

Greetings, today our manna is from Exodus 24; Job 42; John 3; 2Cor. 12.

March 13 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

[Note: **For teaching purposes only**, underlines, bold font, and highlight emphasis have been used in PDFs.]
Scripture Source: e-Sword TS2009 unless otherwise noted: <https://www.e-sword.net/>

Exodus 24

The Book of the Covenant Confirmed

The Book of the Covenant, the marriage covenant, covers Ex. 19:4 – Ex. 24:11. Moses recorded the initial Book of the Covenant on a parchment scroll.

A Blood Ratified Covenant has 4 Components. The Book of the Covenant was blood ratified.

1. Proposal – located in Ex. 19:4-6

Exo 19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Mitsrites, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

Exo 19:5 '**And now, if you diligently obey My voice, and shall guard My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession above all the peoples – for all the earth is Mine –**

Exo 19:6 'and you shall be to Me a reign of priests and a set-apart nation.' Those are the words which you are to speak to the children of Yisra'el.'

2. Acceptance – located in Ex. 19:8

Exo 19:8 And all the people answered together and said, "**All that יהוה has spoken we shall do.**" So Mosheh brought back the words of the people to יהוה.

[Moses relayed all the Words of YHWH and the right-rulings and again the people accept in Ex. 24:3 and Ex. 24:7. **In Exodus 19:4-6, they first accept** His proposal before they even know the details of the Covenant; now they hear all the details and still willingly accept.]

Exo 24:3 [& Ex:24:7] And Mosheh came and related to the people all the Words of יהוה and all the right-rulings. **And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the Words which יהוה has spoken we shall do."**

3. Blood Ratification – Ex. 24:4 – Ex. 24:8

- a. Moses wrote down all the Words of YHWH (Ex. 24:4)
- b. Moses built a slaughter place at the foot of the mountain and set-up 12 columns symbolic of the 12 tribes of Israel. (Laws of Altars Ex. 20:22-26)
- c. The young men of the children of Israel offer:
 - i. Ascending offerings

- ii. Peace offerings (slaughter offerings of bulls)
- d. **Moses performs the blood ratification** sprinkling and again the people voice acceptance. Also see Heb. 9:19.

Heb 9:19 For when, according to Torah, every command had been spoken by Mosheh to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, **and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,**

Exo 24:6 And Mosheh took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the slaughter-place.

Exo 24:7 And he took the **Book of the Covenant** and read in the hearing of the people. **And they said, “All that יהוה has spoken we shall do, and obey.”**

Exo 24:8 And Mosheh took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “See, the **blood of the covenant** which יהוה has made with you concerning all these Words.”

- 4. **Covenant Confirming Meal with YHWH** – this is Moses’ **7th Ascent** up the Mount

Exo 24:9 And Mosheh went up, also Aharon, Naḏab, and Aḇihu, and **seventy of the elders of Yisra’ēl,**

Exo 24:10 and **they saw the Elohim of Yisra’ēl,** and under His feet like a paved work of sapphire stone, and like the heavens for brightness.

Exo 24:11 Yet He did not stretch out His hand against the chiefs of the children of Yisra’ēl! **And they saw Elohim, and they ate and drank.**

After the covenant confirming meal, the Book of the Covenant was binding. **No one could add to or take away from this blood ratified covenant.** However, if this covenant was broken, someone would have to die. The death penalty arm in (Gen. 15) change the unconditional Promise of YHWH in (Gen. 12:1-3) to one with a condition. This was done when Abraham asked for assurance (Gen. 15:8-9). Now the added death penalty ‘condition’ would have to be fulfilled if the Book of the Covenant was broken in order to connect us back to the original unconditional Promise given to Abraham by YHWH (Gen. 12).

In **Exodus 24:12**, we see Moses called up the mount to receive the tablets of stone, the Torah, and the command which YHWH had written to teach them. This would be the **8th ascent** we have come across in our readings.

Exo 24:12 And יהוה said to Mosheh, “Come up to Me on the mountain and be there, while I give you tablets of stone, and the Torah and the command which I have written, to teach them.”

Exo 24:13 **And Mosheh arose with his assistant Yehoshua,** and Mosheh went up to the mountain of Elohim.

Exo 24:14 And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we come back to you. And see, Aharon and H̄ur are with you. Whoever has matters, let him go to them.”

From, my studies, it appears [Exodus 24:12](#) is the 1st set of stone tablets. The reason being is that in [Exodus 34:1-3](#) scripture records that YHWH instructs Moses to **bring no one with him** when he goes up the mount to receive the 2nd set of stone tablets.

[Exo 34:1](#) And יהוה said to Mosheh, **“Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I shall write on these tablets the Words that were on the first tablets which you broke.”**

[Exo 34:2](#) “And be ready in the morning. **Then you shall come up** in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain.

[Exo 34:3](#) **“And let no man come up with you, and let no man be seen in all the mountain, and let not even the flock or the herd feed in front of that mountain.”**

For a time, everything comes to a ‘vertical’ standstill as the people continue to camp at the foot of Mount Sinai. Moses [and Joshua going with Moses to receive the 1st set of stone tablets] is consistently going ‘vertically’ up and down the mountain; the rest of the people were in a holding pattern.

1. [Moses goes up with Joshua to receive the 1st set of stone tablets.](#) (Ex. 24:12)
2. [As they return after 40 days/nights, the people have sinned with the worship of the golden calf.](#) (Ex. 32)
3. [Moses comes down the mount and breaks the 1st set of stone tablets](#) symbolic of the Book of the Covenant being broken by the people. (Ex. 32:19)
4. [Moses goes back up the mountain to intercede for the people to spare their very lives.](#) (Ex. 32:31)
5. [Moses is instructed to go up the mount by himself to receive the 2nd set of stone tablets.](#) (Ex. 34)
6. With the breaking of the 1st set of stone tablets, Scripture immediately goes into describing the Tabernacle system that would be implemented by the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood (Ex. 25). Remember, not all scripture is chronological!
7. The Book of the Covenant has been broken. Now the Tabernacle system will be imposed along with the Book of the Law, which would become their tutor, to spare their very lives **UNTIL Yahusha would restore the Melchizedek Priesthood to the reigning position through His atoning sacrifice.**
8. The Melchizedek Priesthood predated the implementation of the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood. Recall that Aaron and his sons Nadab and Abihu were present and partook in the **Book of the Covenant confirming meal and were part of the Melchizedek Priesthood** BEFORE serving in the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood. (Ex. 24:1; Ex. 24:9)

The Covenant Confirmed

Exo 24:1 And to Mosheh He said, “Come up to יהוה, you and Aharon, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Yisra’el, and you shall bow yourselves from a distance.

Exo 24:2 “But Mosheh shall draw near to יהוה by himself, and let them not draw near, nor let the people go up with him.”

Exo 24:3 And Mosheh came and related to the people all the Words of יהוה and all the right-rulings. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “**All the Words which יהוה has spoken we shall do.**” [This was the people’s second acceptance; the first acceptance was Ex. 19:8]

Exo 24:4 And **Mosheh wrote down all the Words of יהוה**, and rose up early in the morning, and built a slaughter-place at the foot of the mountain, and twelve standing columns for the twelve tribes of Yisra’el.

Exo 24:5 And he sent young men of the children of Yisra’el, and they offered **ascending offerings** and slaughtered slaughterings of **peace offerings** to יהוה of bulls.

Prior to the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood, the slaughter offerings made to YHWH served as a reverent covering in His presence, for communion, and for blood ratification. They were ascending offering and peace offerings. This changes after the sin of the golden calf and the offerings become much more elaborate under the Tabernacle system.

The first mention of ‘sin offering’ is in: **Exo 29:14** “But the flesh of the bull, and its skin and its dung, you shall burn with fire outside the camp. **It is a sin offering.**”

Exo 24:6 And Mosheh took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the slaughter-place.

Exo 24:7 And he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that יהוה has spoken we shall do, and obey.”

Exo 24:8 And Mosheh took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “See, the blood of the covenant which יהוה has made with you concerning all these Words.”

Exo 24:9 And Mosheh went up, also Aharon, Naḏab, and Aḇihu, and seventy of the elders of Yisra’el,

Exo 24:10 and they saw the Elohim of Yisra’el, and under His feet like a paved work of sapphire stone, and like the heavens for brightness.

Exo 24:11 Yet He did not stretch out His hand against the chiefs of the children of Yisra’el! And they saw Elohim, and they ate and drank.

Exo 24:12 And יהוה said to Mosheh, “Come up to Me on the mountain and be there, while I give you tablets of stone, and the Torah and the command which I have written, to teach them.”

Exo 24:13 And Mosheh arose with his assistant Yehoshua, and Mosheh went up to the mountain of Elohim.

Exo 24:14 And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we come back to you. And see, Aharon and H̄ur are with you. Whoever has matters, let him go to them.”

Exo 24:15 And Mosheh went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain.

Exo 24:16 And the esteem of יהוה dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. And on the seventh day He called to Mosheh out of the midst of the cloud.

Exo 24:17 And the appearance of the esteem of יהוה was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain, before the eyes of the children of Yisra'el.

Exo 24:18 And Mosheh went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And it came to be that Mosheh was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Job 42

As the Book of Job concludes, we see Job is reconciled to YHWH and YHWH blesses Job with twice as much as he had before.

YHWH rebukes Job's three friends and they are told to make sacrificial restitution. We hear no outcome relating to Elihu. Elihu played a mysterious yet interesting roll after Job's three friends; but then we hear no more of him after Job 37.

Job goes on to have seven sons and his three daughters that are mentioned by name. Scripture makes note that the daughters were the most beautiful in the land and they were also given an inheritance among their brethren. All his friends and family members come to console him and bear him gifts.

Job lives 140 years after his trial and sees his children and grandchildren for four generations and dies in peace.

Job's Confession and Repentance

Job 42:1 And Iyob answered יהוה and said,

Job 42:2 "You know that You are able to do all, and that no purpose is withheld from You.

Job 42:3 Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I declared but I did not understand, *matters* too marvellous for me, which I did not know.

Job 42:4 Listen, please, and let me speak. I ask You, then would You make it known to me?"

Job 42:5 I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You.

Job 42:6 Therefore I despise *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes."

Rebukes Job's Friends

Job 42:7 And it came to be, after יהוה had spoken these words to Iyob, that יהוה said to Eliphaz the Tēmanite, "My wrath has burned against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as did My servant Iyob.

Job 42:8 And now, take seven bulls and seven rams, and go to My servant Iyob, and offer up an ascending offering for yourselves. And let My servant Iyob pray for you – for I accept him – lest I punish you; because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as did My servant Iyob."

Job 42:9 So Eliphaz the Tēmanite and Bildad the Shuḥite, Tsophar the Na'amathite

went and did as יהוה commanded them. And יהוה accepted the face of Iyob.

YHWH Restores Job's Fortunes

Job 42:10 And יהוה turned the captivity of Iyob when he prayed for his friends. And יהוה gave Iyob twice as much as he had before.

Job 42:11 And all his brothers, and all his sisters, and all those who had been his friends before, came to him and ate food with him in his house. And they sympathised with him and comforted him for all the evil that יהוה had brought upon him. And they each gave him a *qesitah*^a and each one a ring of gold. **Footnote:** ^aA monetary unit of uncertain value, perhaps in the form of a lamb.

Job 42:12 And יהוה blessed the latter days of Iyob more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys.

Job 42:13 And he had seven sons and three daughters.

Job 42:14 And he called the name of the first Yemimah, and the name of the second Qetsi'ah, and the name of the third Qeren-Happuq.

Job 42:15 And in all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Iyob. And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.

Job 42:16 And after this Iyob lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations.

Job 42:17 And Iyob died, old and satisfied with days.

John 3

Everyone must read **John Chapter 3** and make their decision to **accept or reject His Covenant Confirming Gospel Message**. This is His **New Covenant** proposal offered to the world, that paid the **death penalty arm of Gen. 15 by His blood**; and connects us back to the **Promise of Abraham in Gen 12**. The **New Covenant** contains the four elements of a blood ratified covenant: **proposal, acceptance; blood ratification; and a covenant confirming meal**.

1. Yahusha has **proposed** to us.
2. Each person, that has reached the age of accountability, can either **accept or reject** His proposal.
3. The New Covenant has been **blood ratified** by His precious blood presented to YHWH on the heavenly altar making atonement for sins once and for all.
4. The **Covenant Confirming meal** is the bread and the wine we partake of in remembrance of His body and His blood that was shed for us. This inducts us into the Melchizedek priestly reign of Elohim as a holy nation and a kingdom of priests from every tongue, tribe, people, and nation.

We are 'justified' by YHWH by the Blood of the Lamb, 'just as' we had never sin. We then enter the sanctification process that is continuous as we daily seek to become more like Him. The sanctification process is the 'race' that Paul so desired to finish. We should too. Not only to finish the race but to finish well! We run the race of sanctification until we are transfigured into glorification.

We are to be set-apart to Him; we are to grow and mature in His Word; we are to love Him and others; and we are to walk in Covenant Torah.

You Must Be Born Again or Born Anew

Joh 3:1 And there was a man of the Pharisees, Naḳdimon was his name, a ruler of the Yehudim.

Joh 3:2 This one came to יהושע by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from Elohim, for no one is able to do these signs You do if Elohim is not with him."

Joh 3:3 יהושע answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born from above, he is unable to see^a the reign of Elohim." Footnote: ^aOr *perceive*.

Joh 3:4 Naḳdimon said to Him, "How is a man able to be born when he is old? Is he able to enter into his mother's womb a second time and be born?"

Joh 3:5 יהושע answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he is unable to enter into the reign of Elohim.

- **Joh 3:6** "That which has been born of the flesh is flesh,
- and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit.

Joh 3:7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You have to be born from above.'

Joh 3:8 "The wind^b blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who has been born of the Spirit." Footnote: ^bWind and Spirit have the same underlying Hebrew and Greek words.

Joh 3:9 Naḳdimon answered and said to Him, "How is it possible for this to take place?"

Joh 3:10 יהושע answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Yisra'el, and do not know this?"

Joh 3:11 "Truly, truly, I say to you, We speak what We know and witness what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.

Joh 3:12 "If you do not believe when I spoke to you about earthly *matters*, how are you going to believe when I speak to you about the heavenly *matters*?"

Joh 3:13 "And no one has gone up into the heaven except He who came down from the heaven – the Son of Adam."

Man is a tripartite being made up of body, soul, and spirit. The ‘spirit’ in man is dead UNTIL being born of the Spirit of Elohim. Presently, when believers die, the body goes to the grave; but their soul and His spirit within them goes to be in His presence. All those that die before the living saints in the end of days, will receive their glorified bodies first on the day of resurrection; then those that remain will be changed in a twinkle of an eye. Yahusha is the resurrection AND the life.

Joh 11:23 יהושע said to her, “Your brother shall rise again.”

Joh 11:24 Martha said to Him, “I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Joh 11:25 יהושע said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he dies, he shall live.”

Joh 11:26 “And everyone that is living and believing in Me shall never die at all. Do you believe this?”

Do you believe what Yahusha shared with Martha? Believers that died BEFORE Yahusha opened the door in Revelation 4:1, went to the ‘comfort side of Sheol’ to Abraham’s bosom or ‘Paradise’; waiting for Yahusha to open the door of partition. They had to wait because of the verse John 3:13 stating that no one has gone up into the heaven except He who came down from the heaven – Yahusha. Believers had to FIRST be washed by the blood of the Lamb BEFORE they could enter His presence.

Joh 3:14 “And as Mosheh lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so the Son of Adam has to be lifted up,

Joh 3:15 so that whoever is believing in Him should not perish but **possess everlasting life.**

For Elohim So Loved the World

Joh 3:16 “For Elohim so loved the world that He gave His only brought-forth Son, so that **everyone who believes in Him should not perish but possess everlasting life.**”

Joh 3:17 “For Elohim did not send His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Joh 3:18 “He who believes in Him is not judged, but he who does not believe is judged already, because he has not believed in the Name of the only brought-forth Son of Elohim.

Bema Seat Judgment – rewards given to YHWH’s servants

Believers appear before the ‘Bema’ judgment seat to have **their works judged by Him for what they did in the body to serve Him on earth.** They will receive their rewards for worthy works; however, they are NOT being judged for sins, because their sins have already been removed as far as the east is from the west by the blood of the Lamb.

Rev 11:18 “And the **nations were enraged**, Psa 2:1 and Your wrath has come, and **the time of**

the dead to be judged, and to give the reward to Your servants the prophets and to the set-apart ones, and to those who fear Your Name, small and great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

Great White Throne Judgment – the time of the dead to be judged.

Non-believers will appear before the Great White Throne judgment seat and will fall short because all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of YHWH. Without the full atonement of their sins by the blood of the Lamb; there is NO remission for their sins – they are found guilty.

Judgment Before the Great White Throne

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne and Him who was sitting on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before the throne, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged from what was written in the books, according to their works.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and She'ol gave up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

Rev 20:14 And Death and She'ol were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death.^a

Footnote: ^aSee [Rev 2:11](#), [Rev 20:6](#), [Rev 21:8](#).

Rev 20:15 And if anyone was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Joh 3:19 “And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light, for their works were wicked.

Joh 3:20 “For everyone who is practising evil *matters* hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

Joh 3:21 **“But the one doing the truth comes to the light, so that his works are clearly seen, that they have been wrought in Elohim.”**

John the Baptist Exalts Messiah

Joh 3:22 After this, יהושע and His taught ones came into the land of Yehudāh, and He remained there with them, and was immersing.

Joh 3:23 And Yoḥanan was also immersing in Ayin near Salim, because there was plenty of water there. And they were coming and were being immersed,

Joh 3:24 for Yoḥanan had not yet been put into prison.

Joh 3:25 Then a dispute arose between some of Yoḥanan’s taught ones and the Yehudim about cleansing,

Joh 3:26 and they came to Yoḥanan and said to him, “Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Yardēn, to whom you have witnessed, see, He is immersing, and all are coming to Him!”

Joh 3:27 Yoḥanan answered and said, “No man is able to receive any *matter* unless it is given to him from the heaven.

Joh 3:28 “You yourselves are witnesses for me that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah but I am sent ahead of Him.’”

The Bride

Joh 3:29 “He that has the bride is the bridegroom,

The Attendant; or ‘best man’

but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the voice of the bridegroom. So this joy of mine is complete.

Joh 3:30 “It is right for Him to increase, but me to decrease.

Joh 3:31 “He who comes from above is over all, he who is from the earth is of the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from the heaven is over all.”

Joh 3:32 “And what He has seen and heard, that He witnesses. And no one receives His witness.

Joh 3:33 “He who receives His witness has set his seal that Elohim is true.”

Joh 3:34 “For He whom Elohim has sent speaks the Words of Elohim, for Elohim does not give the Spirit by measure.

Joh 3:35 “The Father loves the Son, and has given all into His hand.

- **Joh 3:36** “He who believes in the Son possesses everlasting life,
- but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of Elohim remains on him.”

2Cor. 12

Paul's Visions and His Thorn

2Co 12:1 To boast, indeed, is useless for me, for I shall go on to visions and revelations of יהוה!

2Co 12:2 I know a man in Messiah who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, Elohim knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

Paul is recounting his experience being caught up to the third heaven. Just let that settle in your mind. Paul is caught up to the third heaven!

2Co 12:3 And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, Elohim knows –

2Co 12:4 that he was caught up into [paradise^a](#) and heard unspeakable words, which it is not right for a man to speak. Footnote: ^aLit. garden.

This ‘third heaven’ is also defined as paradise - garden! The first Adam had been barred from paradise, the garden east of Eden in Genesis 3. The cherubim guarded ‘the way’ to the tree of life at the ‘east’. In other words, no one could enter, they had been shut out, barred.

Gen 3:22 And יהוה Elohim said, “See, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever...”

Gen 3:23 so יהוה Elohim sent him out of the garden of Ĕden to till the ground from which he was taken,

Gen 3:24 and He drove the man out. And He placed keruḇim at the east of the garden of Ĕden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

2Co 12:5 Of such a one I shall boast, but of myself I shall not boast, except in my weaknesses.

2Co 12:6 For if I shall wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think more of me than what he sees in me, or hears of me.

2Co 12:7 And **to keep me from exalting myself because of the exceeding greatness of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to hit me, to keep me from exalting myself.**

We must hear what Paul is saying. The revelations were so ‘**exceedingly great**’ that if Paul were to speak of such, there would have been a high risk of him being exalted. **He had been given the privilege of seeing the 3rd heaven, paradise!**

He was given a thorn to keep him from exalting himself. What was this thorn? There are several speculations; the text tells us it was a messenger of Satan that would hit Paul or in other words prevent Paul from telling of the ‘**exceeding greatness of the revelations.**’ YHWH wants us to love Him for Him; therefore, Paul was silenced from communicating what he had been given the privilege to see.

1Co 2:9 But as it has been written, “**Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, nor have entered into the heart of man what Elohim has prepared for those who love Him.**”
[Isa 64:4.](#)

But how could Paul have gotten pass the cherubim guarding the way into paradise? Did they not have it “partitioned” off? John the revelator said in Rev. 4:1 that he looked and saw a ‘door’ **having been opened in the heaven!** This is written in past tense; therefore, who opened the door? Correct. Yahusha, the Way, the Door, tore open the partition of separation!

Now, Yahusha, the Tree of Life, through His finished work, has proposed to all tongues, tribes, people, and nations; and has given them all the opportunity to accept His New Covenant; ratified by the blood of the Lamb. To repent of their sins and receive Him as Savior and as their High Priest of the Melchizedek Order. In Him, there is life. In Him, there is entry into His presence. He is not only the Resurrection on the last day; He is **the Life now**. Therefore, absent from the body present with YHWH!

Rev 4:1 After **this I looked and saw a door having been opened** in the heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here and I shall show you what has to take place after this.”

No person that had died, prior to Yahusha opening the door of separation, could be in the presence of YHWH. Those that died prior to Yahusha’s death, burial, and resurrection were gathered together in ‘paradise’; the bosom of Abraham, UNTIL Yahusha would open the door. Then, **the door of separation between paradise and the Dwelling place of YHWH was open!** Remember, YHWH used to walk with Adam and Eve in the garden.

This is what I understand the Scriptures are saying.

2Co 12:8 Concerning this I pleaded with the Master three times to take it away from me.

2Co 12:9 And He said to me, **“My favor is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness.”** Most gladly, then, I shall rather boast in my weaknesses, so that the power of Messiah rests on me.

2Co 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in insults, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for the sake of Messiah. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

Concern for the Corinthian Church

2Co 12:11 I have become a fool – you have compelled me. For I should have been commended by you, for in no respect was I behind the most eminent emissaries, though I am a nobody.

2Co 12:12 Indeed, the signs of an emissary were wrought among you with all endurance, in signs and wonders and powers.

2Co 12:13 For what is there in which you were inferior to other assemblies, except that I myself was not a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!

2Co 12:14 See, I am ready to come to you for the third time. And I shall not be a burden to you, for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children should not lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

2Co 12:15 And I shall most gladly spend and be spent for your lives. If I love you more and more, am I to be loved less?

2Co 12:16 But be it so, I did not burden you. But being crafty, did I catch you with guile?

2Co 12:17 Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I sent to you?

2Co 12:18 I urged Titos, and sent our brother with him. Did Titos take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit – not in the same steps?

2Co 12:19 Again, do you think that we defend ourselves to you? We speak before Elohim in Messiah. But all this, beloved, is for your upbuilding.

2Co 12:20 For I fear lest, when I come, I do not find you such as I wish, and I be found by you such as you do not wish – lest there be strife, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, slander, gossip, puffings up, unrests,

2Co 12:21 and lest, when I come again, my Elohim should humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, and whoring, and indecency which they have practiced.

The Corinthians tested Paul's patience. They required much time, energy, risk, and love on Paul's behalf. Paul seems to constantly address foolish thinking and actions from among their midst. The old cliché 'No good deed goes unpunished. But do them anyway.' is fitting for what Paul was experiencing.

The reign of the priesthood had changed; tensions were high; flippant words spoken; and posturing for power and selfish ambitions were rising.

Shalom ~ Libby

Devotional Reading Plan Link: <http://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf>