probably not saved.**

And in all probability the prospect of death terrorizes you!

You might ask "well how does one get to be with G_D?" "How do I know that I'm saved?" Is it about being religious or being good enough? No. The Bible is very clear. It doesn't matter whether you're Catholic, or Protestant, or Jewish or whatever you are. How religious you are has nothing to do with it. **It is all about personal relationship and transformation that comes through faith in Mashíach Yeshua (Jesus the Christ)!** Just remember the ultra-religious Pharisees of Yeshua's day ... all of their pious outwardly facing actions did not account for much ... did it?

So ... how do you get saved? How do you know you can enter the Kingdom? How do you know where you will be a thousand years from now? Remember: if you're not sure - that means you're probably not saved. So listen closely. Here's what Yeshua says. There's only one way to be sure. There's only one way to enter and to know that you're saved. It's this: "You must be born again." ...

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Yeshua by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from Elohím: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except Elohím be with him. Yeshua answered and said unto him, Amen, Amen, I say unto thee, **except a man be born again; he cannot see the kingdom of Elohím.** Nicodemus saith unto him, how can a man be born when

he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Yeshua answered, **Amen, Amen, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of ELOHIM (G_D).** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again. ... And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: **That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For G_D so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For G_D sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of G_D.** And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. **But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in G_D.** (John 3:1-21)

So we see right in the Gospel of John where Yeshua reveals the truth that we must know. We must believe in Yeshua's saving power and grace. We must be born of water and Spirit ... and we must come into the light and walk no longer in darkness (sin).

But ... how does a person get reborn?

We hear directly from Yeshua once again ... **If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth;** whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. **He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.** Judas (not Iscariot) saith unto him, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? **Yeshua answered and said unto him, if a man loves me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word**

which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.** (John 14:15-27)

So we are saved by the power of Mashiach ... if we believe and display genuine faith in him ... if we walk in the light of obedience and turn our backs away from sin. If we believe that Yeshua is our only source of reconciliation and that He will deliver us from death! **Yeshua is the only way** ... the source of reconciliation and regeneration! It doesn't matter how bad your life has been. It doesn't matter how many sins you bare. It doesn't matter how good you think you are. **You must be born again.**

The Bible reveals that whoever will receive Yeshua will be saved. It begins when you receive Him, Yeshua, as Lord of your life. You receive Him. You follow Him. You receive Him as Lord and you ask for forgiveness of your sins. He'll cleanse you. He'll wash you. He'll begin a new life in you. He does all the work! The good news is He will not turn away anyone who comes. He says "Come to me and I will not reject you. I will receive you." But you need to be serious. It's not a game. It's receiving the Lord once and for all as your Lord; turning away from sins, turning away from the old life, turning away from following the old ways. Turning to Yeshua, The Eternal Word, and following what He has instructed us to do through His Holy Mitzvot or Commandments! Yes obedience will happen ... obedience must happen!

Without G_D you can never have peace. You can never have real meaning for your life. There's always going to be something missing and that's your heart saying "I need G_D." You have a heart beat right now. Take that as if the Lord were knocking on the door of your heart right now saying "Open up." That heartbeat can stop tomorrow. It's borrowed. It could stop today. And you know what? Once it stops you're only one heart beat away from eternity. That's it. Eternity is too long. And this life is too short. And the Lord would say to you right now "I love you. I gave my life for you. I overcame death so that you could be saved, so your sins could be forgiven, so you could be reborn, so you could regain your purpose and humanity, so you could serve the living G_D, so you can enter the Kingdom."

No one can enter the Kingdom without G_D's mercy. Sins have to be judged. G_D would say 'I didn't create you so you'd be judged. I created you so you could be saved to serve ME. Now I'm offering you the greatest gift, what you were born to receive, but it will mean nothing if you miss it.'

And he said unto me, these sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord G_D of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. ... And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. **And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.** For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. ...

I Yeshua have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, G_D shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: **And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, G_D shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.** ...

He which testifieth these things saith, surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Yeshua. The grace of our Lord Yeshua Mashiach be with you all. Amen. (Revelation 22:6-21)

Redemption, Separation, Temporal Renewal, Spiritual Indwelling, Sanctification and Salvation might be passing by you right now. The Lord would pass by and call to the disciples: "Follow me, Follow me." There is a choice. G_D is now passing by you saying "Follow Me." There's only one road and you know it. There's only one way and you don't

have it without being Born Again. You know there's something more and you know this is right. You need to come now to the Lord, to the one who made you and now is your moment. Don't let it pass you by because you may not have tomorrow and the other thing is your heart may not be open tomorrow and you could miss your own salvation; and there are only two roads. Let today be that day!

So if you're not sure you're born again that means you're probably on the road that leads to destruction. G_D doesn't want that for you and that's not His will for you. But you need to say "yes" because He won't force you. He is now offering you the greatest gift: Eternal Life and being Born Again. It happens right now and not only is it joy and not only is it blessings for eternity but the blessings begin now. You begin to have peace. You'll begin to have freedom from sin and from bondage. You'll begin to have the joy of G_D come into your life. You will lose that dreaded terrible fear of death. There's nothing greater than this!

A new birth means there is a new beginning in your life. That means you have to say 'the old is finished - I'm not going to follow the old way anymore. I'm not going to follow selfishness and sin and all that junk that I carried around and toiled in. I'm not going to be a slave to that any more. I am not going to keep in league with this temporal world and live my life according to its standards ... I'm following you, G_D. I'm following you, Yeshua, as my Lord.'

So right now the Lord is saying "Come to Me. Come to Me all you who are burdened down and I'll give you rest. Come, for I didn't create you to be judged. I created you to share in MY GLORY ... and now is the time. I gave you a heart beat. I gave you breath so you could come now. Don't miss your own salvation."

How do you become born again? The Bible says "If you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart. If you will follow Him you shall be saved." You can begin right now with a prayer. If you will open your heart to the Lord, receiving Him, accepting Him, making Him truly the Lord of your life, turning your life to Him, receiving Him into your heart, receiving forgiveness for your sins, and turning away from the darkness to the light, from now on, you will be born again ... He is faithful to finish what He starts!

#1 - It can start right now as you pray and mean it from your heart (there must be reconciliation):

“Lord, G_D... Hinei” (behold I am here). I open my heart and this moment, this day, I ask you to be the Lord of my life. I praise and thank you for loving me. Thank you for giving your life for me. Thank you for overcoming death so I could be saved ... be forgiven ... and be Born Again. This moment I ask that you be Lord of my life. I promise to make you Lord over everything. I will follow you from this moment on, all the days of my life. Wherever you lead I will follow. I will be your disciple and I will go as you lead me ... I will surrender everything to you. I will learn and perform the work of the Kingdom as Your servant.

Lord forgive me of my sins. Wash me, cleanse me, forgive me now and make me new from the inside out. I repent and I turn away from the darkness ... towards your eternal light. And now I seek to receive you Lord. I seek to receive your forgiveness. I seek to receive your cleansing, your washing, your love, your grace, your spirit and your presence. I seek to receive you deep into my heart and I seek to be with you always. Now lead me on. I will commit my life to you and I will follow you as my Lord and Savior and as my beloved Redeemer and the first one in my life.

And now Lord G_D ... as I prostrate before you in complete humility and helplessness, I thank you that by your promise and your word that I will receive you, as I have committed and dedicated my heart and life to you, as I have now made you Lord over my life and I have come to you ... I am now received into the kingdom. I'm redeemed ... separated from this temporal world ... adopted into Israel ... given a new lease on life! As I follow you, as your disciple, you will strengthen me and see that I am baptized in water ... you will lead me along the straight paths of righteousness in humble obedience ... you will come to me and will fill me with the Holy Spirit sealing me with the baptism of fire. You will keep from me evil as I work out my salvation in fear and trembling. You will conform me to your Holy image and likeness. I will wait with confident hope that in that day you will save me and transform me from corruptible into eternal perfection.

I will have eternal life and I'll be with you always if it be Your will ... I shall not fear. Thank you Lord. Thank you my Savior. And now I begin my new life with you. Lead me on as I follow

you with all my heart ... with all my mind ... and with all my strength for all the days of my life in the name of my Savior, in the name of Yeshua . Thank you. Amen.

#2 - Follow Him as He leads you. Just do it (There must be change in your life). Just go and start walking as He leads you and you're going to be blessed. You will understand what it means to walk in the protection of righteousness. Receive the baptism of water that represents your public profession of Yeshua in your life!

#3 - Pray. Talk to Him, from your heart, day to day - every day (There must be a continual relationship). You don't need to know how. Just pray from your heart to begin. Immerse yourself into His Word and Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) will assuredly pour out upon you and open your eyes. You will see truths like never before and wonder in amazement why you didn't notice them in the past. His Word is our direct communication vehicle with Him ... from His Word comes all that we need to LIVE!

#4 - And lastly fellowship together (You cannot do this alone and we are designed to get there together ... as a community). Find others who are serious, genuine and not simply religious. There are G_Dly leaders amongst us ... leaders that know the true path ... leaders that are devoted to shepherding His flock ... leaders that are preaching and living the true Gospel! The Gospel of redemption, salvation and purposeful living in accordance with the eternal Torah and Everlasting Covenant!

Ultimately going to the Church or Synagogue without being born again is not going to get it done according to Holy Scriptures! Here is what Yeshua says about the later days' church and those "religious" people who are not really born again in spirit.

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of Elohim; **I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.**

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. (Revelations 3:14-22)

And now for the rest of the story ... What can you expect?

To begin don't expect life to be all rosy and perfect ... in fact expect the opposite! The life of a true believer is indeed joyful and peaceful ... one can expect a serenity that is amazing ... but ... life in this temporal world is hard ... difficult.

Remember that the new life puts the believer in opposition to this world ... olam hazeh. The new life makes us enemies of this world order and its adherents. The world knew not and hated Yeshua first ... as such the believer can expect resentment ... resistance ... discord!

As a new member of Kingdom Israel ... expect to be received as an Israelite ... with dread ... suspicion and disdain! As Paul points out ... we are viewed as the garbage of this world. We represent an offense to their world order and their sense of wisdom, reason and ... their very lifestyle. Essentially we stand in opposition to this world order and the vast amount of people within it! And unfortunately this will often include people that we have been and are close to ... people potentially within one's own family!

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of G_D, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto G_D, which is your reasonable service. **And be not conformed to this world:** but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of G_D. (Romans 12:1-2)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. **Put on the whole armor of G_D, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of G_D, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the

breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of G_D: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and **watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints** (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. **For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.** (Matthew 10:32-39)

Our dear Lord declares what will be ... not what he desires for His followers. Belief in Mashiah Yeshua entails sacrifice and a mandate to set oneself apart from this world's systems. Consider for a moment what life will be like when you take on the blessing of honoring the sacred Shabbat ... from Friday sundown through Saturday sundown. As great a blessing as it is ... one should expect "issues" ... not always easy issues ... that will arise from being faithful!

The truth is being relayed herein not to dissuade anyone ... by no means ... but the life of discipleship, in the short term ... in this life, can and will be a test. Everything within olam hazeh is designed to resist the good will and purpose of G_D ... and so too will olam hazeh resist and tempt the children of the Kingdom.

So perhaps one is thinking that "wait a minute ... what do you mean to tell me that this is not going to be easy ... what do you mean that this new life is going to be wrought with trouble ... say it isn't so!"

Sadly the believer ... or purported believer also must be tried in the furnace of tribulation ...

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but endureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. **But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.** (Matthew 13:18-23)

We can see that there are four seeds ... 1) the one who hears but does not get it; 2) the one who gladly receives it but has no staying power ... they cannot handle the problems of walking a different path; 3) the one who is simply not willing to walk away from the lifestyle and systems of this temporal world; 4) the one who hears ... and gets it ... and is committed ... and through Mashiach produces the fruits of obedience and transformation.

Still further ... our guards must remain high ...

Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works! And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (lawlessness). (Matthew 7:21-23)

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Yeshua, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of G_D; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised); and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. **For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more**

sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under-foot the Son of G_D, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, a profane thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living G_D. (Hebrews 10:19-31)

Our Lord reveals that there will be purported believers that in their own minds, and perhaps in the eyes and minds of others, are walking the walk. But ... Mashiach makes clear that they are not operating under G_D's authority ... they are not submitting to G_D's will and plan ... they are not operating under the auspices of G_D's great plan which entails "knowing Him ... submitting to Him ... obeying Him ... loving Him!

Ultimately ... many are called and few are chosen! Ultimately the Good News Gospel is a call to all humanity but the Good News will only be genuinely received by those elected ... those chosen ... the remnant.

All this being declared however should only raise one's hopes because G_D has mercy on whom He desires ... there is always a chance that one may be "elect" ... and if you are hearing His call ... well you better listen up!

Finally let us keep in mind that your ultimate fate and or my ultimate fate changes nothing in the great picture! Regardless of outcomes G_D has gifted us with temporal life ... a wondrous gift on its own. But think about how great this only true G_D is ... that He would sacrifice so very much so that some will share with Him eternal life. He is awesome ... and even the wicked will testify to this in the end!

As for us ... let us grasp the moment if we already have not yet done so! If we have already ... let us consider our condition and walk ... and regardless of where we are at ... let everything that has breath praise G_D most high and His Mashiach Yeshua ... He is worthy!

Shalom Aleichem ... P. R. Otokletos