

FAITH

Shora Kuetu

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24 rue Charles Fourier, 91000 Évry Courcouronnes
Tel: 06 12 13 21 49
www.tv2vie.org

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INTRODUCTION

In these end times, many Christians are turning away from the biblical faith in favor of demonically inspired beliefs. Indeed, the apostasy foretold by the prophets has reached its climax, and a watered-down gospel stripped of all truth is being proclaimed throughout the world. So much so that many Christians don't even know what faith is. At the same time, those who submit to the truth are called misguided and rejected.

There is a crying lack of men and women of faith in our generation. People who, through their faith, live in the simplicity of the Gospel. People who live hidden in Yehoshua and refuse to be stars and idols. People who reject acclaim, accolades and publicity. "*They of whom the world was not worthy, lost in the uninhabited regions and in the mountains, and in the caves and in the holes of the Earth.*" (Hebrews 11: 38). People who want to imitate the men and women of faith of days gone by.

" And the crowds, having seen what Paulos had done, raised their voices and said in the Lycaonian language: Elohîms, having made themselves human-like, came down to us. And they called Barnabas Zeus, and Paulos Hermes, because it was he indeed who carried the word. Now the priest of Zeus who was before their city, having brought bulls and garlands to the gates, wanted to offer a sacrifice with the crowds. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paulos heard this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, shouting and saying: Men, why are you doing these things? We, too, are like-minded humans, proclaiming the Gospel to you, so that you may turn from these vain things to the living Elohîm, who made heaven

and earth, the sea and all things in them: Which, in past generations, allowed all nations to follow their own paths. And yet, he did not leave himself without witness, doing good, giving us rains and fertile seasons from heaven, filling our hearts with nourishment and joy. And though in saying these things, it was with difficulty that they kept the crowds from sacrificing to them." Acts 14: 11-18.

They were firm in their evangelical faith and refused the honors of men. They were crucified with the Lord and lived only for him. They were not attached to riches and they could say they had neither silver nor gold, but they had the Power of the Holy Spirit that freed people from the yoke of sin (Acts 3: 1-11). They could say to the rich, "... *may your money go to perdition with you, since you thought to acquire the gift of Elohîm with money!* " (Acts 8: 20). The men and women of faith of whom the Bible speaks were visionaries. They understood that material goods were not the real wealth.

" Now to you rich! Weep and wail over the misfortunes coming your way! Your wealth is rotten and your clothes are moth-eaten, your gold and silver are rusty, and their rust will be a testimony to you and devour your flesh like fire. You have accumulated wealth in the last days. Behold, the wages with which you frustrated the laborers who reaped your fields cry out, and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of Lord Tsevaot. You have lived in great luxury on Earth, you have given yourselves to a life of sweetness and luxury, and you have fattened your hearts as in a day of sheep destined for the slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the righteous without him resisting you." Yaacov 5: 1-6.

In our time, many people claim to be believers by taking the example of those who have gone before us. Yet when you examine their lives, they're far from biblical doctrine, far from sanctification,

far from the faith the Scriptures speak of. They love honors and acclaim, they love riches, they love to justify their sinful lives on the pretext of Elohim's love, they love to ignore teachings such as repentance, sanctification, hatred of evil... They love to have their ears tickled. Paulos had prophesied well about them, saying that they "**will not endure sound doctrine**" (2 Timotheos 4: 3). Well, here we are! We can speak in the present tense: "they do not support sound doctrine". They can't stand the Mashiah. Yet they believe in something, but their belief is not comparable to faith.

The difference between belief and faith

" Do you think Elohim is one? You're doing the right thing. The demons believe it too, and they tremble. " Yaacov 2: 19.

In this passage, Yaacov declares that the demons believe that Elohim is ONE. But we must not infer from this that the apostle teaches that unclean spirits have faith. In reality, all creatures (demons and humans) are believers. But this belief is purely intellectual, because to be considered a believer, it's enough to recognize the existence of a fact or event. Human intelligence is sufficiently dark (Ephesians 4: 18), and blind (2 Corinthians 4: 4) to let your imagination wander deeper into the darkness. And this intellectual "prowess" allows us to believe anything and everything. So they call themselves atheists and believe in the non-existence of the Creator. They declare loud and clear that their beliefs are based on Nothing. This means that their Elohim is called "Nothing". Others are firm believers in the big bang and the theory of evolution, convinced that their ancestors were apes. Still others attribute creation to extraterrestrials, etc. For their part, apostate Christians believe in a falsified gospel and the anti-mashiah. Religious people

of all stripes, on the other hand, believe that they will be saved because of the practice of their religion and customs... They all believe in something. But is it enough? Do their beliefs transform their lives? Do they recover from their illnesses? Are they delivered from their sins and demons? Do you know anyone who has been resurrected thanks to the theory of evolution?

" But some of the Jews, itinerant exorcists, undertook to pronounce the Name of the Lord Yehoshua on those possessed by evil spirits, saying: I conjure you by this Yehoshua that Paulos preaches! Now they were 7 sons of Sceva, a Jew and chief priest. But the evil spirit answering said to them: I know Yehoshua and I know who Paulos is. But who are you? And the man in whom the evil spirit was jumped on them, overpowering them one after the other with such force that they fled from that house naked and wounded. And this became known to all who lived in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, and a terror fell upon them all, and the Name of the Lord Yehoshua was magnified. " Acts 19: 13-17.

The seven sons of Sceva were believers. They were Jewish and sons of the chief priest, so they certainly trusted the Torah. They were even aware of demonic spiritual realities. What's more, they knew that the Lord's Name was powerful enough to deliver people tormented by unclean spirits. But that wasn't enough! Faith is not simply intellectual adherence to biblical doctrine. Indeed, one can even have perfect knowledge of the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 13: 2) without this knowledge being accompanied by faith. Faith enables the Gospel of Yehoshua to bear fruit in us: *" For the word of Elohim is living and effective, and more penetrating than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow. And it judges the thoughts and intentions of the*

heart " (Hebrews 4: 12).

Faith takes us from judged to unjudged, from dead to alive, from one kingdom to another, from sinners to sanctified, from lost and condemned to saved and justified... Faith gives us access to the life of Elohîm within us. It cannot therefore be compared to mere intellectual adherence which, as its name suggests, is confined to a very small part of the human being: his intellect; whereas faith in Yehoshua revolutionizes the individual in body, soul and spirit.

CHAPTER 1: WHAT IS FAITH?

There are three types of faith: faith as a gift, faith as the fruit of the Spirit, and faith as synonymous with the Gospel.

Faith, a gift of the Spirit

" *For to one is given indeed by means of the Spirit the word of wisdom, but to another the word of knowledge, according to the same Spirit, but to another **faith** by the same Spirit...*" 1 Corinthians 12: 8-9.

Faith, fruit of the Spirit

" *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, **faith**, gentleness, self-control.*" Galatians 5: 22.

Faith, synonymous with the Gospel

" *Now I was unknown in face to the assemblies of Judea who are in the Mashiah, but they had only heard: He who once persecuted us **now preaches the faith** he once destroyed. And they glorified Elohîm because of me.*" Galatians 1: 22-24.

(See also Hebrews 11).

Faith is the trust that a human being places in Yehoshua ha Mashiah following the revelation of the Word. This trust is a true and profound commitment of mind and heart. And this adherence is not optional; having faith in Yehoshua is a commandment. This means that not having faith in Yehoshua is a sin. Indeed, Elohîm's will is: " *that all humans be saved and come to a precise and correct*

knowledge of the truth." (1 Timotheos 2: 4). It's obvious that not doing Elohim's will is a sin.

" And this is his commandment: that we believe in the Name of his Son Yehoshua Mashiah, and love one another, according to the commandment he gave us." 1 Yohanan 3: 23.

" He who believes in the Son of Elohim has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe Elohim makes him a liar, because he does not believe the testimony Elohim has given concerning His Son. " 1 Yohanan 5: 10.

I/ DEFINITION

The first mention of faith towards our Lord is with Abraham, the father of faith. It says that Abraham "(...) **believed** in YHWH, who reckoned it to him as righteousness. " (Bereshit 15: 6). In this verse, the word believe comes from the Hebrew *aman* meaning "to support", "to confirm", "to be faithful"... This passage is taken up by Paulos in Romans chapter 4 verse 3: " *For what does Scripture say? Abraham **believed** in Elohim and it was counted to him as righteousness. "* Here, the verb to believe, *pisteuo* in Greek, can be defined as "to think to be true", "to be persuaded of", "to give credence to", "to place one's trust in", "to have confidence in".

*" Now when Yehoshua heard it, he was astonished, and he said to those who followed him: Amen, I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such great **faith**. "* Matthaios 8: 10.

*" Now faith is **the substance** of things hoped for, **a conviction** of things not seen "* Hebrews 11: 1.

In these passages, the Greek word *pistis*, translated as faith, can be defined as "a conviction of the truth", "belief", "faithfulness", "foolproof faith"...

A/ Substance or foundation

First, there is the substance or foundation of the things hoped for:
*"Now faith is **the substance** of things hoped for..."*

Substance, *hupostasis* in Greek, can be defined by the terms "foundation", and "trust" or the expressions "be real", "which has actual existence", "substantial quality", "firm assurance" ... According to the dictionary, a substance designates "any matter of which a thing is formed", but also "the essential content of something". And according to the Centre National de Ressources Textuelles et Lexicales (CNRTL), it's "the profound nature, the foundation" or "what constitutes the content, the matter of something".

A foundation can be defined as "the basis, the essential element on which everything else rests"; the "principles on which a system is based"; and also the "solid reason that supports the reality of something, justifies it" (Dictionary).

From these definitions, we can retain these few principles about faith:

- Faith is the foundation of things hoped for.
- Faith is the basis of hope.
- Faith is the essential element on which the things we hope for are based.

- Faith is the principle on which the things we hope for are founded.
- Faith is which must justify the things we hope for.
- Faith is that which gives matter to the things we hope.
- Faith is the content of the things we hope for.
- Faith is the profound nature of the things we hope for.

In short, faith is the foundation, the ground, the substance, the base, the essential element, the principle, the justification, the matter, the content, the profound nature... of the things we hope for.

It's easy to see why some miracles depend on the faith of those who approach the Lord. In the Gospels Yehoshua often said: "*Let it be done to you according to your faith*" (Matthaios 8: 13; 9: 29; 15:28...), for what we hope will be done to us rests on the faith we have in the Lord's ability to hear us and bring these things about.

*" And a woman who had been losing blood for 12 years, and who, having spent all her wealth on physicians, had not been healed by any, approached from behind and touched the hem of his garment. **Immediately the blood loss stopped.** And Yehoshua said: Who touched me? When all denied it, Petros and those with him said: Master, the crowd around you presses you, and you say: Who touched me? But Yehoshua said: Someone touched me, **because I know that a force came out of me.** And the woman, seeing that she had not remained hidden, came trembling and, falling down before him, declared to him before all the people for what reason she had touched him, and how she had been instantly healed. But he said to her: Take courage, my daughter. Your faith saved you. Go in peace.*" Loukas 8: 43-48.

This woman " *said to herself: If only I touch his garment, I will be saved* " (Matthaios 9: 21) and a force came out of the Lord and healed her immediately. This means that when we place our faith in Yehoshua, certain things we hope for are automatically given to us.

B/ Things we hope for

The things we hope for are many and varied. It can be healing, deliverance, resurrection, the salvation of our loved ones, the awakening of our cities, our countries... but it can also mean conceiving a child like Sarah and Abraham, splitting the sea in two like Moshe, stopping the rain like Eliysha, winning wars like David, closing the mouths of lions like Daniye'l... There are no limits. All these things are within the reach of the Almighty. Through faith, we regain the ability to dominate that YHWH entrusted to Adam and Chavvah. We can have dominion over animals, over the earth's elements and over our own lives. For our life itself is one of those things that must have faith as its substance and foundation.

" The just shall live by faith. But if anyone withdraws, my soul takes no pleasure in him " Hebrews 10: 38.

"Behold, the soul of him who exalts himself is not upright in him, but the righteous shall live by his faith ". Chabaquwq 2: 4.

The word live, *zao* in Greek, means "to live", "to breathe", "to be among the living (not dead)", "to live a true life", "one worthy of the name", "way of living and acting"... The word live in Hebrew, *chayah*, includes resurrection (coming back to life, finding life again, reviving), healing (coming out of illness, discouragement,

weakness), eternal life and giving life... *Chayah* and *zao* thus teach us that life is not simply the fact of not being dead, it is also the health of the body, resurrection, eternity and the fact of living a life worthy of the name, i.e. a life dedicated to serving Elohim. And this life must have faith as its substance and foundation. This substance is unshakeable.

But for these things to materialize in our lives, it depends on the faith we associate with them. Elohim made us a promise: " *And whatever you ask in My Name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son* " (Yohanan 14: 13). All you have to do is believe, for: "(...) *If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.*" (Markos 9: 23), without doubt: " *Amen, for I tell you that whoever says to this mountain: Be taken away and thrown into the sea, and who has not doubted in his heart but who believes that what he says will happen, what he says will be done for him. Therefore I say to you: Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and it will be yours.* " (Markos 11: 23).

C/ Conviction or proof

Secondly, faith is the conviction or proof of invisible things: " *...a conviction of those we cannot see* ".

A conviction is called *elegchos* in Greek and translates as "proof", "that by which a thing is proved or attested", or "conviction", (certainty based on clear evidence).

According to the dictionary, evidence is "the material element (contractual document, attestation) that demonstrates, establishes or proves the truth or reality of a factual or legal situation". It can also

be defined as "a being or thing which, by its very existence, bears witness to the reality of something". For its part, the CNRTL defines proof as: "fact, testimony, reasoning likely to establish irrefutably the truth or reality of (something)".

The Scriptures contain hundreds of witnesses, testimonies, facts and documents whose purpose is to "irrefutably establish" the veracity of Elohim's word and the reality of his existence.

Witnesses and testimonials

*" And we are **witnesses to all the things he did, both in the land of the Jews and in Yerushalaim. They killed him by hanging him from a tree. Elohim raised him on the third day and gave him the power to manifest himself by appearing, not to all the people, but to the witnesses chosen beforehand by Elohim, to us who ate and drank with him, after he had risen from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that it is he who has been appointed by Elohim, judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him, that whoever believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his Name.** " Acts 10: 39-43.*

*" There appeared a man, sent from Elohim. His name, Yohanan. **This one came as a witness, to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but he was the witness of the light.** " Yohanan 1: 6-8.*

*" Now many of the Samaritans of that city **believed in him because of the word of the woman who had borne witness: He told me everything I did.**" Yohanan 4: 39.*

" *So are we, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses* " Hebrews 12: 1.

(See also Acts 18: 5, 23: 11, 28 : 23; Yohanan 1: 34, 3 : 11).

Facts

" *But I have a greater testimony than Yohanan, for the works that my Father has given me to do, these very works that I do, testify of me that it is my Father who sent me.*" Yohanan 5: 36.

" *Elohîm confirming their testimony by signs, and wonders, and divers miracles and distributions of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will* " Hebrews 2: 4.

Laws and writings

" *You search the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and it is they that bear witness of me.* " Yohanan 5: 39.

" *But now, without the Torah is manifested the righteousness of Elohîm, the Torah and the prophets bearing witness to it.*" Romans 3: 21.

" *And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the inhabited earth, for a witness to all nations, and then shall the end come.*" Matthaios 24: 14.

(See also Yohanan 21: 24).

D/ Things you can't see

The Creator

" *For the wrath of Elohim is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of humans who hold back the truth in unrighteousness, because what can be known of Elohim is **manifest** among them, for Elohim has manifested it to them. **For his invisible things, but also his eternal power and divinity, are clearly seen from the creation of the world in his works when we reflect on them, so that they are inexcusable** " Romans 1: 18-20.*

Among the things we can't see, we can include: invisible things, eternal power, the divinity of Elohim. But when they "materialize" or "act" through his works, his creation, that's when we see them. " *For we are his workmanship, having been created in Yehoshua **Mashiah** for good works, which Elohim prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*" (Ephesians 2: 10). Christians as new creatures (2 Corinthians 5: 17) are proofs of things not seen and therefore of the existence of the Lord. It is faith that gives us access to this new creation. Our faith is proof of the reality of invisible things.

" *By faith we understand that the ages have been set in order by the word of Elohim, so that the things that are seen come from those that are not exposed to sight.*" Hebrews 11: 3.

The light

" *The people who walked in darkness see a great light, and the light shines on those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death. " Yesha'yah 9: 1.*

" There appeared a man, sent from Elohim. His name, Yohanan. He came as a witness, to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but he was the witness of the light. " Yohanan 1: 6-8.

Eternal life

" And the life has been manifested, and we have seen and bear witness, and we proclaim to you the eternal life that was toward the Father and has been manifested to us. " 1 Yohanan 1: 2.

Spirit, water and blood

" There are also three who bear witness on Earth: the Spirit, the water and the blood, and these three relate to one." 1 Yohanan 5: 8.

The celestial army

" The servant of the man of Elohim arose early in the morning and went out. And behold, an army surrounded the city with horses and chariots. The servant said to the man of Elohim: Ah! My lord, how will we do it? He replied: Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more numerous than those who are with them. Eliysha prayed and said: Please, YHWH! Open his eyes so he can see. And YHWH opened the servant's eyes and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire around Eliysha." 2 Melakhim 6: 15-17.

By opening our spiritual eyes, the Lord allows us to see the invisible things of His eternal Kingdom, and our gaze is fixed on Him. Indeed, true faith leads us to have a heavenly Hope, which is Yehoshua.

*"Paulos, apostle of Yehoshua Mashiah according to the mandate of Elohim, our Savior and Lord, **Yehoshua Mashiah our hope.**" 1 Timotheos 1: 1.*

And that has consequences for the way we look at things on earth. Indeed, the moment the Lord opens our eyes, a change in our view of the riches of this world takes place.

" For it is in hope that we are saved. But the hope we see is no longer hope, for what we see, why should we still hope? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it diligently and patiently, with perseverance. " Romans 8: 24-25.

In this passage, Paulos teaches us that the hope we see or earthly things are no longer our hope.

Let us imitate Moshe, whose faith in YHWH led him to regard the treasures of Egypt and his position as prince as mud, because he considered the opprobrium of the Mashiah as true wealth.

*" By faith, Moshe, now great, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing to be mistreated along with Elohim's people, rather than enjoy sin for a time. **Esteeming the opprobrium of the Mashiah as a wealth greater than the treasures of Egypt** for he was looking farther ahead, towards remuneration. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's fury, for he stood firm, as seeing him who is invisible " Hebrews 11: 24-27.*

Let us be imitators of Paulos, who regarded the things of this world as loss, as excrement "because of the excellence of the knowledge of Elohim".

*" But these things that were an advantage to me, I looked upon as a loss because of the Mashiah. On the contrary, I even consider all things to be a loss **because of the excellence of the knowledge of Mashiah Yehoshua**, the Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things, and consider them as the excrement of animals, in order to gain Mashiah, and be found in him, having not my own righteousness, that which comes from the Torah, but that which is through faith in Mashiah, the righteousness that comes from Elohim through faith, so as to know him and the power of his resurrection and the communion of his sufferings, becoming conformed to him in his death, to arrive indeed, by whatever means, at the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already received this or am already made perfect, but I run to grasp it, and for this also I was grasped by the Mashiah, Yehoshua. " Philippians 3: 7-12.*

And these things that we must consider a loss are not limited to material wealth, but they also concern the rank we occupy in this world or wished to occupy.

So we understand that faith is the affirmation, the guarantee, the formal promise that something is true, certain and safe. Faith materializes, makes tangible, establishes the reality and truth of invisible things. But not in vain. Firstly, this characteristic of faith drives the Christian to persevere despite the struggles. For by being on earth, he can access spiritual things. Secondly, it serves as evidence against those who reject the faith. It is because these invisible things are perfectly visible that they are inexcusable and that Elohim's wrath will manifest itself against them. Here we have everything needed to reach a verdict in a court case. There is a cloud of witnesses, testimonies, facts, laws and documents amassing on this earth that will serve as evidence against the unbelievers at their

judgment.

II/ THE SOURCE OF FAITH

*" For whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how will they call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how will they believe in the one they haven't heard of? **And how will they hear, without someone preaching?** But how can we preach if we are not sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim the Gospel of peace, of those who proclaim the Gospel of good things! But not everyone obeyed the Gospel. For Yesha`yah says: Lord, who believed what he heard from us? **So faith comes from what we hear, and we hear by means of the word of Elohim.** But I say: Didn't they hear it? On the contrary! Their voice went out through all the earth, and their word to the ends of the inhabited earth. " Romans 10: 13-18.*

" But these things are written so that you may believe that Yehoshua is the Mashiah, the Son of Elohim, and that by believing you may have life through His Name." Yohanan 20: 31.

A/ The word of Elohim

1. *The source and the means*

*" So faith **comes** from what we hear, and we hear by **means of the word of Elohim.** " Romans 10: 17.*

The English word for "comes" is derived from the Greek *ek*. This preposition expresses an origin (point from which the action or movement proceeds), "from", "outside" (of a place, time, cause.). The Greek word for "by means of" is *dia*. It also means "through",

"the reason why something is done".

According to this passage, only the word of the Lord, revealed in the Bible, is THE SOURCE and THE MEANS given to humans to have faith. All other sources and means used to communicate faith must be rejected, because they cannot produce it.

We understand that biblical faith is spiritual, because it is intimately linked to the word of Elohim, which is both its source and the means used to transmit it. But the word is Spirit and Life.

*" It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is useless. **The words I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.** " Yohanan 6: 63.*

2. The inefficiency of other sources

Today, many churches use sources and means other than the proclamation of the Gospel to reach souls. Believing they are doing the right thing, many Christians draw their inspiration from the world to bring human beings to Elohim. So, to reach young people, many singers do rap, rock, pop and all kinds of dance. Other believers use elements of worldly culture: films, paintings, plays, novels... to reach out to the people of the world. Just as the formalism to which many churches adhere (buildings, vestments...) has no force and cannot be a valid source and means of communicating the faith. You will find in these churches many believers, many followers of legalism and formalism, many Christians who have abandoned the Gospel to cling again to Moshe's Torah, but very few genuine Christians.

Faith can only be generated by the word of Elohim. So you mustn't

use human methods or means to convince people of their sinfulness. Only the proclamation of the word of truth produces conviction and faith.

" And my word and my preaching were not in persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of Spirit and power, so that your faith would not be in human wisdom, but in the power of Elohîm. " 1 Corinthians 2: 4-5.

B/ Spiritual ears

1. The gates of faith

" He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies! " Apokalupsis 2: 7.

Let's also note that the Lord says seven times, and this for each Church in Revelation: *" He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies ".*

The ears are therefore the doors to faith. This means that to have faith, you must already have had the opportunity to hear the Word. As we know, not everyone who hears the Word is converted: *" For we too have been evangelized in the same way as these. But the word they heard was of no avail to them, because they were not mixed in faith with those who heard it. " (Hebrews 4: 2).*

" When someone hears the word of the Kingdom and doesn't understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what is sown in his heart it's the one who received the seed along the way. And he who was sown on stony ground, he is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; but he has no root in

himself and he stands only for a time and, as soon as tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. And he who received the seed among the thorns, is he who hears the word of Elohîm, but in whom the cares of this age and the seduction of riches choke the word and make it barren. But the one who has received the seed in the good soil is the one who hears the word and understands it. And indeed it produces fruit, one 100, one 60, one 30." Matthaïos 13: 19-23.

According to this parable, the word is a seed. But every seed has a vocation to develop and bear fruit. To do this, it must find fertile, good soil, i.e. the willing heart of the human being. When the word is spoken, it reaches the hearts of ALL human beings, whatever their attitude and however they respond to the Lord's call. This means that the seed of the Word is powerful enough to save by faith all human beings who hear it. Simply because no heart can remain indifferent to it. However, the Lord makes us understand that despite His will to save all the descendants of Adam and Chavvah, the seed of the word produces faith in only a quarter of those who hear it.

So what is the difference between the one who hears and has faith and the one who hears and has no faith? What is good soil?

" *Listen to Israel! YHWH, our Elohîm, YHWH is one* "Devarim 6: 4.

Here, the verb to listen, *shama* in Hebrew, means "to hear", "to listen", and "to obey". In Greek, the verb to hear (*akouo*), found in Matthaïos chapter 13 verse 9 (" *He who has ears to hear, let him*

hear! "), takes on the meaning of the ability to hear: "not deaf", "to perceive by the ear what is announced before us". It also means to understand: "to consider what is or has been said", "to perceive the meaning of what is said", "to learn by listening", "to lend an ear to a teacher", "to assimilate". These definitions show that hearing has a triple meaning: hearing, understanding and obeying. Moreover, the Lord specifies that the one who has received the seed in the good soil is "the one who hears the word and understands it". To understand in this passage is *suniami* in Greek, and this term means: "to put or bring together", "in a hostile sense: of combatants", "to adapt perception with the thing perceived", "to arrange or join together in the mind". So, the one in whom the word produces faith is the one who disposes his heart so that it may be good fertile soil watered for the seed. He hears and inclines his heart to the understanding and obedience of the word. He doesn't just listen, because he's not just a listener or a spectator, he's an actor... He hears, understands and obeys.

" If you make your ear attentive to wisdom and incline your heart to understanding, yes, if you call discernment to you and give your voice to understanding, if you seek it like silver and carefully search for it like treasures, then you will know the fear of YHWH and you will find the knowledge of Elohim. " Mishlei 2: 2-5.

What's more, through the term *suniami*, we understand that the authentic Christian fights to keep his word. He doesn't let the Evil One snatch away what has been sown in his heart, he doesn't let persecutions and tribulations cause him to stumble, and he doesn't let the riches and cares of this world choke the seed.

" It's not every man who says to me: Lord! Lord, who shall enter the

kingdom of heaven but he who does the will of my Father in heaven! Many will say to me on that day: Lord, Lord, is it not in your Name that we have prophesied? In your name we cast out demons? In your name we have performed many miracles? And then I'll tell them openly: I never knew you. Withdraw from me, you who work for the violation of the torah! Therefore, whoever hears these words from me and does them, I will liken him to a prudent man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the rivers came, and the winds blew and rushed upon this house: and it fell not, because it was founded upon the rock. But whoever hears these words from me and does not put them into practice will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. And the rain came down, and the rivers came, and the winds blew and beat against this house. And it fell and its ruin was great." Matthaios 7: 21-27.

Obedience to the word of Elohim is an indispensable condition for entering the Kingdom, and therefore for being saved. But it's impossible to do the Lord's will when the word is falsified. It must therefore remain in the Bible as he pronounced it, i.e. without alterations, additions or deletions. But also that it remains in the hearts of the saints in all its veracity.

" For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy in this book: if anyone adds to them, Elohim will add to him the plagues written in this book. And if anyone subtracts anything from the words of the book of this prophecy, Elohim will subtract his share from the book of life, from the holy city and from the things that are written in this book. " Apokalupsis 22: 18-19.

" Beloved, I do so with all haste in writing to you concerning our common salvation, I have found it necessary to write to you in order

to exhort you to fight for the faith which was once for all given to the saints." Yehuda 1: 3.

Faith (synonymous with the Gospel, sound doctrine) was given to the saints once and for all. All the revelations we need to know the Creator's will for us are to be found in the Bible. This means that there are no other books that would complete the word of Elohim contained in the Bible (from Bereshit to Apokalupsis). Any teaching, any other book that is placed on the same footing as or above the Gospel of Yehoshua must be rejected.

" Yehoshua therefore said to the Jews who believed in him: If you abide in my word, you will truly be my disciples. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Yohanan 8: 31-32.

So it's very important to fight for the source of faith to be preserved in all its veracity, because without the word there is no faith, and there is no freedom either. The Bible must therefore be treasured. That's why, when Yehuda saw the danger of introducing the ungodly into the assemblies, he decided to write a letter to encourage the saints to take a stand for the truth. The ungodly, of whom he spoke, changed the grace of our Elohim into bridleless lust, and denied the only Master Yehoshua Mashiah, our Elohim and Lord. These impious people murmured and mocked continually. They complained about their lot, they walked according to their lusts, they uttered swollen words, they admired others for the sake of profit. They also questioned the word of Elohim, in particular the Lord's promise of his parousia: "*But you, beloved, remember the words that were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Yehoshua Mashiah. Who told you that in the last time, there will be scoffers, walking according to their ungodly*

lusts. These are the ones who separate themselves, animals that do not have the Spirit." (Yehuda 1: 17-19). " Knowing above all this: that in the last days scoffers will come, conducting themselves according to their own desires, and saying: Where is the promise of his parousia? For since the fathers died, all things remain permanent as from the beginning of creation. " (2 Petros 3: 3-4). Even today, the doctrine of the Lord's imminent return is rejected by thousands of Christians. This is why the saints are called to take a stand for all biblical truths, including the promise of the Lord's parousia.

" Fight the good fight of faith, seize eternal life, to which you too have been called and for which you have made a beautiful profession in the presence of many witnesses." 1 Timotheos 6: 12.

Unfortunately, very few Christians take a stand for the faith, for sound doctrine. Whether in the assemblies or in their families, they say nothing when they see members of their entourage leading a life of sin, adopting behavior foreign to the word of Elohim or simply progressively distancing themselves from the Lord. On the other hand, many fight wars to defend their shepherds. Instead of saying "the word says...", thousands of Christians say "my pastor said...". They are therefore more attached to the creature than to the Creator. So they defend their denomination, their church and their tradition, instead of defending sound doctrine. Whereas a Christian must be a fighter for the biblical faith. If he finds himself in an assembly where the Gospel is not preached, where sound doctrine is rejected, the true Christian must leave there at once. For the saints gather around the Name of the Lord who and his word (Matthaios 18: 20; Apokalupsis 19: 13) and not around the name of their pastor, assembly or religion.

So only those who hear the word, understand it, put it into practice and fight to keep it, have faith. They're not smarter, they're not richer, they're not less sinful, they're not better than the other people in this parable... But they've made their hearts good soil, well-disposed for the Lord's seed. They have a will: they hear about salvation and they want to be saved, whatever it takes. They hear about the Lord and they want to know him, whatever it takes.

2. Keep an eye on your ears

Ears are the doors to faith precisely because the ear is a door to the heart. We hear with our ears and understand with our heart according to Matthaios chapter 13 verse 15: "*For the heart of this people has grown fat, and with their ears they have heard with difficulty, and they have closed their eyes lest they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and be converted, and I should heal them.*"

You have to watch your ears to avoid fattening your heart. Indeed, you are the consequence of what you listen to. That's why you have to be careful what you hear and listen to.

Judging

By listening to bad words and criticisms of others, you'll end up judging them before you've heard them (Yohanan 7: 51). Your judgment of people can be altered by unhealthy, nasty comments made about them. If we have two ears and one mouth, it's to listen twice before speaking.

" He who responds to a speech before he has heard it, does an act of folly and attracts confusion. " Mishlei 18: 13.

Disobeying Elohim

" He said to Adam: Because you listened to the voice of your wife, and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, saying: You won't eat it! The ground is cursed because of you! It is in pain that you will eat it all the days of your life." Bereshit 3: 17. (See also Bereshit 16: 2).

Getting lost

" Blessed is the man who does not walk according to the counsel of the wicked, who does not stand in the way of sinners or sit in the assembly of scoffers " Tehilim 1: 1.

You need to keep an eye on your ears to:

Don't retreat when the Lord speaks

" Adonai YHWH has given me the tongue of a disciple, so that I may know how to support the weary with words. **Morning after morning, he awakens, awakens my ear to listen like a disciple. Adonai YHWH opened my ear and I was not rebellious, nor did I retreat backward.** " Yesha'yah 50: 4-5.

Do not seek doctrines pleasing to the flesh

" For there will be a time when they will not endure sound doctrine, but loving to have their ears tickled, they will heap up teachers according to their own desires." 2 Timotheos 4: 3.

Keep your ears from getting lazy

"... being called of Elohim to be high priest according to the order of Malkiy-Tsédeq. On this subject, we have a great discourse and difficult to explain, because you have become lazy of ears ". Hebrews 5: 11.

III/ CONSEQUENCES OF FAITH

" **Being therefore justified on the basis of faith**, we have **peace** with Elohim, through our Lord Yehoshua Mashiah. By means of which we also have access through faith to this **grace** in which we stand firm, and we glory in **the hope of the glory of Elohim**. And not only that, but we glory even in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance trial, and **trial hope**. Now **hope** doesn't make you ashamed, because **the love** of Elohim is poured into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, Mashiah died at the right time for the ungodly. For hardly anyone will die for a righteous person, but for what is good, perhaps someone even dares to die - but Elohim shows his love for us, since, while we were still sinners, Mashiah died for us. All the more reason, then, now that **justified** by his blood, we shall be **saved from wrath** by his means. For if, being enemies, we have been **reconciled** with Elohim through the death of his Son, how much more, being reconciled, will we be saved by his life. And not only that, but we even glory in Elohim by means of our Lord Yehoshua Mashiah, through whom we have now obtained the **reconciliation**. Therefore, just as through one human being sin entered the world, and through sin death, so also death spread to all humans, through whom all sinned. For until the Torah, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no Torah. But death reigned from Adam to Moshe, even over those who had not sinned by a transgression similar to Adam's, who is the figure of the one to come. But this is not the case with **gift of grace** as it is with sin. For if, through the fault of one, many have died, how much more has the grace of Elohim and the gift of grace of one human being, Yehoshua Mashiah, been poured out abundantly on many. And the gift is not as by means of one who has sinned, for,

*from a single fault, judgment indeed results in condemnation, whereas from many faults, the gift of grace results in an act of righteousness. For if by the fault of one, death reigned by means of that one, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life by means of Yehoshua Mashiah alone. And so, just as all human beings were condemned through a single sin, so all human beings are justified and given life through a single righteousness. For just as through the disobedience of one human being, many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one, many will be made righteous. Now the Torah came in complement so that sin might multiply, but where sin multiplied, grace overabounded, so that, as sin reigned in death, so grace reigns by means of righteousness to lead to **eternal life**, by means of Yehoshua Mashiah our Lord. " Romans 5.*

Reading this chapter of Romans, we understand that faith in Yehoshua's sacrifice has produced a multitude of consequences: justification, peace with Elohim, hope of Elohim's glory, trial, love, reconciliation, and of course eternal life. But there is also **the fear of the Lord**: " *By faith, Noah, having been divinely warned about things not yet seen, **feared** and built the ark for the salvation of his family. And by it he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith "* (Hebrews 11: 7). **Understanding spiritual things**: " *By faith we understand that the ages have been set in order by the word of Elohim, so that the things which are seen come from those which are not exposed to sight. "* (Hebrews 11: 3). **A favorable testimonial**: " *For by it the elders obtained **the testimony**."* (Hebrews 11: 2). Or becoming **pleasing to the Lord**: " *Now it is impossible to please him without **faith**, for he who approaches Elohim must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him. "* (Hebrews 11: 6) ...

A/ Salvation

1. The goal of faith: salvation

" (...) *obtaining the salvation of your souls which is the goal of your faith.* " 1 Petros 1: 9.

The word "goal" comes from the Greek *telos*, meaning "end" and "that by which a thing ends". This means that genuine faith automatically leads to the salvation of the soul and eternal life. Thanks to Yehoshua's sacrifice, we enjoy total redemption: deliverance from sin, the law, human beings, demons, Satan, the world and death. And this redemption is a grace from Elohim, it was acquired when the Lord gave his life on the cross, more than two thousand years ago. By faith, each person has the possibility of obtaining this salvation.

" *For you have been saved by grace through faith. And it's not from you, it's Elohim's gift. This is not from works, so that no one may boast.*" Ephesians 2: 8-9.

" *But what does it say? The word is close to you, in your mouth and in your heart. This is the word of faith we preach. Because if you confess with your mouth the Lord Yehoshua, and believe in your heart that Elohim raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*" Romans 10: 8-10.

" *For Elohim so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*" Yohanan 3: 16.

" *Amen, amen, I say to you: Whoever hears my word and believes*

him who sent me has eternal life and does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. " Yohanan 5: 24.

(See also Yohanan 6: 40 and 6: 47, Colossians 2: 12).

The walk to heaven

" All these died in faith, not having obtained the promises, but they saw them from afar, and were persuaded and greeted them, and confessed that they were strangers and sojourners on Earth. For those who speak like this show that they are looking for their homeland. And if they had indeed kept in mind the one from which they had come, they would have had time to return. But now they want a better one, a heavenly one. Therefore Elohim is not ashamed to be called their Elohim, because he has prepared a city for them."
Hebrews 11: 13-16.

Our final destination must be heaven, the heavenly Yerushalaim, eternal life. But the path we've taken includes several stops representing trials and struggles. Authentic faith produces perseverance. And we're not going to stop until we've reached our goal. Our terminus is salvation. A person whose faith's goal is heaven won't give up in the face of difficulties, won't stop along the way, but will keep on walking. Just as Kaleb and Yehoshua never stopped walking in the desert, because their goal was Kena'an, the image of heaven. Just as the pioneers didn't stop exploring the American continent just because they found gold. In the same way, we must not stop walking until we have reached our destination.

" But we are not of those who withdraw to be lost, but of those who have faith for the acquisition of their souls." Hebrews 10: 39.

2. The goal of belief: the treasures of this world

Unfortunately, many who call themselves Christians are more attached to the treasures of this world than to eternal life. This is why in many congregations the goal of belief is material goods, positions in the congregation or in the world, or the pursuit of relationships, whether friendly or sentimental. And when these Christians get the things they desire, they stop walking.

*" Now if it is preached that Mashiah rose from the dead, how do some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if there is no resurrection of the dead, Mashiah also has not risen. **And if Mashiah has not risen, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith too is in vain.** And even we are false witnesses on Elohîm's part, for we have testified to Elohîm that he raised Mashiah, whereas he did not raise him, if indeed the dead do not rise. But if the dead do not rise, neither has Mashiah. **And if Mashiah has not risen, your faith is vain, and you are still in your sins, so those also who have fallen asleep in Mashiah are lost. If it is in this life only that we have hoped in Mashiah, we are the most miserable of all humans.** " 1 Corinthians 15: 12-19.*

Eternal life is a reality. Also, those who forget this reality and have hope only for the visible things of this earth, cannot claim to have faith. For faith produces in us a desire for eternity.

*" He made everything beautiful in its time. **And so he put eternity in their hearts,** yet without human beings being able to understand from beginning to end the work Elohîm has done." Qohelet 3:11.*

" For what good is it for a human being to win over the whole world, if he loses his soul? Or, what would a human being give in

exchange for his soul? " Matthaios 16: 26.

B/ Works of faith

1. Faith, the work of Elohim

The greatest work the Lord produces in us is faith in Yehoshua, our Savior. This work is the basis or root of all other works.

*" So they said to him: What must we do to accomplish the works of Elohim? Yehoshua answered and said to them: **This is the work of Elohim, that you believe in him whom he has sent.** " Yohanan 6: 28-29.*

"Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in Elohim, believe also in me." Yohanan 14: 1.

*" And he said: It is because of this that I have told you that no one can come to me, unless it is **given to him from my Father.** " Yohanan 6: 65.*

(See also Yohanan 6: 37, 44, 45).

We have seen that there are three types of faith: faith as a gift of the Spirit, faith as fruit and faith as a synonym for the Gospel. All three proceed from the Spirit of Elohim. But salvation and faith are also works of the Creator. Consequently, it is impossible for our works to save us, since the Lord has already accomplished everything. So all we have to do is accept Elohim's work in its entirety and let ourselves be saved without resisting.

" We therefore believe that the human being is justified by faith,

without the works of Torah." Romans 3: 28.

So it's totally pointless to seek salvation by doing any kind of work, because we can't be saved through them. Thousands of Christians believe that they are saved and approved by Yehoshua thanks to their life of prayer, fasting, offerings, membership of any assembly, miracles or spiritual gifts they perform, or even thanks to their ancestors (Yohanan 1: 12-14). Instead of enjoying the grace of Elohim that keeps us humble, they exhaust themselves uselessly "working". The Lord accepts us because of the sacrifice of his Son Yehoshua, and then by obedience to his word. The salvation of the soul cannot be acquired by works; it is a gift from the Lord. Works flow from faith, which is a gift of grace. Only faith in Yehoshua ALONE saves. Only one man died and rose again, and his name is Yehoshua ha Mashiah: "***And there is salvation in no other, for there is no other Name under heaven, given to humans, by which we must be saved.***" Acts 4: 12.

" Those who say to me: Lord! Lord! not everyone will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day: Lord, Lord, is it not in your Name that we have prophesied? In your name we cast out demons? In your name we have performed many miracles? And then I'll tell them openly: I never knew you. Depart from me, you who work for the violation of the Torah! " Matthaios 7: 21-23.

(See also Romans 3: 21-31; Romans chapter 4; Romans 9: 32).

2. Works, the gift of Elohim

Authentic faith produces *works* to the glory of the Lord.

" For we are his workmanship, having been created in Yehoshua

Mashiah for good works, which Elohim prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. " Ephesians 2: 10.

" For it is Elohim who works in you both to will and to do for His pleasure. " Philippians 2: 13.

The works that the Lord has prepared in advance for His children are His works. Indeed, they are simply the manifestation of the saints' obedience and Elohim's love for human beings.

Works as a sign of obedience to Elohim

Works are only a direct manifestation of our obedience to the Lord (Matthaios 25: 14-30). Therefore, we are useless slaves because we are content to do what He asks of us (Loukas 17: 7-10).

Works as a manifestation of Elohim's love

Works are intimately linked to love, as the fruit of the Spirit (Matthaios 25: 31-46) Indeed, a person animated by the love of the Mashiah cannot remain indifferent before the sufferings of others (Loukas 10: 30-37). " *But he who possesses the good of this world, and sees his brother in need, and closes his bowels to him, how does the love of Elohim abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word, nor with tongue, but in deed and in truth.*" (1 Yohanan 3: 17).

" For in the Mashiah Yehoshua, neither circumcision nor foreskin has any value, but only faith, which works by means of love." Galatians 5: 6.

The verb to operate, *energeo* in Greek, means "to be operative", "to

be at work", "to act powerfully". In other words, faith works powerfully through love. It is love that gives power to faith. Besides, love is greater than faith: "*Now these three things remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of the three is love.*" (1 Corinthians 13: 3). What's more, faith without love is useless: "*Even if I have prophecy and know all mysteries and the knowledge of all things, and even if I have all faith to the point of moving mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing*" (1 Corinthians 13 : 2).

" Amen, amen, I say to you: He who believes in me will do the works that I do, and greater works than these he will do, because I am going to my Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in my Name, I will do it." Yohanan 14: 12-14.

If we are led to do greater works than those of the Lord, they can only be based on great love. For what were the works of Yehoshua?

Works based entirely on this premise: "*For Elohim so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For Elohim did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.*" (Yohanan 3: 16-17). The Lord's works are designed to save the world.

The passage from Yohanan chapter 14 verses 12 to 14 shows that there is a link between the works we must perform and the fulfillment of our requests. Indeed, works must be motivated by love for Elohim and our desire to obey Him. That's precisely why we've been promised that our prayers will be answered. Because

these requests, these things we hope for, are motivated by Elohim's love for our neighbor, which is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Love motivates the things we hope for, and faith materializes them.

" Now the end of the commandment is the love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience and sincere faith " 1 Timotheos 1: 5.

3. Faith without works is dead

*" My brethren, what will it profit anyone to say he has faith, if he has not works? Can this faith save him? And if a brother or sister is naked and lacks each day's food, and one of you says to them: Go in peace, warm up and get your fill! And if you don't give them the things they need for the body, what good will that do them? In the same way, faith, if it does not have works, is dead in itself. But someone will say: You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without works, **and I will show you my faith through my works.** Do you think Elohim is one? You're doing the right thing. The demons believe it too, and they tremble. But do you want to know, O vain man, **that faith without works is dead?** Wasn't Abraham, our father, justified on the basis of works, when he offered his son Yitzhak on the altar? You can see **that faith worked with his works, and that it was through his works that his faith was made perfect?** Thus is fulfilled what the Scripture says: Abraham believed in Elohim, and it was counted to him as righteousness, and he was called a friend of Elohim. So you see, human beings are justified by works, not by faith alone. And was not Rahab, the prostitute, also justified by her deeds, when she received the messengers and sent them away by another route? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.*

" Yaacov 2: 14-26.

As we've seen, there's a wealth of witnesses, facts, deeds and documents to prove the existence of invisible things. But our faith is proven by the works we do. Works perfect and testify to our faith and our belonging to the Kingdom of Elohim. The Lord himself declared that the works he did bore witness to him: "*Yehoshua answered them: I told you and you don't believe me. The works I do in my Father's Name bear witness of me.*" (Yohanan 10: 25). A fortiori, the works we do testify to who we are and that we belong to the Lord. Indeed, how can you tell the difference between a true Christian and someone who is Christian in name only, if not by their works? It's easy to declare loud and clear that we love Elohim. But does the Lord himself bear witness to us by prodigies and miracles and fruits? Does the love we profess materialize in concrete deeds?

C/ Proven faith

The dokimos

The Greek word *dokimion*, which can be translated as "proof", "that by which a thing is proved" or "control" (Yaacov 1: 3; 1 Petros 1: 7) is a term used exclusively for faith. Its root is *dokimos*, meaning "accepted" (especially for coins), "pleasant", "acceptable".

In the time of the apostle Paulos, today's banking systems didn't exist, and all money was made of metal. To produce the coins, the metal was melted and poured into molds, and after demolding, the burrs had to be removed. However, many people scraped them to recover the excess metal and even more, which distorted the weight of the coin. Faced with this problem, numerous laws were enacted in Athens to eradicate the practice of trimming circulating coins. There were, however, a few honest money changers who only circulated coins of the correct weight. These people were called "Dokimos", meaning "tested" or "approved". Referring to these

people, Paulos exhorted Timotheos as follows: " *Strive to present yourself **approved before Elohim**, a workman who has nothing to be ashamed of, **who correctly teaches the word of truth.** " (2 Timotheos 2: 15). Christians whose faith has been approved because it has been tested are therefore "dokimos". This means that faith must absolutely pass through trials to be authenticated. And one of those tests is to continue to teach the word of truth correctly.*

Gold

The faith of these dokimos can be compared to gold that has to pass through fire to be purified. Gold melts at 1064 degrees centigrade and boils at 2808 degrees centigrade.

The Lord asked the assembly at Laodicea to buy from him gold melted and purified by fire (Apokalupsis 3: 18). But this gold is not to be confused with the gold to be found in the world. For this gold tested by fire is Yehoshua himself: " *Lay the gold in the dust, the Ophir among the rocks of the streams, and Shaddai will become your gold, your silver and your wealth.* " (Iyov 22: 24-25). Gold from the Isle of Ophir (meaning abundance, wealth or free from ashes) was the most prized gold in the time of King Shelomoh, who, as an extremely wealthy king, possessed it (2 Hayyamim dibre 9: 10). This gold was so renowned that King Yehowshaphat built ships to fetch it (1 Melakhim 22: 48), without success. Gold from Ophir was also used to adorn queens (Tehilim 45: 9), which just goes to show how popular it was. And yet, the Lord asks us to cast him into the dust and among the rocks of the torrents. If we renounce the love of worldly riches, then YHWH will become our gold (Philippians 3: 7-8).

The fire

Yehoshua is the gold that was tested by the fire of the cross (Hebrews 5: 7-10). He is also the devouring fire (Yesha'yah 33: 14; Hebrews 12: 29).

Fire also represents trials: "*In this you exult, even if now, since it is necessary, you are for a little while afflicted by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, much more precious than gold that perishes, but is tested by means of fire, may be found a subject of praise, honor and glory, at the revelation of Yehoshua Mashiah.*" (1 Petros 1 : 6-7).

This fire is necessary for the sanctification of the saints, for it is the means the Lord uses to rid us of dross.

" I will put this third into the fire and purify it as silver is purified, I will test it as gold is tested. He will call on my Name and I will answer him. I'll say: These are my people! And he will say: YHWH is my Elohim. " Zekaryah 13: 9. (See also Bamidbar 31: 22-23).

Fire also symbolizes the persecutions that true Christians suffer because of their faith (2 Timotheos 3 : 12). This is why we must consider persecution for Mashiah's sake as wealth (1 Petros 4 : 1).

" Beloved, do not be shocked that there is fire in your midst for your temptation, as if something new were happening to you. But rejoice that you share in the sufferings of the Mashiah, so that when his glory is revealed, you will rejoice and exult. If you are insulted for the Name of the Mashiah, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and Elohim rests upon you. He is indeed blasphemed by them, but glorified by you. Indeed, let none of you suffer as a murderer,

or a thief, or an evildoer or as meddling in the affairs of others, but if as a Christian, let him not be ashamed of it, but glorify Elohim with that portion. Because this is the time when judgment begins in the house of Elohim. But if it is first through us, what will be the end of those who rebel against the Gospel of Elohim? And if the righteous are saved with difficulty, he who is ungodly and a sinner, where will he appear? Therefore also, let those who suffer according to Elohim's will, surrender their souls to him, as to the faithful Creator, doing good. " 1 Petros 4: 12-19.

Fire also evokes the Lord's judgment: *" Now the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. And on that day, the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the fiery elements will be dissolved, and the Earth with the works that are in it will be burned up completely. Since all these things are thus dissolving, what people you should be in holy conduct and piety, awaiting and hastening the parousia of Elohim's day, because of which the fiery heavens will be dissolved and the fiery elements will melt away! But according to his promise, we await a new heaven and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells " 2 Petros 3 : 10-13.*

" Therefore, in one day her plagues will come: death, mourning and famine, and she will be consumed by fire, because he is mighty, the Lord Elohim who judges her." Apokalupsis 18: 8.

(See also Matthaios 3: 10, 5 : 22, 13 : 42, 25 : 41; Hebrews 10: 27).

Going through the fire of trials can take a non-metaphorical turn. Indeed, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were thrown alive into the furnace of blazing fire because of their faith (Daniye'l chapter 3). But they were delivered by the Lord and demonstrated to all that the Elohim of Abraham was the One True Lord. Like these men, we

must defend the word of the Lord, regardless of what human beings say or threaten us with. We live in a time when the truth has all but disappeared, which is why those who have received the authentic faith must stand up for sound doctrine!

The consequences of faith through fire

- Perseverance: "knowing that the proof of your faith produces perseverance" Yaacov 1 : 3.
- Praise, honor and glory: 1 Petros 1 : 6-7.
- The manifestation of Christian works : 1 Corinthians 3: 13-15...

IV/ THE CONSEQUENCES OF FAITH IN THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

" By faith, Abraham being called, obeyed, to go to the land he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith, he sojourned as a stranger in the land of promise, dwelling in tents with Yitzhak and Yaacov, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was waiting for the city that has foundations, the city of which Elohim is the architect and builder. By faith, too, Sarah herself received the strength to conceive a posterity, and she gave birth out of age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore also from one, and who was already attained to death, came forth people like the stars of heaven, in multitude, and like the sand that is on the shore of the sea that cannot be numbered " Hebrews 11 : 8-12.

A/ Abandoning idolatry to meet Yehoshua

1. Abandoning idolatry

" *Yehoshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shekem, and summoned the elders of Israel, its leaders, judges and commissioners, who appeared before Elohim. Yehoshua said to all the people: Thus says YHWH, the Elohim of Israel: Your fathers, Terah, father of Abraham and father of Nahor, formerly dwelt on the other side of the river, **where they served other Elohim**. But I took your father Abraham from the other side of the river, made him go through all the land of Kena'ân, multiplied his posterity and gave him Yitzhak "*. Yehoshua 24: 1-3.

In this passage, Elohim reveals to Yehoshua that He asked Abraham to leave Mesopotamia because of idolatry. So Abraham, our father, was an idolater before Elohim revealed himself to him as the only Lord. He dwelt in a land infested with demonic forces, for Babel is the lair of all unclean birds, hence of all demons (Apokalupsis 18 : 2). In this region, humans worshipped several divinities, including the Babylonian Trinity. But Abraham obeyed Elohim and "*he set out without knowing where he was going*". Abraham is the father of faith, we must walk as he walked, and abandon idolatry, trinities, foreign divinities. This means that to have faith is also to distance oneself from idolatry. And when you get out, you can't stop, you can't look back...

" *And I heard another voice from heaven saying: Come out of her, my people, so that you do not share in her sins and receive a share in her plagues "*. Apokalupsis 18: 4.

" *Yes, all peoples walk, every man in the name of his Elohim, but we*

walk in the Name of YHWH, our Elohim, forever and ever ".
Miykayah 4: 5.

2. Meet the true Elohim

Along the way, the father of faith will meet Yehoshua. For example, in Bereshit 14, after the victory over Kedorlaomer, Malkiy-Tsédeq goes to meet him, offers him bread and wine and reveals to him El Elyon, the Most High. That is, the El who is above all other deities. The wine is the blood, and the bread is the flesh of Yehoshua, according to Yohanan 6. So Abraham drank the blood and ate the flesh of the Lord. He cannot be the father of faith without having been a participant in the Passover. This means that he has seen Yehoshua.

" *Abraham, your father, rejoiced that he would see my day. **He saw it and rejoiced.*** " Yohanan 8: 56.

B/ Rejecting wealth

" *And the king of Sodom went out to meet Abram, who was returning victorious from Kedorlaomer, and the kings who were with him, in the valley of the plain, which is the royal valley. Malkiy- Tzedek, king of Shalem, brought out the bread and wine. He was a priest of El Élyon. He blessed him and said: **Blessed be Abram by El Élyon, Possessor of Heaven and Earth.** Blessed be El Élyon, who has delivered your enemies into your hands! **He gave him a tithe of everything.** The king of Sodom said to Abram: **Give me the people, and take for yourself the riches.** Abram answered the king of Sodom: **I raise my hand to YHWH, El Élyon, Possessor of Heaven and Earth: I will take nothing of all that is yours, not even a thread, nor a sandal cord, so that you will not say: I made Abram***

rich. Nothing for me, only what my servants have eaten and the share of the men who came with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre, who will take their share." Bereshit 14: 17-24.

One of the many consequences of the encounter with Elohim is the refusal to exchange souls for riches. On the contrary, Abraham had understood that everything belonged to YHWH, to El-Elyon, the owner of heaven and earth. He also understood that the value of worldly goods cannot be compared to the value of souls.

C/ Be a role model

*" Listen to me, you who pursue justice and seek YHWH! Look to the rock from which you were hewn, to the cistern hole from which you were drawn. **Look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah who bore you!** ! For he alone I have called, I have blessed and multiplied. "* Yesha'yah 51: 1-2.

Abraham was a model. He left his mark on his generation and on the Hebrew people as a whole, since centuries after his death, Elohim asked the Jews to look to Abraham. He is also our model, for he is as much the father of the circumcised as of the uncircumcised (Romans 4 : 1-12). Abraham is aptly named the father of faith, for that is precisely what he was: a father. Abraham's life is remarkable for its family aspect. The Bible describes his relationship with his wife, his nephew, his children... He was a man deeply attached to his family, which is why when he answered Elohim's call, he went out of Charan with his family.

" Now YHWH had said to Abram: Go for you, out of your land, out of your country, and out of your father's house, to the land I will

show you. I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you, and all the families of the soil will be blessed in you. Abram went, as YHWH had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Charan. Abram also took Sarai, his wife, and Lot, his brother's son, with all the property they had acquired, and all the people they had acquired in Haran. They went out to go to the land of Kena'ân, and they came to the land of Kena'ân. " Bereshit 12: 1-5.

His relationship with Sarah was based on mutual submission. Indeed, we notice that when he asked Sarah to do something, she did it. But on the other hand, when Sarah made a request, Abraham responded favorably. Contrary to what one might think, he didn't rule over his wife like a despot. Moreover, when they disagreed, it was the Lord himself who decided.

" Sarah saw Abraham's son, Hagar the Egyptian, laughing. And she said to Abraham: Cast out this maid and her son, for this maid's son will not inherit with my son, with Yitzhak. This word displeased Abraham greatly because of his son. But Elohîm said to Abraham: May it not displease your eyes, because of the boy and your maid. Listen to Sarah's voice in all the things she tells you, for it is in Yitzhak that your posterity will be called by your name." Bereshit 21: 9-12.

As for his children, he had foresight and worked to leave them a legacy. In the case of Lot, we note the gentleness with which he put an end to the conflict between their respective servants, and the speed with which he took the decision to go and deliver him from

the hands of the ungodly kings.

To have faith is to walk like Abraham, being a model for your spouse, your children and the rest of your family. To have the faith of Abraham is to take care of one's own.

"But if anyone does not care for his own, and especially for those of his family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

" 1 Timotheos 5: 8.

D/ Proven faith

" By faith, Abraham being tested, offered Yitzhak. He who had received the promises offered even his only son, to whom it had been said: It is in Yitzhak that your posterity will be called. He believed that Elohim could even rise from the dead. That is why he also found it in a parable." Hebrews 11: 17.

Abraham's faith is to love the Lord above all else: "*Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*" (Matthaios 10 : 37) and obey Elohim in all circumstances, even if what he asks us to do causes great suffering.

To have the faith of Abraham is to have a tested and approved faith, so that the Lord's promises are fulfilled in the life of the believer.

CHAPTER 2: THE ENEMIES OF FAITH

" When anyone hears the word of the Kingdom and does not understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what is sown in his heart: he is the one who received the seed along the way." Matthaios 13:19.

From the moment a person hears the Gospel, he or she will be the target of several attacks designed to prevent the word from producing fruit in his or her heart. The enemy's aim is therefore to extinguish the faith of Christians, but also to prevent others from entering the Kingdom of Elohim. These attacks on faith concern believers and non-believers alike. But some of these obstacles to faith are not the work of demons, but are simply due to the hardening of the human heart. For example, many men and women like to debate and reason about a lot of things. In faith, debate and reasoning are to be avoided: *"O, Timotheos, guard that is committed to your trust, shunning discussions of vain, useless and profane subjects, and oppositions of falsely named knowledge. **For having professed it, some have strayed from the faith.** Grace be with you! Amen!"* 1 Timotheos 6 : 20-21.

*"We overthrow **reasonings** and every haughtiness that exalts itself against the knowledge of Elohim, and bringing every thought captive to the obedience of the Mashiah. "* (2 Corinthians 10: 5). Indeed, reasoning leads people to overthink instead of acting. Those who reason seek to know everyone's position and opinions before acting, for fear of disappointing those around them. Paulos did not seek to please people, but to please Elohim (Galatians 1 : 10), which

is why he didn't waste his time on reasoning or crazy, pointless discussions.

A Christian must therefore guard and protect himself against the enemy's attacks. But he must also protect himself from himself, watching over his heart, his tongue, his intentions... so as not to lose his faith.

I/ DISBELIEF

The Greek word *apistia* can be translated as "unfaithfulness", and "unbelief". It expresses a "weakness in faith", but also "the absence of faith". *Apeitheo*, a term found in Yohanan chapter 3 verse 36: "*He who believes in the Son has eternal life, but he who rebels against the Son will not see life, but the wrath of Elohim abides on him.*" means "unwilling to be persuaded", "refusing to believe", "refusing to obey", "being rebellious". Unbelief is therefore a sin, which can be deliberate, and which can reach such severity that the person affected can blaspheme against the Holy Spirit.

*" However, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away. Because if I don't leave, the parakletos won't come to you. But if I go, I'll send him to you. And when he has come, he will convince the world of sin, righteousness and judgment: **about sin indeed, because they do not believe in me** " Yohanan 16 : 7-9.*

Christian unbelief

Among Elohim's children, disbelief manifests itself when speech exceeds understanding:

" Finally, he was manifested to the eleven themselves while they were at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen him raised." Markos 16: 14.

" And Yehoshua said to them: Amen, amen, I say to you: Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in yourselves. (...) He said these things in the synagogue, teaching in Capernaum. **So when many of his disciples heard this, they said: It's a hard word! Who can hear it?** But Yehoshua, knowing in himself that his disciples murmured about it, said to them: Does this scandalize you? If then you see the Son of Man ascending where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is useless. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. **But there are some among you who do not believe.** For Yehoshua knew from the beginning who were those who would not believe, and who was the one who would betray him. And he said: For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is given to him by my Father. **From then on, many of his disciples went away to the things that were behind and walked no more with him.**" Yohanan 6: 53-66.

Or when it comes to the power to perform miracles: " And when they had come near the crowd, a man came up to him and, falling on his knees before him, said: Lord, have mercy on my son who is moody and miserably afflicted, for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn't heal him. And Yehoshua answered and said: O unbelieving and distorted generation! How long will I be with you? How long can I put up with you? Bring him here. And Yehoshua sharply rebuked the demon, which came out of him, and that very hour the

child was healed. Then the disciples came to Yehoshua and said to him in particular: Why couldn't we chase it away? And Yehoshua said to them: It's because of your disbelief. Amen, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain: Transport yourself from here and it would transport itself; and nothing would be impossible for you. " Matthaïos 17: 14-20.

A/ Causes of disbelief

Ears and eyes

" For the hearts of this people have grown fat, and with their ears they have heard with difficulty, and they have closed their eyes lest they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and be converted, and I should heal them "
Matthaïos 13 : 15.

We have seen that faith depends on the spiritual health of the ear, for "*faith comes from hearing, and we hear by means of the word of Elohîm*" (Romans 10 : 17). Here, not only are the ears and eyes defective, but there's also a deliberate desire not to access faith. For it implies repentance, conversion, renunciation of one's own life, suffering, rejection, abandonment of sin...

The hardness and wickedness of the heart

" Finally, he was manifested to the eleven themselves while they were at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen him raised." Markos 16: 14.

" Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you perhaps an evil

heart of unbelief that departs from the living Elohim, but exhort one another daily, as long as it is said: "Today" lest any of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin " Hebrews 3 : 12.

" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said: This one drives out demons only through Beelzebul, the chief of demons. (...) Progeny of vipers, how could you say good things, wicked as you are? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. " Matthaios 12: 24 and 34.

B/ The consequences of disbelief

Few miracles

*" And having gone to his native country, he taught in their synagogue, so that they were shocked and said: Where did he get his wisdom and miracles? Isn't this one the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Miriam, and his brothers Yaacov, Yosef, Shimon and Yehuda? And aren't his sisters all among us? Where does he get all these things? And for them, he was an opportunity to fall. But Yehoshua said to them: A prophet is dishonored only in his native land and in his own home. **And it did but few miracles there, because of their unbelief.** "* Matthaios 13: 54-58

The reprimand

" And Yehoshua answered and said: O unbelieving and distorted generation! How long will I be with you? How long can I put up with you? Bring him here to me. " Matthaios 17: 17. (See also Markos 16: 14).

The judgment

" He who believes in him is not judged, but he who does not believe is already judged because he has not believed in the Name of Elohîm's only Son " Yohanan 3 : 18.

A harsher judgment

" Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his miracles had taken place, because they had not repented. Woe to you Chorazin! Woe to you Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were done among you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented, taking sackcloth and ashes. That's why I tell you that the fate of Tyre and Sidon will be more bearable on the day of judgment than yours. And you, Capernaum, who were raised to heaven, will be brought down to Hades! For if the miracles that were done in your midst had been done in Sodom, it would still be there today! Therefore I tell you that the fate of the land of Sodom will be more bearable on the day of judgment, than yours. "
Matthaios 11: 20-24.

The sentence

" He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned . Markos 16: 16.

" This is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins." Yohanan 8 : 24.

The entrenchment

*" It's true. **They were cut off because of their unbelief,** and you stand by faith. Therefore do not exalt yourself through pride, but fear. " Romans 11: 20.*

Exclusion from the Lord's rest

" *But to whom did he swear that they would not enter his resting place, if not to those who were rebellious? And we see that they could not enter it because of unbelief.*" Hebrews 3: 19.

Anger

" *He who believes in the Son has eternal life, but he who rebels against the Son will not see life, but the wrath of Elohîm abides on him.*" Yohanan 3: 36.

C/ The solution to disbelief

Firstly, since unbelief is a sin, it requires sincere repentance.

" *For Yohanan came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him. But the publicans and debauched women believed in him. And you, who saw this, did not then repent and believe in him.* " Matthaios 21: 32.

(See also Romans 11: 23).

Secondly, we must prepare our ears and hearts to listen to, understand and obey the word of Elohîm, and prepare to fight to keep the faith and preserve the word in all its truthfulness. (See Chapter 1).

II/ DOUBT

Doubt, *diakrino* in Greek, evokes "disagreement", "hesitation", "uncertainty" or "mistrust". It's the opposite of assurance, certainty, conviction, trust and faith. A person who doubts will be indecisive, suspicious, hesitant and groping.

A/ Causes of doubt

The tests

In the face of difficulties, the words of hardened people and threats, a child of the Lord may begin to doubt the love of the heavenly Father and his word.

The time

The time it can take for a promise from the Lord to be fulfilled can generate doubts in a Christian's mind. We need to remain at the Lord's feet despite the difficulties.

(See 2 Petros 3 : 3-15.)

Ignorance and oblivion

*" But we beseech you, brethren, concerning the parousia of our Lord Yehoshua Mashiah and our gathering to him, not to be quickly agitated out of your thoughts nor troubled by a spirit, by a word, or by a letter as if it were by us, as that the day of the Mashiah were imminent. Let no one deceive you in any way. For first comes the apostasy and the revelation of the man of sin, the son of perdition, the adversary and the one who rises up against all that is called Elohim or worshipped, going so far as to sit as Elohim in the temple of Elohim showing himself to be Elohim. **Do you not remember that I was telling you these things while I was still with you?** " 2 Thessalonians 2 : 1-5.*

Disbelief

"And he doubted not concerning the promise of Elohim, through unbelief" Romans 4 : 20.

The fear

*" But Petros answered him, saying: Lord, if it is you, command me to go to you on the waters. And he said to him: Come on! And Petros got out of the boat, walked on the waters to go to Yehoshua. **But when he saw that the wind was strong, he was afraid** and, as he began to sink, he cried out, saying: Lord! Save me! And immediately Yehoshua stretched out his hand and took him, saying to him: **Man of little faith, why did you doubt?** " Matthaios 14: 28-31.*

B/ The consequences of doubt

Instability

*" But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask Elohim, who gives it to all simply and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **But let him ask in faith, not doubting at all, for he who doubts is like the waves of the sea, driven and tossed to and fro by the wind.** " Yaacov 1: 5-6.*

" That we may no longer be children tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the dice game of humans, by their skill in the art of misdirection." Ephesians 4: 14.

Non-fulfillment

*"But let him ask in faith, not **doubting** for he who doubts is like the waves of the sea, tossed to and fro by the wind. **Let this human, in fact, not expect to receive anything from the Lord.** " Yaacov 1: 6-7.*

(See also Markos 11: 23).

The sin

*" Do you have faith? Have it in yourself before Elohim. Blessed is the one who does not judge himself in what he approves! **But he who doubts is condemned** if he eats, because it does not come from faith. **Now everything that does not come from faith is sin.**"*
Romans 14: 22-23.

Unlike unbelief, doubt is not a sin in itself. But the sin lies in performing an act while under the influence of doubt.

C/ The solution to doubt

The just shall live by faith

*" Some judge, indeed, one day above another day, but some judge that all days are equal. Let every man be **fully persuaded** in his own mind " Romans 14 : 5.*

To be fully persuaded, *plerophoreo* in Greek, can be translated as "conviction", "inclination", "to fill someone with a thought", or "fully convinced or assured". This term is found in Romans chapter 4 verse 20: " ***And he did not doubt with regard to Elohim's promise, through unbelief, but was strengthened by faith and gave glory to Elohim, and being fully convinced that what he has promised, he is powerful also to fulfill it. That is why it was also counted to him as justice. "***

If something as simple as eating must be the product of faith, how much more so must everything we do be founded and justified by faith. This means that nothing can be left to chance. Everything must be examined in the light of Elohim's word and be a subject of prayer so that every aspect of our lives is the fruit of faith. The

source and means of faith are the word of Elohîm. In other words, every aspect of our lives must be grounded and justified by Scripture. Doubt should therefore be an opportunity to stop in our tracks, probe the Bible and pray to know Elohîm's will.

" And the brothers immediately sent Paulos and Silas to Berea during the night, who, having arrived, entered the synagogue of the Jews. But they were more noble-minded than those from Thessalonica. They received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures every day to see whether it was so. " Acts 17: 10-11.

*" I know and am persuaded by the Lord Yehoshua that nothing is defiled by itself, **yet if anyone believes anything to be defiled, it is defiled for him.**"* Romans 14: 14.

*" Do you have faith? Have it in yourself before Elohîm. **Blessed is the one who does not judge himself by what he approves! !** But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because it does not come from faith. Now everything that does not come from faith is sin."* Romans 14: 22-23.

Knowledge

" My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (...)." Hoshea 4: 6.

Rooting, building and establishing

*"...being **rooted and built up** in him and **established** in the faith, as you were taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. "* Colossians 2: 5.

(See also Colossians 1 : 23).

III/ THE APPEARANCE OF PIETY

"(...) having the appearance of piety, but having denied its power. Get away from these people too. " 2 Timotheos 3: 5.

" Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you clean the outside of the cup and dish, while inside they are full of plunder and lack of self-control. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the bowl and dish, so that the outside also becomes pure. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you are like whitewashed tombs, which indeed look beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all kinds of impurity. So you too, on the outside you appear righteous to people indeed, but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and violation of the Torah." Matthaios 23: 25-28.

Some obstacles to faith originate in the human heart, which places more importance on appearances than on a profound change of inner being.

A/ Definition

1. Justification by works of Torah

This is seeking justification in Moshe's law while Christians have been unbound by Torah (Romans 7 : 6) and are under the law of Mashiah (1 Corinthians 9 : 21). These Christians will be deceived by erroneous teachings that add to the work of the cross one or more observances to obtain salvation.

" And some who came down from Judea taught the brethren: If you are not circumcised according to Moshe's custom, you cannot be

*saved. So a sedition took place and no small discussion, between Paulos and Barnabas and them, it was decided that Paulos and Barnabas, with some of their own, would go up to Yeroushalaim to the apostles and elders, concerning this matter (...) **But some of those of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed, arose saying that they must be circumcised and commanded to keep the Torah of Moshe.*** " Acts 15: 1-2 and 5.

Here we have the example of a false teaching that the Judaizers had introduced into the churches of the first century. They had added to the work of the cross the practice of the Mosaic Torah, particularly circumcision.

2. Legalism

Legalism is the concern to scrupulously respect the letter of the law and the forms it prescribes, without the heart being truly transformed by faith in Elohim. It leads to the observance of certain commandments by separating them from their moral significance. Legalists will neglect the Lord's love and mercy in favor of less burdensome and more apparent commandments: "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees hypocrites, because you tithe mint, dill and cumin and **leave out the heaviest burdens of the Torah** : justice, mercy and faithfulness. You had to practice those things, without neglecting the other things.*" Matthaios 23: 23.

3. Formalism

From the Latin *forma*, "form", formalism refers to excessive attachment to rules, rites, customs and traditions. The emphasis is on the rules to be applied rather than on the spiritual and inner life. Today's Christianity is modeled on the system and worship of the

Old Covenant. What's more, it didn't destroy paganism, but adopted it and gave birth to religion.

Sacred" places

Temples, cathedrals, pilgrimages, etc.

These places must be used to worship Elohîm. This is why many pastors struggle to find finances and build large temples supposedly for the Lord (Yesha'yah 66 : 1).

These sacred places are home to altars. In some religions, communion is a form of sacrifice, as in the Catholic mass.

Clericalism and sacerdotalism

The ordination of priests and pastors re-establishes human mediation between Elohîm and human beings. Now, the writings of the New Covenant are clear: the high priest Aaron and his descendants have been replaced by Yehoshua, who is now the only mediator between Elohîm and his children (1 Timotheos 2: 5). Moreover, according to 1 Petros chapter 2 verse 9, all believers are priests.

The liturgy

The idea of an organized religious service is completely foreign to the New Covenant. It's a blend of Jewish liturgy and pagan worship.

Rituals

They are supposed to enable the believer to experience Elohîm and enter into a blessed life: circumcision, ordination, nuptial blessing, presentation of children to Elohîm...

These include the observance of "sacred" days: Sunday and

Sabbath; a special way of dressing: toga, cassock, clerical collar, yarmulke, veil, suit/tie... or a special diet, etc.

(See Matthaïos 6: 1-8).

B/ Causes of the appearance of piety

The causes of formalism and legalism are hypocrisy and the abandonment of Elohim's word in favor of tradition.

1. Abandoning the Gospel of Yehoshua for another gospel

"O Galatians devoid of intelligence! Who has bewitched you so that you no longer obey the truth, you, in whose eyes Yehoshua Mashiah was openly portrayed crucified in your midst? I would only like to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit through the works of Torah or through the preaching of faith? Are you so devoid of intelligence? Having begun with the Spirit, would you now finish with the flesh? Have you suffered so much in vain? If in vain. He who supplies you with the Spirit and works miracles in you, is it by the works of the Torah or by the preaching of faith? As Abraham believed in Elohim, and it was counted to him as righteousness, so know that it is those who have faith who are sons of Abraham. But Scripture, foreseeing that Elohim would justify the nations through faith, preached the Gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying: All nations will be blessed in you. Therefore those who are of the faith are blessed with Abraham the believer ". Galatians 3: 1-9.

" And the Pharisees and some scribes who had come from Yeroushalaim gathered to him. And having seen that some of his disciples take their meals with unclean, i.e. unwashed, hands, they blamed them. For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they have washed up to the elbow, retaining the tradition of the

elders. And on the way back from the market square, if they haven't been baptized, they don't eat. There are also many other things they received to hold them: the washings of cups, and pitchers, and bronze vessels and beds. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him: Why don't your disciples walk according to the tradition of the elders, but take their bread with unwashed hands? But he, answering, said to them: Yesha`yah did prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: **These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching doctrines that are human commandments. For, leaving aside the commandment of Elohim, you retain the tradition of humans** the washing of pitchers and cups, and do many other similar things. He also told them: You reject Elohim's commandment in order to keep your tradition. For Moshe said: Honor your father and your mother and : He who curses his father or mother ends up dead. But you say: Unless a man said to his father or mother: Anything you might be assisted with by me is corban, i.e. offering. And you no longer allow him to do anything for his father or his mother, **nullifying the word of Elohim by your tradition which you have established.** And you do many other similar things.

" Markos 7: 1-13.

These two passages teach us that those who cling to legalism and formalism abandon the word of Elohim and nullify the divine commandments in favor of human traditions. This means that Christians who fall into this trap will first return to the Torah of Moshe, which is therefore from the Lord, but will end up falling little by little into legalism and formalism and consequently into carnal traditions. Because it's inevitable that those who alter the word by stripping it of its depth will end up abandoning it altogether.

Legalism replaces Elohim's gift, grace, godliness, communion with Elohim, salvation and faith with the works of human beings (Galatians 2 : 16; Ephesians 2: 8-9) and by rules designed to ease the conscience. Indeed, a guilty conscience submits to legal rules to justify itself in its own eyes and in the eyes of others. In the face of spiritual death, the legalist will seek to put in place human ordinances and laws rather than preach the word and grace, Yehoshua crucified (Ephesians 5 : 14; 1 Corinthians 2: 2).

" But he also spoke this parable to some who persuaded themselves to be righteous and utterly despised others: Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a publican. The Pharisee, standing, prayed thus within himself: Elohim, I thank you that I am not like the rest of mankind: kidnappers, unjust, adulterers, nor even like this publican. I fast twice on the Sabbath, and tithe everything I own. But the publican, standing afar off, dared not even lift his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying: Elohim, be appeased to me who am a sinner! I tell you that this one went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. " Loukas 18: 9-14.

2. Hypocrisy

In Greek, the word "hypocrite" means "one who answers", "one who retorts", "an interpreter", "an actor", "a theater player", "one who conceals", "a pretender". In the context of faith, then, a hypocrite is a person who plays a role in order to be seen and glorified by human beings, because he or she loves the glory of creatures more than that of the Creator: *" How can you believe, you who receive your glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from Elohim alone? "* (Yohanan 5 : 44). (See also

Yohanan 12: 42).

One of the causes of the abandonment of the Gospel of Yehoshua and its replacement by the traditions of human beings is hypocrisy. For Christians who return to the law and adopt formalism and legalism feel strongly that the Spirit of Yehoshua is saddened, even extinguished. Yet they continue to evolve in the assemblies, donning sheep's clothing to deceive others about their true nature. Thousands of pastors play roles. They have the appearance of piety in front of their followers, but at home they are completely different. In the same way, many Christians appear righteous and holy in their church buildings, but in everyday life they are similar to pagans.

*" Beware of practicing your righteousness before people, **to be seen by them** ; otherwise you will not receive the reward of your Father in heaven. So when you give your alms, don't sound the trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, **so as to be glorified by the people**. Amen, I say to you, they receive their reward in full. But when you give alms, let not your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be given in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you publicly. And when you pray, don't be like the hypocrites, for they like to make their prayers by standing in synagogues and on street corners, **to be seen by people**. Amen, I say to you, they receive their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and having shut your door, pray to your Father who is there in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you publicly. But when you pray, do not multiply vain words as the pagans do, for they imagine that by dint of words they will be heard. So don't be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "* Matthaios 6: 1-8.

Hypocritical judgment

" Judge not, that you be not judged. For you will be judged with the judgment with which you judge, and you will be measured with the measure with which you measure. And why do you see the mote that is in your brother's eye, and not the beam that is in your own eye? Or how will you tell your brother: Let me remove this mote from your eye, and behold, the beam is in your eye? Hypocrite, first remove the beam from your eye! Then you'll see clearly enough to remove the mote from your brother's eye." Matthaios 7: 1-5.

Christian hypocrisy

*" But when Petros came to Antioch, I resisted him to his face because he was condemned. For before the coming of some from Yaacov, he ate with the nations, but when they came, he hid and separated himself from them, fearing those of the circumcision. **The other Jews also acted hypocritically with him, so that Barnabas himself was drawn into their hypocrisy.** But when I saw that they were not walking in the right way according to the truth of the Gospel, I said to Petros, in front of everyone: If you who are a Jew live after the manner of the Gentiles and not after the manner of the Jews, why do you compel the Gentiles to Judaize? "* Galatians 2: 11-14.

C/ Consequences the appearance of piety

1. Ineffective works

" If I speak all the languages of humans and even of angels, but do not have love, I have become a resonating brass or a cymbal that frequently repeats the cry alala. Even if I have prophecy and know all mysteries and the knowledge of all things, and even if I have all faith to the point of moving mountains, but have not love, I am

nothing. And if I were to give all my possessions to feed someone, and if I were to surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it is of no use to me. " 1 Corinthians 13: 1-3.

How is it that a person who gives all his possessions to the poor, who accepts to die for others, is nothing before Elohim? The answer is simple: without CHARITY, i.e. without the grace of Elohim, or even without Yehoshua (for Elohim is Love according to 1 Yohanan 4 : 8), there is no salvation. Humanism and kindness will never save anyone. Still less the works of hypocrites. For only faith in Yehoshua saves.

2. Slavery

The legalist is so hypocritical that he imposes things on others that he does not respect himself, keeping Christians in bondage (1 Corinthians 7 : 23; Galatians 5: 1). He goes so far as to spy on the freedom that Elohim's children have in Mashiah (Galatians 2). This is replaced by fear of Elohim and humans, i.e. shepherds. On an individual level, freedom in Mashiah produced by the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3: 17) is lost, joy in Yehoshua gives way to doubt and confusion. The false humility of legalism leads inexorably to a spirit of superiority, judgment and condemnation of others.

3. Separation from the Lord

" You are separated from the Mashiah, all of you who justify yourselves by the Torah; you have fallen from grace. " Galatians 5: 4.

4. The curse

" For all who are of the works of the Torah are under the curse, for

it is written: Cursed is anyone who does not persevere in all the things that are written in the book of the Torah and put them into practice. And that no one is justified before Elohîm by the Torah is obvious, since it says: The just shall live by faith. Now the Torah is not on the basis of faith, but it says: The human being who puts these things into practice will live by them. " Galatians 3: 10-12.

5. Denial of access to the kingdom

" But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you're closing the Kingdom of Heaven to people! You don't go in yourselves and you don't let in those who want to go in." Matthaios 23: 13.

6. Consequences for assemblies

On a collective level, legalism breeds quarrels, competition between brothers, jealousy, and encourages sectarian or party spirit.

" But, in commanding you this, I do not praise you: because you assemble, not to become more excellent, but inferior. For first, when you come together in assembly, I learn that there are indeed divisions among you, and I believe it in part, for there must even be heresies among you, so that those who are approved may become manifest among you. " 1 Corinthians 11: 17-19.

"...nothing by party spirit, or vain glory, but by humility, esteem others superior to yourselves." Philippians 2: 3.

Unfortunately, many Christians take the side of those who sin and refuse to correct them according to the Word, under the pretext that they are their "spiritual fathers" or friends. A person who has faith

in Elohîm will always act in the interest of the Lord's word and not according to his or her company.

D/ The solution

" For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are sanctified. " Hebrews 10: 14.

" Which serve as an example and shadow of heavenly things, according to the divine warning Moshe received when he was to complete the tabernacle: Take care," he said, "to do all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain. But now he has obtained a service all the more excellent because he is the Mediator of a more excellent covenant, which has been established on better promises. For if the first had been beyond reproach, there would have been no need to look for a second. For it was in blaming them that he said: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Yehuda, not according to the covenant I made with their fathers on the day I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. For they have not persevered in my covenant; I also have neglected them, says the Lord. For this is the covenant, the testament, which I will make after those days with the house of Israel, says the Lord: I will put my Torahs in their minds and write them in their hearts; I will be their Elohîm and they will be my people. And they shall never teach every man his neighbor, nor every man his brother, saying: Know the Lord, for all will know me, from the least of these to the greatest. Because I will be merciful to their injustices and will never again remember their sins or their violations of the Torah. By calling it new, he declared the first one old. What becomes old and ancient is close to extinction. Hebrews

8: 5-13.

Judaism prescribed animal sacrifices, centralized worship at Yerushalaim, special days (shabbats), special religious times (three prayers a day with a prayer book, the patah Eliahu), a special diet (kosherut: no pork, no blood, no seafood, etc.). The Temple of Shelomoh and the system of Moshe's law or the Old Covenant were images to teach the realities of heavenly things. Judaism had been established temporarily, in anticipation of the Mashiah. This system had been instituted as a mark of separation between man and Elohim, and foreshadowed the way in which Elohim would resolve sin, namely through the death of Yehoshua, the Mashiah.

The New Covenant teaches that everything became obsolete when Yehoshua came. These practices were shadows of things to come, no longer needed because reality has appeared. At the birth of the Ekklesia, there was no physical temple built by Christians, no ordained priests, no animal sacrifices, no priestly vestments... The first Christians had understood that they themselves were the temples (1 Corinthians 3 : 16 ; 6 : 19), the priests (Hebrews 5 : 3-6; 1 Petros 2 : 9; Apokalupsis 1: 4-6 and 5 : 8-10) and sacrifices (Romans 12 : 1-2). Their faith was genuine and based on Yehoshua alone. What matters now is the personal and direct relationship with Elohim, not the fact of moving to a specific place to meet and worship the Lord. We certainly need fellowship, but it can take place anywhere, in homes, in nature, etc. Rituals, liturgies, masses or services, on Saturdays or Sundays, are not essential! The most important thing is the faith we have in Elohim, our Father.

The Redemption

" Mashiah redeemed us from the curse of the Torah by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree, that the blessing of Abraham may come to the nations in Mashiah Yehoshua, and that we may receive by means of faith the Spirit of promise. Brothers, I'm speaking from a human point of view. A will confirmed publicly by a human, no one cancels it or adds anything to what has been ordained. The promises were made to Abraham and his descendants. He doesn't say: "And to posterities," as of many, but as of one: "and to your posterity," which is Mashiah. But here's what I say: a testament that Elohim established in advance in Mashiah cannot be annulled by the Torah occurring 430 years later, which would abolish the promise. For if the inheritance came from the Torah, it would no longer come from the promise. Elohim gave Abraham the gift of his grace by promise. So why the Torah? It was added because of transgressions, until the posterity came to whom the promise had been made. And it was prescribed by means of angels and through a mediator. Now a mediator is not for one, but Elohim is one. So is the Torah against Elohim's promises? May this never happen! For if a Torah had been given that could give life, justice would truly come from the Torah. But Scripture has locked all things together under sin, so that the promise is given through faith in Yehoshua Mashiah to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were kept under the Torah, locked together, in preparation for the faith that was to be revealed. So the Torah was our teacher until the Mashiah, so that we might be justified by faith. But faith having come, we are no longer under this pedagogue. For you are all sons of Elohim through faith in Mashiah Yehoshua " Galatians 3 : 13-26.

Yehoshua ha Mashiah redeemed Christians from the curse of the Torah. To avoid falling into this curse, you must follow Paulos' example and resist those who want to enslave you: "*But because of the false brothers who had sneaked in and slipped among us to spy on the freedom we have in Yehoshua Mashiah, in order to enslave us.... To these we have not yielded in submission, no, not even for an hour, so that the truth of the gospel may remain in a permanent way among you.*" (Galatians 2: 4-5).

IV/ FEELINGS

"*And in the same way, those who are sown on stony places are those who, having heard the word, immediately receive it with joy, but they have no root in themselves. They only hold out for a time, and as soon as tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, they are immediately scandalized.*" Markos 4: 16-17.

Other obstacles to faith come into play when a Christian suffers persecution and tribulation.

A/ Bitterness

The Hebrew root of the word "leaven" means "bitterness".

"*See to it that no one deprives himself of the grace of Elohim, that no root of **bitterness**, growing upward, troubles you, and that many are not defiled by it.*" Hebrews 12: 15.

Bitterness is a resentment, i.e. a memory that provokes bitterness and the desire for revenge, which arises when we are consumed by regret or disappointment. Bitter people are often betrayed by their words (whispers, regrets, anger...).

1. Causes of bitterness

You may develop bitterness against Elohim for allowing an illness or the death of a loved one. The malice of human beings, the lack of recognition of the people you've helped, often produce bitterness in people's hearts.

Lack of recognition

*" And it happened that on his way to Yeroushalaim, he passed through the middle of Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, ten leprous men came to meet him. And they stood afar off, and lifted up their voice, saying: Yehoshua, Master, have mercy on us! And when he saw them, he said to them: Go show yourselves to the priests! And it happened, as they went, that they were purified. But one of them, seeing himself healed, turned back, glorifying Elohim with a loud voice. And he fell on his face at his feet, giving thanks. But he was a Samaritan. **But Yehoshua, speaking, said: Haven't the ten been purified? And where are the nine? Not one of them returned to give glory to Elohim, except this foreigner !** And he said to him: Arise, go, your faith has saved you. "* Loukas 17: 11-19.

False accusations

You may feel bitter when you are the victim of backbiting or whispering by your family, friends or enemies. If you don't look after your heart, you risk developing hatred for those who slander you.

Suffering

" And his wife said to him: Are you still standing firm in your integrity? Bless Elohim and die! And he said to her: You talk like one of those fools! We receive from Elohim what is good, and would we not also receive from him what is evil? In all this, Iyov did not sin with his lips. " Iyov 2: 9-10.

Unforgiveness

" Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and blasphemy, with all manner of malice be banished from among you. But become gentle toward one another, full of compassion, and forgiving one another, just as Elohim forgave you through Mashiah." Ephesians 4: 31-32.

You may also develop bitterness because of an unforgiven sin or an unhealed wound and a refusal to forgive.

Betrayals

" Then they'll hand you over to tribulation and kill you. And you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will be scandalized, and will betray one another and hate one another. " Matthaios 24: 9.

Betrayals by your spouse, children, parents, friends, colleagues, brothers and sisters in the faith etc. are common causes of bitterness.

2. The consequences of bitterness

On a personal level

The condition of a person affected by bitterness gradually deteriorates. First, the person begins by shutting himself up in a cocoon and refusing all fraternal communion. Then he neglects daily prayer and meditation on Elohîm's word, thus gradually depriving himself of his grace. Finally, if the problem is not resolved, this situation can lead to apostasy.

It can also develop a profane spirit like Esav, i.e. preferring worldly goods to spiritual blessings (Hebrews 12 : 16-17).

In the context of marriage

" *Husbands, love your wives and do not be angry with them* "
Colossians 3: 19.

Bitterness can break up a marriage when spouses refuse to forgive each other's betrayals, even in a marriage between Christians.

As part of the ministry

The roots of bitterness will produce offspring such as debauchery, impurity, derangement, idolatry, witchcraft, rivalries, quarrels, jealousies, animosities, disputes, divisions, sects, envy, drunkenness and table excesses of which Paulos tells us in Galatians 5 : 19-21.

3. The solution to bitterness

The best remedy for bitterness is forgiveness. The Bible asks us to forgive our enemies, pray for those who mistreat us and bless those who curse us (Loukas 6 : 27-36). If you refuse to forgive those who

slander you, you will destroy your calling, your faith and your life. You'll stir up trouble wherever you go and find it difficult to enjoy fulfilling relationships with others. So ask the Lord for the strength to forgive your enemies and those who have hurt you with all your heart. Lest bitterness lead you to sin and all kinds of immorality.

Take your cue from the Lord, our model, who endured betrayal, murmuring, backbiting and lack of recognition. He had healed ten lepers, but only one had returned to pay him homage (Loukas 17 : 11-19). So you'll often be disappointed by the people closest to you. Continue to do good for people and expect nothing in return. The Lord will repay you in due time.

B/ Fear

The terms *yare* in Hebrew, (which can be defined by the words "to fear", "to revere", "to stand in awe of", "to be fearful", "to frighten", "to terrify") and *deilos*, in Greek, (meaning "timid", "fearful", "cowardly", "to be afraid") express an emotion, "a feeling of anguish experienced in the presence or at the thought of a danger, real or supposed, of a threat" (Dictionary). This feeling can be so powerful that the Christian affected risks refusing to obey Elohim and falling into apostasy.

*" But for the **timid**, the unbelieving, the abominable, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters and all liars, their portion will be in the lake burning with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."* Apokalupsis 21: 8.

1. The causes of fear

" But YHWH Elohim called Adam and said to him: Where are you? He said: I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I'm naked, and I hid." Bereshit 3: 9-10.

Fear was the first feeling Adam experienced after his disobedience. So we understand that fear is one of the consequences of sin. A person who lives in sin cannot have the assurance that the Lord communicates to His children. For the closer a Christian comes to the Lord, the less fear he feels.

Dangerous situations

*" And that day, when evening came, he said to them: Let's go over to the other side. And having dismissed the crowd, they take him away in the little boat where he was. And there were other small boats with him. And a great gust of wind came up, and the waves poured into the boat to the point of filling it. And he was at the stern, sleeping on the pillow. And they wake him up and say: Doctor, don't you care that we're perishing? And having awakened, he rebuked the wind in a sharp manner, and said to the sea: Quiet! Be muzzled! And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. **And he said to them: Why are you so afraid? How can you have no faith?** And they were seized with great fear, and said to each other: Who then is this, whom the wind and the sea obey?" Markos 4: 35-41.*

What we see and hear

" He stood, and called to the rank troops of Israel, saying to them: Why do you go out and line up in battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not slaves to Shaul? Choose one of you and let him come down against me. If he can beat me and kill me, we'll be your slaves.

*But if I'm the victor and I kill him, you'll be our slaves and you'll enslave us. The Philistine said: I challenge the ranks of Israel this day: give me a man, and we'll fight together. **When Shaul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were terrified and greatly afraid.** " 1 Shemuel 17: 8-11.*

" And as he talked with them, behold the champion, the man named Goliath, the Philistine of Gath, coming up from the ranks of the Philistines, and he spoke the same words, and David heard them. At the sight of this man, all the men of Israel fled before him, seized with great fear. The men of Israel said: Did you see this man step forward? He went up to challenge Israel! But the man who kills him, the king will enrich with great riches, and give him his daughter, and set free her father's house in Israel. " 1 Shemuel 17: 23-25.

Fear of exclusion

" However, even among the rulers, many believed in him, but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess him, for fear of being excluded from the synagogue. For they loved the glory of humans more than the glory of Elohîm. " Yohanan 12: 42-43.

2. The consequences of fear

Disobedience

" And Shaul answered Shemuel: I have sinned because I transgressed the commandment of YHWH, as well as your words, for I feared the people, and obeyed their voice." 1 Shemuel 15: 24.

The doubt

" But Petros answered him, saying: Lord, if it is you, command me to go to you on the waters. And he said to him: Come on! And Petros got out of the boat, walked on the waters to go to Yehoshua. But when he saw that the wind was strong, he was afraid, and as he began to sink, he cried out, saying: Lord! Save me! And immediately Yehoshua stretched out his hand and took him, saying to him: O man of little faith, why did you doubt? " Matthaios 14 : 28-31.

3. The solution

*" Psalm of David. YHWH is my Shepherd: I shall not want. He makes me rest in pastures of green grass, he directs me near the waters of rest. He makes my soul return, he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.** your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You set a table before me in front of my adversaries; you anoint my head with oil and my cup overflows. For goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of YHWH forever. "* Tehilim 23.

The solution to fear is to make the Lord your shepherd and not to fear Man. On the contrary, threats from human beings are a blessing (Loukas 6 : 22-23).

" And do not fear those who kill the body and cannot kill the soul. But rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna " Matthaios 10 : 28.

(See also Devarim 3: 22; Yesha'yah 8:12; Daniye'l chapter 3; 1 Petros 3 : 14).

The example of Kaleb

" And when they arrived, they went to Moshe and Aaron, and the whole assembly of the children of Israel, in the wilderness from Padan to Qadesh. They reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruits of the earth. They reported to Moshe, and said to him: We have been on the earth where you sent us. Indeed, this is a land flowing with milk and honey, and here are the fruits. But the people who inhabit this land are truly powerful! The towns are fortified and very large. We saw Anak children there. The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south; the Hittites, the Jebusites and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; the Kena'âneans dwell along the sea and on the hand of Yarden. Kaleb silenced the people before Moshe, and he said: Let's go up, let's go up and take possession of this land, because we will be victorious, we will be victorious! But the men who went up with him said: We can't go up against these people, because they're stronger than we are. And they brought out a slander before the children of Israel against the land they had explored, saying: The land we passed through to explore it is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people we saw there are of high stature. There we saw the Nephilim, the sons of Anak, who are of the Nephilim, so that we became in our eyes like locusts, and such have we become in their eyes. " Bamidbar 13: 26-33.

The spies Moshe had sent to explore the land of Kena'an were frightened and discouraged by the sight of the giants that inhabited the country. Because of their lack of faith, they discouraged their brothers and prevented them from taking possession of their inheritance. Their report was demoralizing, and their fear infected their brothers.

Kaleb was a man of faith, he refused to see himself as a grasshopper and took possession of his inheritance by faith, saying: "*Let us go up, let us go up and take possession of this land, for we will be victorious, we will be victorious!*" (Bamidbar 13 : 30). He understood that with faith in the promise the Lord Adonai had made to Abraham, to give him this land (Bereshit 15), he could overthrow the giants and take possession of Kena'an.

That's why you must appropriate all the promises the Lord has made to you by faith. Faith allows us to take risks. It gives us the audacity to venture into new, uncharted territory. With faith, we overcome all barriers.

C/ Worries

The Greek word for worry is *merimnao*, meaning "to be worried", "to be troubled by worries".

*" Therefore I say to you: Don't worry about your soul, what you'll eat and what you'll drink; nor about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't the soul more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you much more excellent than they are? And which of you, through your worries, can add a cubit to his stature? And why worry about clothing? Examine carefully how the lilies of the field grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you that even Shelomoh, in all his glory, was not clothed like one of them. But if Elohim so clothes the grass of the field, which is today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not do it much more for you **people of little faith** ? So don't worry, saying: What will we eat? Or : What will we drink? Or*

: What will we be wearing? For it is the nations who earnestly seek all these things. But your heavenly Father knows you need all these things. But seek first the Kingdom of Elohim and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry itself. Every day is enough its evil. " (Matthaios 6 : 25-34).

1. Causes of worries

Worries most often concern our body's primary needs, life's riches and pleasures: "*And those who have fallen among the thorns are those who, having heard and gone away, are choked with cares and riches and the pleasures of life, and bring nothing to maturity ."* (Loukas 8 : 14).

2. The consequences of worries

" But take care of yourselves, lest your hearts be overburdened by dizziness and headache caused by drinking wine to excess or drunkenness, and by the cares of this life, and that day suddenly surprise you." Loukas 21: 34.

When a Christian desires to have more possessions, he may be troubled to the point of ending up like the foolish virgins (Matthaios 25 : 1-13, and not be ready for the meeting with the Mashiah.

3. The solution to worries

" Do not worry about anything, but in everything make your requests known to Elohim by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. And the peace of Elohim, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Mashiah Yehoshua." Philippians 4: 6.

(See also 1 Petros 5 : 7).

Our body's primary needs are legitimate, but the pursuit of these needs should not be a priority. We must keep our eyes fixed on the Lord and he will take care of us, giving us everything we need.

D/ Language as a tool to kill the Christian faith

" In the same way, the tongue is a small limb and boasts of great things. See what a small fire sets a large forest ablaze! Language is also a fire, the world of injustice. Thus, the tongue is placed among our members, defiling the whole body and igniting the wheel of life, being itself ignited by Gehenna. After all, all species of wild animals, birds, reptiles and marine animals can be tamed and have been tamed by human nature. But no human can tame language. It's an evil that can't be contained: it's full of deadly venom. By it we bless Elohim and Father, and by it we curse humans made in Elohim's likeness. Blessings and curses come from the same mouth. It doesn't have to be this way, brothers. Does a fountain gush out sweet and bitter from the same opening? My brothers, can a fig tree produce olives, or a vine figs? Similarly, no fountain can produce both salt and fresh water. Who among you is wise and intelligent? Let him show his works by good conduct with gentleness and wisdom. But if you have in your heart a bitter zeal and a spirit of partiality, do not boast or lie against the truth. For this is not wisdom that comes down from on high: but it is earthly, animal and diabolical. For where there is jealousy and partisanship, there is disorder and all manner of evil." Yaacov 3: 5-16.

In this passage, the apostle Yaacov uses the Greek adjective *pikros* for the word "bitter". In verse 11, it is first used in the literal sense

to designate water that is undrinkable, tasteless or salty, like sea water. In verses 14 and 16, it is used metaphorically to convey the zeal inspired by jealousy and competition.

The world of iniquity, a fire

The tongue is characterized by the fact that it's a small limb, but it's capable of doing more damage than a sword. It is compared to the world of iniquity, to fire, to an evil that cannot be suppressed, and to venom. The world of iniquity refers to all the wickedness hidden in the heart and expressed by the tongue.

" Progeny of vipers, how could you say good things, wicked as you are? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks "
Matthaios 12 : 34.

A venom

Animal venom has neurotoxic effects on the nervous system, brain and spinal cord, paralyzing the respiratory system, coagulating blood and altering blood vessels. It causes hemorrhaging, destruction of red blood cells, an effect on the heart, a drop in blood pressure, intense salivation which can lead to damage to cells, tissues and even organs (kidneys, etc.), or even suffocation if the bite is made on the face or neck.

The tongue of Satan's minions is so full of venom that those it bites can find their faith completely ravaged. Indeed, Satan's minions use their tongues to paralyze, suffocate and destroy their victims, both internally (spiritual death) and externally (loss of physical health). What they want is to destroy the testimony of the Lord's servants who walk in righteousness and live in simplicity. Indeed, they know

" that a name (reputation) is better than good oil, and the day of death than the day of birth " (Qohelet 7 : 1).

Insults

" Beloved, do not be shocked that there is fire in your midst for your temptation, as if something new were happening to you. But rejoice that you share in the sufferings of the Mashiah, so that when his glory is revealed, you will rejoice and exult. If you are insulted for the Name of the Mashiah, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and Elohim rests upon you. He is indeed blasphemed by them, but glorified by you. Indeed, let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evildoer or as meddling in the affairs of others, but if as a Christian, let him not be ashamed of it, but glorify Elohim with that portion. Because this is the time when judgment begins in the house of Elohim. But if it is first through us, what will be the end of those who rebel against the Gospel of Elohim? And if the righteous are saved with difficulty, he who is ungodly and a sinner, where will he appear? Therefore also, let those who suffer according to Elohim's will, surrender their souls to him, as to the faithful Creator, doing good." 1 Petros 4 : 12-19.

An insult is an extremely serious offense constituting an attack on the honor and dignity of an individual. This can take the form of a word, gesture, threat, writing, drawing or the sending of objects likely to undermine the respect due to a person established in a public ministry. As Elohim's workers, you will inevitably suffer outrages because of your call.

Slander

If the devil can't destroy you through sex, the love of money or

pride, he'll use people's tongues to get at you. It's important to know that the word "devil" comes from the Greek *diabolos* and means "slanderer". The devil therefore uses the tongue to light fires in assemblies, homes, etc. All those who want to respond to the Lord's call must be prepared to suffer all kinds of slander from people who are often very close to them.

Slander is the act of speaking falsely against or defaming someone. It is often engendered by a competitive spirit. Forbidden by the Torah (Vayiqra 19 : 16), slander comes from an evil heart (Markos 7 : 21-23) and must be banished from the Christian community (2 Corinthians 12 : 20; Ephesians 4: 31; Colossians 3: 8; 1 Petros 2 : 1). Indeed, the tongue is capable of lighting a fire and setting a relationship ablaze, i.e. causing quarrels between brothers (Mishlei 15 : 4). It is so difficult to control that it must be disciplined by repressing it every day (Mishlei 13 : 3).

" *You shalt not bear false witness against your neighbor* " Shemot 20 : 16.

Killing and depression

" *And they said: Come on, let's form a plot against Yirmeyah! For the Torah will not perish in the priest, nor the counsel in the wise man, nor the word in the prophet. **Come, and let us kill him with the tongue, and let us not heed his words!*** " Yirmeyah 18: 18.

Slanderers seek to kill, to produce depression and discouragement to cause their target to abandon the faith (1 Timotheos 4 : 1). Jezebel's words had affected Eliyah so much that he became so depressed that he gave up his job and asked to die.

*" Ahab reported to Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. And Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying: So let Elohim treat me and so let them add to it if tomorrow, at this time, I don't use your soul as the soul of one of them! And seeing this, he arose and departed for his soul. He came to Beer-Sheba, which belonged to Yehuda, and left his servant there. For him, he walked in the desert, the way of a day, and went to sit under a broom. **He asked death for his soul, saying: Enough is enough, YHWH! Take my soul, for I am no better than my fathers.** He lay down and fell asleep under a broom tree. Behold, an angel touched him and said: Get up and eat. And he looked, and behold at his bedside a cake baked on hot stones and a pitcher of water. He ate and drank, then went back to bed. The Angel of YHWH came a second time, touched him and said: Arise, eat, for the way is too long for you. " 1 Melakhim 19: 1-7.*

" And there he entered a cave and spent the night. And behold, the word of YHWH came to him and said: What are you doing here Elijah? " 1 Melakhim 19: 9.

You're being asked the same question today: "**What are you doing where you are?**" Are you in a relationship the Lord doesn't approve of? Are you in a country where the Lord has not sent you? Where are you now in relation to the Lord? Have you abandoned your position and your faith because of the slanderers?

It's important to understand that the enemy's aim is to nip your faith in the bud. Yet many Christians abandon the faith because of slander and intimidation from other Christians. If you fall victim to the evil power of other people's tongues, cling to the Lord and continue to fear Him. Don't let anyone kill your call with their

tongue! If you start listening to what people say about you, you destroy your faith.

" Blessed will you be when they insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil things against you, for my sake. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. For this is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthaios 5: 11-12.

V/ WEALTH AND THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD

" And the disciples were frightened by his words. But Yehoshua answered and said to them: Children, how difficult it is for those who trust in riches to enter the Kingdom of Elohim " Markos 10 : 24.

Money was created by man for his own glory. How can we think we can use it to bring souls to Elohim? As we have said, all means and sources, other than the word of Elohim, cannot communicate faith. Yet many paganized Christian leaders, under the thumb of Jezebel, teach their flock that they must be influential with banknotes. They burden the poorest with the idea that they're cursed because they don't drive an Audi, Mercedes, BMW or Porsche! That's why many are prepared to make all kinds of sacrifices and compromises in order to show signs of material success. What deception! Because of their teachings, some Christians are bound by the love of the world to the point of changing their TV set, car, cell phone and other material possessions every year. Yet the Bible invites us to simplicity, recommending that we do not conform to the present age (Romans 12 : 1-2) and not to love the world or the

things that are in the world (1 Yohanan 2: 15-17).

In fact, many Christians believe that you need faith to get married, have children, find a job, have a house, travel, have money... Through faith, they hope to obtain the things of this world. Whereas pagans work, marry, travel, build houses, have children... without faith. Because of these teachings, many pagans refused to be converted. They preach the prosperity gospel to the rich, telling them that if they tithe, they will be blessed financially even though they are already prosperous according to the world. If faith means having the things of this world, then unbelievers have more faith than Christians.

A/ The consequences of the love of money

*" For we have brought nothing into the world, and it is obvious that we can take nothing out of it. If we have food and clothing, that's enough for us. But those who want to become rich fall into temptation, into the trap and into many unintelligent and pernicious desires, which plunge human beings into destruction and perdition. **For the love of money is the root of all evil.** For having desired it, some have turned away from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. But you, O man of Elohim, flee from these things and seek righteousness, piety, faith, love, perseverance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, seize eternal life, to which also you were called and for which you made a beautiful profession in the presence of many witnesses. " 1 Timotheos 6: 7-12.*

According to this passage, the love of money generates :

The temptation

The desire to always possess, to get richer, to make more money, ends up making people fall into pride, lies, duplicity, fornication, etc.

The trap

From the Greek *paxis*, which in English means "trap" or "net". This term is also used in Loukas 21 : 35 : "*For he will come as a net upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth*". The word suggests the unexpected, the improvised... Birds and other animals caught in a net are caught by surprise.

*" But take care of yourselves, lest your hearts be overburdened by dizziness and headache caused by drinking wine to excess or drunkenness, and **by the cares of this life, and that day suddenly surprise you.**"* Loukas 21: 34.

The traps of greed are many, including lying and adultery. A greedy person usually ends up cheating on his or her spouse.

Foolish and pernicious desires

These desires are many: the desire to always possess more than others, covetousness, rivalries, competition, delusions of grandeur... The love of money takes people out of the Lord's vision (Markos 4 : 19).

Ruin and perdition

A greedy person loses himself by departing from the Lord (2 Petros 2).

According to Shelomoh, money satisfies no one: " *He who loves money is not satisfied with money, and he who loves riches does not enjoy them. This too is vanity* " (Qohelet 5: 9).

The faith preached by proponents of the prosperity gospel is carnal, social and materialistic. It pushes human beings to put their hope in material things that are fleeting and futile. It never focuses on the Lord and heavenly hope.

B/ The solution

The global banking system will collapse in the next few years (Apokalupsis 18). The Christian must understand that true wealth is in Mashiah, that is eternal life.

" The kingdom of heaven is still like a treasure hidden in a field. The man who found it hides it; and in his joy, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys this field. The kingdom of heaven is still like a merchant looking for beautiful pearls. He found a pearl of great price; and he went and sold all that he had, and bought it "
Matthaios 13 : 44-46.

CHAPTER 3

APOSTASIA

When the apostles asked the Lord Yehoshua about the signs of his parousia and the completion of the age, the first thing he told them was error or apostasy: " *And Yehoshua answering, said to them: **Make sure no one leads you astray. For many will come under my Name, saying: I am the Mashiah. And they will lead many astray*** " (Matthaios 24 : 4). Let us understand that faith is a fruit that will be abandoned by many Christians in these end times: "... *but, when the Son of Man comes, **will he find faith on Earth?*** " (Loukas 18: 8).

In chapter two, we looked at some of the obstacles to faith. In this section, we focus on understanding the mechanisms that lead to apostasy and blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Indeed, the Christian encounters a number of traps and attacks on his faith along the way. So why do some fall into apostasy while others continue the good fight of faith?

I/ DOCTRINES OF DEMONS AND FALSE DOCTORS

" *But the Spirit expressly says that in the last times some will depart from the faith, clinging to **deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, through the hypocrisy of false teachers, having their own consciences branded with iron, preventing them from marrying, ordering them to abstain from foods that Elohim created to be taken with thanksgiving by the faithful and by those who have known precisely the truth. Because everything Elohim has created is good, and nothing that is taken with thanksgiving should be rejected, for***

it is sanctified by means of Elohim's word and prayer. By expounding these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Yehoshua Mashiah, nourished by the words of faith and the good doctrine which you have exactly followed. " 1 Timotheos 4: 1 à 6.

A/ The doctrines of demons

In Galatians chapter 1 verses 8 to 9, Paulos issues a curse against those who want to overthrow the Lord's Gospel. Yet Elohim said to bless his enemies, but as for people who preach another gospel, he says they should be anathema. Those who teach these doctrines are therefore under a curse. Indeed, since the word is the source of faith, salvation and therefore life, altering it is tantamount to condemning to death those who receive false teaching. So it's a matter of life and death. For if you receive a doctrine other than the apostolic one, it will be very difficult to deliver you from the lie. It's easier to bring pagans to the Lord than to bring indoctrinated Christians to the truth. Because receiving the Word is like being surrounded by a fortress that protects you from the enemy's attacks. But if it's a false gospel, it becomes a fortress that prevents you from accessing the truth, that predestines you and prepares you for hell. So don't let just anyone teach you anything. This is precisely why, once you've received the Gospel, you need to keep your ears open. For the word of Elohim is the source of faith, but the false gospel is the source of unbelief, error and blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

1. Doctrines that contradict the fundamental teachings of the Christian faith

Many churches and theological schools train and send preachers to teach liberal ideas in congregations. These are people who increasingly tolerate greed, divorce, adultery and sexual practices

forbidden by the Lord such as homosexuality or masturbation. These are people who even ordain as pastors men who deny the divinity of Yehoshua, his miraculous birth, his atoning death, his resurrection after three days in the grave, and all the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith such as:

- Faith in Yehoshua alone to be saved (other ways are proposed to humans).
- The perfect atoning sacrifice of Yehoshua ha Mashiah.
- Sanctification as a consequence of conversion (sin is no longer denounced, it is even encouraged in some assemblies).
- The return of the Lord (snatching out of the Church, wedding feast of the Lamb).
- National conversion of Israel.
- The thousand-year reign of the Mashiah on earth.
- Hell or Hades.
- The lake of fire.
- Monogamous marriage between a man and a woman.
- Christians as temples of the Holy Spirit (more and more buildings are being built to replace real temples of the Lord)...

2. Doctrines that contradict teachings not essential to salvation

Many Christians tell themselves that they will never give up on the fundamental teachings of the Gospel. Yet some of these demon doctrines involve not getting married or not eating certain foods. One might think that Satan's main objective is to attack only the fundamental teachings, especially those concerning salvation. So

why would deceitful minds focus on this type of doctrine? The enemy is very clever. He simply knows that "*a little leaven leavens the whole lump.*" (Galatians 5: 9). His aim is therefore to mislead Elohim's children by introducing a few errors into doctrines that are not capital. This avoids arousing the Christian's suspicions. The latter will realize that the pastor who preaches that you shouldn't eat pork or seafood is wrong. But he'll accept this "little mistake" because he finds the rest of the teaching edifying. But it's precisely the failure to denounce this "mistake" that poses a problem.

3. The love of compromised truth

In the social sciences, we call this attitude conformism. In the 50s, the psychosociologist Solomon Asch conducted a very simple experiment: he asked a group of people to judge the length of several lines. But the vast majority of the group had to lie to see how the one member who didn't know about the deception would react. Well, he discovered that most test subjects were willing to make deliberate mistakes to conform to the rest of the group. In the 2000s, a researcher repeated the same experiment under MRI. He realized that, contrary to what you might think, it wasn't the area of the brain responsible for conflict processing that was activated, but the part of the brain concerned with spatial perception. This means that when we conform to a lie in order to please the rest of the group, or simply because we don't dare speak our minds, it's our own perception of the truth that will be altered. In other words, if you don't stand up to the lies, you end up believing them.

*" He whose parousia is according to the efficacy of Satan, with all power, with signs and lying wonders, and with all the seductions of unrighteousness for those who perish **because they have not received the love of the truth in order to be saved. And because of***

this, Elohim sends them the efficacy of wandering so that they believe a lie, so that all those who have not believed the truth but have taken pleasure in unrighteousness may be condemned. " 2 Thessalonians 2: 9-12.

Here, the verb to receive, *dechomai* in Greek, means "to take with the hand", "seize", "the one who receives", "receive favorably", "lend an ear", "kiss", "to make one's own", "to take upon oneself", "to support", "to endure", etc. When Paulos declares that these people have not received the love of the truth, it does not mean that the Lord has not given it to them. On the contrary! In reality, Elohim wanted to give them the love of truth as a gift so that they could be saved, but they didn't reach out to receive it. So let's understand that Christians who have been enlightened by the Lord and who deliberately decide not to oppose lies about Elohim's word will end up believing them, taking pleasure in injustice and apostatizing completely without the possibility of repentance.

Satan uses the same methods to deceive us as he did when he tempted Adam and Chavvah. " *Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the beasts of the field that YHWH Elohim had made. He said to the woman: Surely Elohim said: You shall not eat of every tree of the garden! "* (Bereshit 3: 1). He "slightly" modifies Elohim's word, he misuses it as when he tempted the Lord in Matthaios 4, and if we conform to his doctrines, thinking they have no major consequences, we go astray.

*" I exhort you therefore, brethren, by the compassions of Elohim, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to Elohim. It's your sacred spiritual service. And **do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may***

prove what is the will of Elohim, what is good and acceptable and perfect. " Romans 12: 1-2.

But this is also the age of the proliferation of anti-mashiahs.

B/ False doctors

Before the return of the Mashiah, there must first be the advent of the anti-mashiah, and that begins with apostasy. But before apostasy reaches its climax with the presence of the anti-mashiah in the temple, wandering operates in the assemblies and in the hearts of Christians.

"And Yehoshua answering, said to them: Make sure no one leads you astray. For many will come under my name, saying: I am the Mashiah. And they will lead many astray." Matthaïos 24: 4.

Impostors

The gospel preached by these false teachers elevates the human being to the rank of savior (Romans 1 : 18-27) and not the Lord who shed his blood for our salvation. In so doing, they contravene Elohim's word, which forbids placing one's trust in human beings: *" Thus says YHWH: Cursed be the strong man who trusts in a human being, who makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from YHWH! For he will be like a stripped tree in the arid region and will not see happiness coming, but will dwell in scorched desert places, on a salty and uninhabitable land."* (Yirmeyah 17: 5-6). Despite the Lord's warning, millions of people put their hope in sinful men and women who are or will be overcome by death. Instead of putting their faith solely in the Lord Yehoshua (Acts 4 : 12), our Elohim, who is the only one without sin: *" Which of you*

convinces me of sin? And if I speak the truth, why do you not believe me? " (Yohanan 8 : 46). Never put your faith in a man who has the same weaknesses as you.

Yehoshua is the only one to have conquered sin, death and the devil.
" Blessed is the strong man who trusts in YHWH, and for whom YHWH is hope! For he will be like a tree planted by the waters, spreading his roots along running water: when the heat comes, he will not notice, and his leaf will remain green. He shall not grieve in the year of drought, nor cease from bearing fruit. " (Yirmeyah 17 : 7-8).

Even today, politicians and religious figures of all stripes accept a cult of personality. These anti-mashiahs present themselves to Men as saviors, as Theudas and Yehuda the Galilean did in their day.

" But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a doctor of the Torah, honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered the apostles to be taken out for a moment. And he said to them: Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves about what you are going to do about these men. For before these days arose Theudas, claiming to be someone, and closely joined by a number of about 400 men. He was killed, and all those who had allowed themselves to be persuaded by him were scattered and reduced to nothing. After him arose Yehuda the Galilean, in the days of the census, and he led quite a large people to revolt behind him. He also perished, and all those who were persuaded by him were scattered. " Acts 5: 34-37.

Many people had put their trust in Theudas and Yehuda the

Galilean, but after the death of these two impostors, all their followers were scattered and confused. Today, billions of people still put their trust in men with the same weaknesses as themselves. The anti-mashiahs take advantage of the idolatry that is hidden in the hearts of men and women to teach that we should kneel and worship creatures rather than the Creator. They even accept to be sung to, to have their clothes touched for anointing. They want to be seen on social networks, they want to attract souls to them and not to the Lord. And in this way, they steal Elohim's glory.

Sinners

" because having known Elohim, they did not glorify him as Elohim and they did not give thanks to him, but they became vain in their reasonings, and their heart destitute of understanding was covered by darkness. They claim to be wise, they have become fools, and they have changed the glory of incorruptible Elohim into the likeness of the image of corruptible human beings, and of birds, and quadrupeds, and reptiles. That is why Elohim also gave them up, in the desires of their own hearts, to impurity to dishonor among themselves their own bodies, they who exchanged the truth of Elohim for falsehood and worshipped and served the creature, instead of the Creator, who is blessed for the ages. Amen! That's why Elohim gave them over to their dishonorable passions, for even the females among them exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way, the males, abandoning natural sexual relations with the female sex, became inflamed in their desires for each other, doing shameful things, male with male, and receiving in themselves the just and correct reward for their wandering. And since they did not see fit to have the precise and correct knowledge of Elohim, so Elohim gave them over to reprobate thinking, to practice things that are not fitting, being

filled with every kind of injustice, illicit sexual intercourse, wickedness, avarice, malignity, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and bad temper, gossipers, backbiters, haters of Elohim, insolent, proud, vain, inventors of evil things, rebellious to their parents, without understanding, not keeping what they have promised, without natural affection, without treaty or covenant, without mercy. Which having known the ordinance of Elohim which declares worthy of death those who practice such things, they not only do them themselves, but also approve those who practice them.
" Romans 1: 21-32.

Because these false brothers stole Elohim's glory and preferred to worship the creature rather than the Creator, the Lord handed them over to a reprobate life. So it's not surprising to see abominations in today's so-called assemblies of the Lord. There are churches where worshippers are whipped, where women have their private parts shaved, where they are stripped naked and washed in front of the whole congregation and all in the name of Yehoshua... this is total apostasy, pure madness! The fear of Elohim has disappeared from their hearts. Churches have become theaters where everyone plays a role. These are the homes of demons, where couples are broken up, families separated, and people stripped bare. They're places where pastors hunt their prey like predators, where cantors and preachers are worshipped and magnified like stars. These are places where those with genuine faith in Yehoshua are rejected, persecuted and broken.

False brothers

" Children, this is your last hour. And as you have heard that the

Anti-Mashiah will come, now also many anti-mashiahs have appeared. From here we know it's the last hour. They came out from us, but they weren't from us, because if they had been from us, they would have stayed with us. But we want to make it clear that not all of them are from us. And you, you have the anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. I'm writing to you, not because you don't know the truth, but because you do, and because no lie is truth. Who is the liar, if not the one who denies that Yehoshua is the Mashiah? This is the Anti-Mashiah, who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either. Whoever confesses the Son also has the Father. So let what you have heard from the beginning remain with you. If what you have heard from the beginning remains in you, you too will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he himself promised us: Eternal life. I have written these things to you about those who lead you astray. And you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need to be taught. But since the same anointing teaches you all things and is true and not a lie, and according as it has taught you, you will abide in him. " 1 Yohanan 2: 18-27.

The proliferation of anti-mashiahs around the world is a feature of the last hour. But they didn't come out of the world, they were born into the Lord's churches, into the true church. That's why they know all about Christians, Christian doctrine and true teaching. So they know how to manipulate them, take advantage of their hospitality and charity. They know how to disguise themselves to better deceive their brothers and sisters: " *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers who transform themselves into apostles of the Mashiah. And no wonder, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. So it's no great thing if his servants also turn into*

servants of justice. But their end will be according to their deeds . (2 Corinthians 11: 13-15). And once Christians are seduced, these false teachers start preaching another gospel, another mashiah and another spirit. They begin to declare that there are other mashiahs, other saviors, other lords. While the Word teaches that there is only one Lord: "*I beg you then, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk in a manner worthy of the vocation to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, striving to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace : One body and one Spirit, just as you are called to one hope by your vocation. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one Elohim and Father of all, who is above all and among all and in all of you* " (Ephesians 4 : 15). They attack Yehoshua's divinity, his paternity, his messiahship and they deny the mystery of godliness: "*And without question, the mystery of godliness is great: Elohim was manifested in the flesh, justified by the Spirit, seen by angels, preached in the nations, believed in the world, and exalted in glory.* " (1 Timotheos 3: 16).

" Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of Elohim, because many false prophets have come into the world. By this you know the Spirit of Elohim: every spirit that confesses that Yehoshua Mashiah came in the flesh is of Elohim, and every spirit that does not confess that Yehoshua Mashiah came in the flesh is not of Elohim: it is that of the Anti-Mashiah, of whom you have heard that he is coming, and now he is already in the world. Little children, you are of Elohim, and you have won the victory over them, because he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world. That's why they speak as if they were of the world, and the world listens to them. We are of Elohim. He who knows Elohim listens to us; he who is not of

Elohîm does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of wandering ". 1 Yohanan 4 : 1-6.

The apostle Yohanan declares that there are two spirits: the Spirit of Elohîm and the spirit of error. The anti-mashiahs are led by the spirit of wandering. When they themselves go astray, they lead astray those who listen to them and associate with them.

" He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters." Loukas 11 : 23.

This spirit is at work in the world. Therefore, the anti-mashiahs are of the world, they speak as being of the world and the world listens to them. Their deceptive teachings fit in perfectly with the doctrines and religions of the world. For example, the trinity doctrine is found in Babylon, Egypt and India, but nowhere in the Scriptures. This doctrine does not agree with the Bible, but it does coincide with those of polytheistic religions.

" For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways - YHWH's declaration." Yesha'yah 55: 8.

" And answering, he said to them: Because to you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given." Matthaïos 13:11.

Biblical doctrine and the mystery of the Kingdom are not accessible to those without faith. A false prophet speaks like the world and according to the world. While a servant of Elohîm speaks according to the Scriptures: *" Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received and in which you*

stand firm, and by means of which you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first what I also received, that Mashiah died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and was buried, and rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures " (1 Corinthians 15 : 1-4). Paulos did not stray from the Scriptures, i.e. the Torah and the prophets. He confirmed and validated the teachings of Elohim's servants who preceded him. Whereas the anti-mashiahs stir up trouble with erroneous messages that seek to nullify the Gospel of the cross, salvation by grace and the divinity of Yehoshua. These anti-mashiahs are the tares of which the Lord spoke. They resemble wheat, but the difference is in the ripening of the fruit, which can be recognized by its shape.

II/ GOING ASTRAY

" And Yehoshua answering, said to them: Take care that no one leads you astray ". Matthaios 24: 4.

The verb to lead astray, *planao* in Greek, means to deceive: "to go astray", "to deceive", "to be led astray", "to be led astray from the path of virtue"; but also to deceive oneself: "to sin", "to separate or depart from the truth" or "to err". One can apostatize because of one's company, but also because of one's evil heart and one's own flesh.

" Let no one deceive you in any way. For apostasy must come first, and the man of sin, the son of perdition, must be revealed " 2 Thessalonians 2 : 3.

The term apostasy, *apostasia* in Greek, evokes above all the act of leaving the path of truth by oneself: "action of departing from",

"defection", and "desertion". A comparable term is found in Matthaïos chapter 5, verse 31, which is called *apostasion* in Greek and means "divorce", "repudiation" and "letter of divorce". Wandering or going astray, then, consists in divorcing Yehoshua as the way, the truth and the life, in order to walk another path and marry another elohîm, lies and death.

A/ The three stages leading to apostasy

" Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the assembly of scoffers, but delights in the Torah of YHWH, and meditates on His Torah day and night! He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and whose foliage does not wither. Everything he does will succeed. But not so with the wicked: they are like a ball blown away by the wind. This is why the wicked do not resist in judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For YHWH knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish. " Tehilim 1.

" Don't go astray: Bad companies corrupt good morals ". 1 Corinthians 15: 33.

1. Taking advice from the wicked

Apostasy begins with listening to the counsel of the wicked, i.e. erroneous teachings, wickedness about the Lord, His word or His children, as well as all the anti-biblical doctrines preached by demons and their servants.

" Therefore you shall say to them: This is the nation that does not

*listen to the voice of YHWH, his Elohim, and does not accept correction. **The truth has disappeared, it has been cut out of their mouths.***" Yirmeyah 7: 28.

Listening to the advice of the wicked removes the truth from the mouth and therefore the heart of the apostate Christian. Indeed, it is from the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks (Loukas 6 : 45). So when the Lord declares that the truth has been cut out of their mouths, he's also talking about the heart. Now, as we know, it is the Evil One who snatches away the word that is sown in hearts (Matthaios 13 : 19), it is these very people who give access to the enemy.

*" For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not listen to the Torah of YHWH, who say to the seers: Don't see! And to the prophets: **Don't prophesy truths to us ! Tell us flattering things, prophesy illusions ! Get out of the way, turn away from the path, remove the Holy One of Israel from our presence.** "*
Yesha'yah 30: 9 to 11.

2. Stopping in the path of sinners

After listening to the advice of the wicked, the apostate Christian leaves the path of life to stop on the path of death, on the path of sinners.

" Enter by the narrow gate, for wide is the gate, and spacious is the way that leads to perdition, and there are many who enter by it. For the gate is narrow and the way to life is narrow, and few there be who find it. " Matthaios 7: 13-14.

" You did run well. Who stopped you from being persuaded by the

truth? Deceptive persuasion doesn't come from the one who calls you. A little leaven makes the whole dough rise. I have this confidence in you in the Lord that you won't have another thought. But whoever troubles you will bear the condemnation." Galatians 5: 7.

3. *Sitting in the assembly of scoffers*

Finally, the apostate Christian ends up sitting in an assembly where the members mock the Lord through their teachings and behavior.

*" YHWH! You know everything, remember me, visit me, avenge me on those who persecute me! Don't take me away, while you show yourself slow to anger! I want you to know that I put up with insults because of you. I found your words and devoured them. Your words have made my heart glad and rejoice, for Your Name is called upon me, YHWH, Elohim Tsevaot! **I did not sit and rejoice in the assembly of scoffers. But I sat alone because of your hand, for you filled me with indignation.** "* Yirmeyah 15: 15-17.

" The truth is gone and anyone who turns away from evil is stripped. YHWH has seen it, and it has displeased His eyes because there is no more righteousness. " Yesha'yah 59: 15.

B/ Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit

" Brothers, if anyone among you has strayed far from the truth, and another brings him back to it, let him know that he who brings a sinner back from the error of his ways will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins " Yaacov 5:19-20.

The Christian who goes astray can be brought back to the authentic faith. But misguidance can also lead to a point of no return and to committing the unforgivable sin.

" Then a blind and mute demoniac was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the blind and mute spoke and saw. And all the crowds were astonished and said: Is this not the Son of David? But when the Pharisees heard this, they said: He only drives out demons through Beelzebub, the chief demon. But Yehoshua, knowing their thoughts, said to them: Every kingdom divided against itself will be reduced to a desert, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. And if Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How will his kingdom survive? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? That's why they themselves will be your judges. But if by the Spirit of Elohim I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of Elohim has come to you. Or, how can anyone enter the house of a strong man and plunder his possessions if he has not first bound that strong man? And then he'll plunder his house. He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. That's why I tell you that every sin and every blasphemy will be handed over to humans, but blasphemy against the Spirit, will not be handed over to humans. And whoever has spoken against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever has spoken against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him in this age or in that which is to come. Either produce a beautiful tree and its beautiful fruit, or produce a rotten tree and its rotten fruit, for the tree is known by the fruit. Progeny of vipers, how could you say good things, mean as you are? For it is from the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks. The good human being draws good things from the good treasure of his heart, and the bad human being draws bad things from his bad treasure. But I

tell you that on the Day of Judgment, human beings will give account for every idle word they have spoken. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
Matthaios 12: 22-37.

1. The vanity of words

In this extract from the book of Matthaios, the Lord had delivered a man who was possessed. Instead of glorifying Elohim, the Pharisees attributed this miracle to Beelzebub, the prince of flies, i.e. to Satan. The Lord Yehoshua rebuked the Pharisees for the vanity of their words. This means that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit begins with vain words: words that are false or empty of meaning. Now the Pharisees, who were doctors, knew the Torah and they knew that the Name of Elohim was not to be used in vain according to Shemot chapter 20 verse 7. So they knew not to blaspheme.

We're all going to have to give an account for the empty words we've spoken. That's why when you're not sure whether a brother or sister is doing the works of Elohim, it's best to refrain from speaking and wait for a conviction from the Lord. Remember that doubt is an opportunity to seek answers from the Creator. Don't rush, don't accuse a servant of Elohim of being a guru or a sorcerer lest you blaspheme against His Spirit.

2. Attributing Elohim's work to Satan

Here, it was clear that the miracle was the work of the Holy Spirit. For if Yehoshua the man was able to heal, deliver, bring people to faith... it was thanks to the Holy Spirit, for as he so aptly put it, you know the tree by its fruit. And all his works were based on the Lord's love for mankind. To attribute these works to Satan is to call this

love into question. Let's not forget that works testify of the Lord and that all these things are proofs of the invisible things that are to be used in judgment against unbelievers.

3. A willingly and unforgivable sin

" For, if we sin willingly after having received the precise and correct knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, but a terrible expectation of judgment and the ardor of a fire that must devour the adversaries. Has anyone rejected Moshe's Torah? He dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much worse do you think the punishment will be which will be judged worthy of him who has trampled underfoot the Son of Elohim, and who has considered as a profane thing the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?" Hebrews 10: 26-29.

The Pharisees knew deep down that Yehoshua was a servant of Elohim: *" But there was a man from among the Pharisees, named Nikodemos, one of the leaders of the Jews. **He came to Yehoshua by night and said to him: Rabbi, we know that you are a Doctor come from Elohim, for no one can produce the signs that you produce, unless Elohim is with him.**"* (Yohanan 3: 1-2). Secretly, the Pharisees recognized that Yehoshua's works testified to him and that he was necessarily from Elohim. But in public, they declared that he was possessed by an impure spirit. But it was the Holy Spirit who acted through Yehoshua. In other words, they claimed that the Spirit of Elohim was an impure spirit even though they knew they were lying.

" Amen, I say to you that all sins will be forgiven to the sons of humans, as well as the blasphemies by which they have blasphemed. But whoever has blasphemed against the Holy Spirit has no remission forever, but is liable to eternal judgment. Because they said: He has an unclean spirit." Markos 3: 28-30.

Precisely because it is a willful sin, committed by people with knowledge, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is unforgivable. Indeed, if a Christian sins by attributing Elohim's works to Satan, for lack of knowledge, the Lord will want to enlighten him. The sin becomes unforgivable when the person is aware that he or she is lying, or has sufficient knowledge not to make such a mistake. So it's a sin that exclusively concerns believers, those who know the Torah or the Gospels. So pagans can't blaspheme against the Holy Spirit.

" If anyone sees his brother sinning of a sin that is not toward death, he will ask and he will give him life: for those whose sin is not toward death. There is a sin that is towards death. It's not about this one that I say pray. All unrighteousness is sin, but there is a sin that is not toward death. "1 Yohanan 5:16.

4. To trample on the blood of the covenant, to outrage the Spirit of grace

" YHWH said: My Spirit will not contend forever with the human being, for he is only flesh and his days will be 120 years." Bereshit 6: 3.

The wickedness of human beings had reached such a point that the Lord had decided to withdraw his Spirit. But this Spirit will return thousands of years later, thanks to the work of the cross. The Lord

Yehoshua, through his sacrifice, will once again obtain the gift of the Spirit from the Father. The Spirit that works in the children of Elohim has been granted to us through the work of the cross. So to blaspheme against the Spirit is also to trample underfoot the work of the cross and to outrage the Spirit of grace. Indeed, the Spirit of Yehoshua cannot be dissociated from the Holy Spirit, because it is his Spirit. The cross is the paroxysm of the Father's love, the basis of the Christian faith, the basis of our preaching (1 Corinthians 15).

5. The stages leading to the spirit of wandering

First, the Spirit is saddened: "*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of Elohim, by whom you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption*". (Ephesians 4: 30).

Then, if the person perseveres in this sin, the Spirit is extinguished and they die spiritually: "*Do not quench the Spirit.*" (1 Thessalonians 5: 19). The apostate Christian adopts the religion, legalism, formalism. He becomes a member of the Sardis church, which is reputed to be alive but dead.

Finally, the Spirit is withdrawn: "*Therefore remember where you fell from, repent and do the first works. Otherwise, I'm coming to you with all speed, and I'll remove your candlestick from its place if you don't repent.*" (Apokalupsis 2: 5). The Holy Spirit is represented by a candlestick, so removing the candlestick is equivalent to removing the Spirit. And when the Spirit is withdrawn from a Christian, it is replaced by the spirit of wandering.

" And because of this, Elohim sends them the efficacy of wandering so that they believe a lie, so that all those who have not believed the truth, but have taken pleasure in unrighteousness may be

condemned." 2 Thessalonians 2: 11.

CONCLUSION

We are in the last days according to Scripture and world events. Many Christians , like *Hymenaios and Alexandros*, abandoned their faith . As truth has disappeared, so has the faith that flows from that truth. Many people have an intellectual belief, but very few have faith.

" My son Timotheos, this is the commandment I entrust to you, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you fight the good fight, having faith and a good conscience. Some who rejected the latter were shipwrecked as far as faith was concerned. Among these are Hymenaios and Alexandros, whom I have delivered to Satan so that they may learn not to blaspheme." 1 Timotheos 1 : 18-20.

Faith is like a traveler who sails his boat on a river full of dangers that he must constantly avoid.

So let's take a leaf out of the book of those who kept the faith until they died: *" I fought the good fight, I finished the race, **I kept the faith**. From now on, the crown of justice is reserved for me. The Lord, the righteous Judge, will deliver it to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing. "* (2 Timotheos 4: 7-8).

How do you keep the faith?

First, we have to make sure that our faith comes from the word of Elohim. A person who realizes that it wasn't the right source or the right way needs to go back to the word. Secondly, we must not stray

from the source of our faith. You have to be a lover of the Scriptures and of the Lord. Read the Bible and pray for the strength you need to keep the faith. We must keep our eyes fixed on the Lord Yehoshua, our Master. And above all, never focus on your problems, on people, on the world and its possessions.

*" So we too, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin that surrounds us with skill, and run with perseverance in the arena that is set before us, **fixing our eyes on Yehoshua, the author of faith and who leads it to perfection.** In exchange for the joy that was reserved for him, he suffered the cross, having despised the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of Elohîm. " Hebrews 12: 1-2.*

Finally, you need to be with good people, because bad company corrupts good morals. Whereas he who rubs shoulders with the wise becomes wise. The culmination of wisdom is the fear of the Lord.

To be read without moderation:

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen. For it was through it that the elders obtained the testimony. By faith, we understand that the ages have been put in order by the word of Elohim, so that the things that are seen come from those that are not exposed to view. Through faith, Abel offered Elohim a more excellent sacrifice than Qayin, and through it he obtained the testimony of being righteous, because Elohim bore witness to his offerings. And it is through it that he still speaks, though dead. By faith, Hanowk was taken away so that he would not see death, and he appeared no more because Elohim had taken him away. For, before his transfer, he had obtained the testimony of having been pleasing to Elohim. But it is impossible to please him without faith, for he who approaches Elohim must believe that he is and that he is the rewarder of those who seek him. By faith, Noah, having been divinely warned about things not yet seen, feared and built the ark for his family's salvation. And through it he condemned the world and became heir to the righteousness that is according to faith. By faith, Abraham being called, obeyed, to go to the land he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith, he sojourned as a stranger in the land of promise, dwelling in tents with Yitzhak and Yaacov, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was waiting for the city that has foundations, the city of which Elohim is the architect and builder. By faith, too, Sarah herself received the strength to conceive a posterity, and she gave birth out of age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. That's why also from one, and who was already stricken with death, came forth people like the stars of heaven, in multitude, and like the sand that is on the shore of the sea that cannot be numbered. All these died in faith, not having obtained the promises, but they saw them from afar, and were

persuaded and greeted them, and confessed that they were strangers and sojourners on Earth. For those who speak like this show that they are looking for their homeland. And if they had indeed kept in mind the one from which they had come, they would have had time to return. But now they want a better one, a heavenly one. Therefore Elohim is not ashamed to be called their Elohim, because he has prepared a city for them. By faith, Abraham, being tested, offered Yitzhak. He who had received the promises offered even his only son, to whom it had been said: It is in Yitzhak that your posterity will be called. He believed that Elohim could even rise from the dead. That's why he also found it in a parable. By faith, Yitzhak blesses Yaacov and Esav, in view of things to come. By faith, Yaacov, dying, blessed each of Yosef's sons and worshipped, leaning on the end of his staff. By faith, Yosef dying, made mention of the exit of the sons of Israel and gave orders about his bones. By faith, Moshe, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they did not fear the king's command. By faith, Moshe, now grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing to be mistreated along with Elohim's people, rather than enjoy sin for a time. Esteeming the Mashiah's disgrace as greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked further, toward remuneration. By faith, he left Egypt, not fearing the king's fury, for he remained steadfast, as seeing Him who is invisible. By faith, he made the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the destroyer of the first-born would not touch them. By faith, they crossed the Red Sea as through a dry place, while the Egyptians who attempted it were swallowed up. By faith, the walls of Yeriyo fell, after we had circled them for seven days. By faith, Rahab the harlot did not perish with the rebels, because she had received the spies in peace. And what else can I say? For time would fail me to speak of Guid'on,

and Barak, and Shimshôn, and Yiphtah, and David, and Shemouél, and the prophets, who, by means of faith, conquered kingdoms, exercised justice, obtained promises, closed the jaws of lions, quenched the force of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were fortified from weakness, became strong in battle and put foreign armies to flight. Women recovered their dead through resurrection. But others were tortured, not accepting redemption in order to obtain a better resurrection. But others received their ordeal with mockery and whips, and even with bonds and prison. They were stoned, sawn up and put to the test. They died by murder of the sword. They were wanderers, dressed in sheep's skins and goats' skins, needy, oppressed, mistreated, not worthy of the world, lost in uninhabited regions and mountains and caves and holes in the earth. And all these, though they received a good testimony because of their faith, yet did not obtain the promise. Elohim having provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us. Hebrews 11.

Help table

Anti-mashiah: AntiMashiah	Mishlei: Proverbs
Apokalupsis: Revelation	Miykayah: Micah
Bamidbar: Numbers	Moshe: Moses
Bereshit: Genesis	Paulos: Saul
Chabaqquwq: Habakuk	Petros: Peter
Chavvah: Eve	Shelomoh: Salomon
Daniye'l: Daniel	Shim'ôn: Simeon
Devarim: Deuteronomy	Shemouél: Samuel
Ekklésia : Assembly	Tehilim: Psalms
Éliy`ezer: Eliezer	Timotheos: Timothy
Éliyah : Elijah	Titos : Titus
Éliysha: Elisha	Qohelet: Ecclesiastes
Esav : Esau	Yarden: Jordan
Hanowk: Enoch	Yaacov: Jacob
Hoshea: Hosea	Vayiqra: Leviticus
Iyov: Job	Yehoshua: Jesus
Kaleb: Caleb	Yehoshua : Joshua
Kena'an: Canaan	Yehuda: Juda
Kena'ânéens : Canaanites	Yesha'yah: Isaiah
Loukas: Luc	Yerushalaim: Jerusalem
Malkiy-Tsédeq: Melchizedek	Yirmeyah: Jeremiah
Markos: Mark	Yitzhak : Isaac
Mashiah: Messiah	Yohanan: John
Matthaios: Matthew	
Melakhim: Kings	

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Contact :

ANJC PRODUCTIONS

24 Rue Charles Fourier

91 000 Evry Courcouronnes

Email : contact@tv2vie.org

Website: www.tv2vie.org