

Chastised as Sons: Moseroth

*And they departed from Hashmonah
and encamped at Moseroth, Numbers 33:30.*



Desiring to be liked and appreciated is an intrinsic part of prideful, human nature. Yet, in order for *Yahweh* to fully fit us for the ultimate Promised Land, all traces of pride must be cut from the core of our being. The “scalpel” our Father uses for this delicate and vital “surgery” is most often “humiliating chastisement.”

The Bible says that the day will come when all of *Yahweh's* true followers (final spiritual Israel) will be hated by the world (Matthew 10:22). Can you imagine what it will be like to be utterly hated? Can you picture yourself nationally and internationally derided as “headline news,” making you look depraved and psychotic in the eyes of the whole world? You and your family might be discussed in hateful and odious terms, such as:

“Those people should be locked up in a mental institution! They are a cult! I say we get rid of them! They are a menace to society!”

When we truly uphold Bible Truth, we will stand in the minority, as did the crusaders from our “Ambassador's” campstation. Yet, it is the searing heat and pressure of such conflict which withers or firm our resolve.

Indeed, we are very comfortable in thinking that, if we are gentle and loving and stay out of trouble, we will be liked, not hated. We tend to believe that the sentiment of hate is directed at those who have done something to deserve it. But, the Bible teaches that *Yahweh's* people will be hated simply for His Sake! This hatred was displayed by the blood thirsty “church leaders” toward our dear Saviour!

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ [Yahshua] shall suffer persecution, 2 Timothy 3:12.



“Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” shouted the crowd. They were convinced that the world would actually be better off without *Yahshua* in it! So great was their unfounded hatred, that even though Messiah’s death must be “traded” for the release of a known thief and murderer, they preferred the criminal’s presence in society!

Scripture teaches that *Yahshua*’s Calvary experience was a divine “chastisement,” falling upon Him, as our substitutionary Sacrifice.

Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of [YAH], and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed, Isaiah 53:4-5.

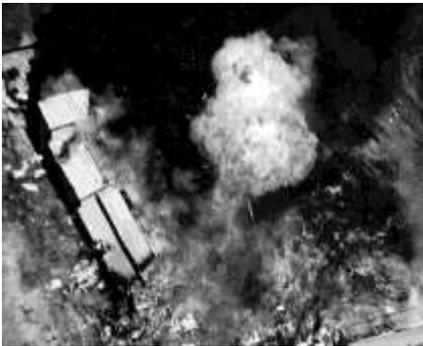
Truly, no one will have ever been less deserving of death than the Son of *YAH*! Thus, no hate could be more unfounded or evil than that which was directed against Him. But then, we have seen lesser examples of unjustified passion in more recent news.

Many remember witnessing society’s animosity in the infamous Waco incident. Perhaps you remember hearing about David Koresh, in 1993.

The Waco massacre incident began on February 28, 1993, and ended violently 50 days later on April 19. In addition to allegations of sexual abuse and misconduct, David Koresh and his followers were accused of stockpiling illegal weapons and running a methamphetamine lab. This was the story told by the mainstream media, which “justified” the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms’ (ATF) raid on the Mount Carmel compound, in Waco, Texas. During the lengthy “standoff,” many normally cheritable Americans turned hardened and even hate-filled, after hearing the propaganda and accusations against the Davidians broadcast on television and radio.



These ugly and shocking sentiments are only remembered by those who lived through this terrible event. Time and the release of real information, which has exposed Government lies, has mellowed public opinion about the Branch Davidians. Now, popular thought tends to fault David Koresh, while feeling sorry for the women and children under the deceptive influence of a madman. But, this was not the popular sentiment at the time of the crisis.



At that time, the outpouring of popular hate against the Davidians was so great that many felt even the children deserved to die. When the news reported that 75 people had perished with their cult leader in the Mount Carmel fire, including more than 20 children and two pregnant women, many lauded the government assault saying, “Good riddance!”

As was personally witnessed in a lunchroom conversation the day after the massacre (see photo of burning compound above), people who would normally have believed that infants and two year olds

should be rescued, justified their slaughter by saying, “They would have just grown up to become like their freak parents.”

In the book, *Massacre at Waco*, true crime writer Clifford Linedecker paints a far different picture than what was portrayed by the news media at the time. Janet Reno and Bill Clinton ordered the ATF invasion of the Davidian compound. Yet, when they did, no one stood up against the slaughter. It appeared justifiable, so great was the abhorrence against this hated “sect” of people. The mass sentiment was much like that which Hitler gendered against the Jews fifty years earlier.

Obviously, this chapter is not intended to be a vindication of David Koresh, or to give the suggestion that he was some kind of messianic martyr. The comparison between the Davidian story and the Crucifixion account is intended only to demonstrate the depths of hate to which popular passion can sink, under the “right” circumstances and circulation of lies. As is clearly the case both with our Saviour and with the martyred children of Waco, this hatred was entirely unfounded and unjustifiable. Beyond question, people today are just as capable of unwarranted, deadly wrath as they were in the “Coliseum-climate” of Roman rule.

Yet, in the story of Calvary, there is more than suffering as the object of unreasoning ire. When our Saviour suffered hatred, humiliation, and unfounded accusation, this experience was a form of divine “chastisement,” borne by *Yahshua* in our stead (Isaiah 53:4-5), for we truly deserve it! Chastisement, to the point of dying the Second Death, is lifted from the repentant sinner by our Saviour’s Sacrifice.

Nevertheless, the chastisement of experiencing suffering and becoming the object of popular hate is an experience every end-time saint will face. Pray to be strengthened now; then pray to escape those things coming upon the world in the near future (Luke 21:35). Above all, pray and prepare to hold fast to the End (Hebrews 3:6).

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him, John 13:16.

MOSEROTH: CAUSE FOR CHASTISEMENT

Considering all the tests ancient Israel faced in their wilderness journey, the test of *Moseroth* was arguably the most difficult yet. The Children of Israel left the place of their calling to be divine “ambassadors,” to camp at a place of divine correction for their failure again. *Moseroth*, the name of Israel’s 26th encampment, means “chastisement.”¹⁴⁴

If you think about it, which is harder to endure: physical deprivation amidst human admiration, or false accusation amid societal hatred? For most, being the focus of human hatred is far more difficult. Thus, the end-time test of *Moseroth* will be especially trying for *Yahweh*’s people in the Last Days. It will be a major test of faith to face public humiliation and character assassination in silent suffering. Take courage from the fact that the promises are sure, and our Saviour will not allow us more than we can bear. May we each be faithful no matter the peril.

Not only is it exceedingly difficult to remain faithful against the tide of adverse sentiment, but it is also tempting to second-guess oneself. In such circumstances, many begin to doubt whether their beliefs are right, since it is more comfortable to seek “confirmation” of truth by the popularity of its acceptance.

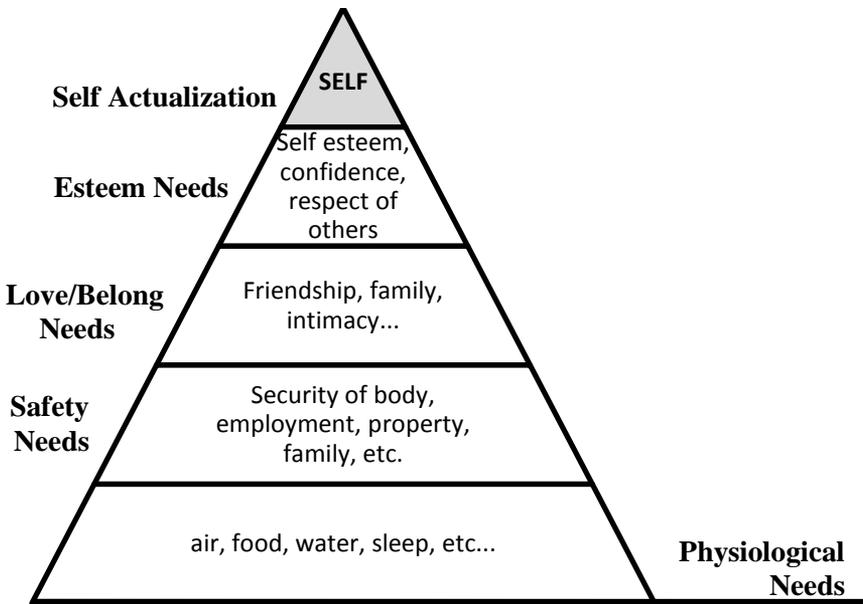


Notably, when one meets or receives each “requirement” in Abraham Maslow’s pyramid of human “needs” (next page, Maslow pictured on the left), self-actualization is achieved. Maslow notes that self-actualization is the one “sovereign drive” of any organism.¹⁴⁵ This is certainly true of any unregenerate heart. But, when our focus is upon meeting our basic needs and achieving self-actualization, self, not *Yahweh* becomes fully enthroned in the carnal

heart. Striving for these “basic needs” is exactly the opposite of what spiritual Israel must do. None who achieve such self-actualization will ever obtain the Promises, at last.

In fact, as Abraham Maslow proposed, in his 1943 publication on the hierarchy of human needs, people need self-esteem to be whole and healthy. A key ingredient in achieving self-esteem, according to Maslow, is being respected by others.¹⁴⁶ Yet, self-esteem is a synonym for pride. Canaan, the name that means “humiliation,” will only be ultimately conquered by those who accept the total death of personal pride.

Then said (Yahshua) unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My Sake shall find it, Matthew 16:24-25.



Actually, Maslow’s pyramid, which rises unto the attainment of precious pride, is an inversion of the Truth. If we “climb” this egocentric pyramid, we are really descending into final destruction, instead of rising to attain the Heavenly goal! Our true goal is a security of the soul in the Almighty so as to lift others to Him!

Completely counter to human reasoning, *Yahweh* is calling a people who will let go of every “need.” We are to depend upon Him so completely, surrender to Him so fully, and render obedience to Him so absolutely that nothing of idolatrous self will remain on the throne of our hearts. We can't do this by any means but surrender.

For My Thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My Ways, saith (Yahweh). For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My Ways higher than your ways, and My Thoughts than your thoughts, Isaiah 55:8-9.

Thus, we see that one of the most basic “needs” for human respect and acceptance must be surrendered to *Yahweh* and even fully lost in the testing we will face at our experiential *Moseroth*. All that is carnal will become chaff on the Day of Judgment. Our calling is far above this world!

In order to pass this chastening test, we will need to have already “proved all things,” according to the Word (1 Thessalonians 5:21). If we fail to do this, we will not have the strength to stand alone for Truth, in the face of the accusation, derision, and persecution from our peers. We must be prepared, by *Yahweh's* Grace, to remain faithful even if we appear to be the only ones in all the world who are. We cannot depend on the comfort of confirmation from popular opinion. Never, since the fall of man, has the “majority view” been a reliable indicator of Truth.

Consider Noah's Day. Truth was plainly presented, yet popularly rejected. Those who openly believed *Yahweh's* Word were very few in number. Those who derided Noah



and his message were many. He was the old man who inspired families to take their proverbial (and literal) “picnic baskets” to the hills where they could listen and get a good laugh.

No doubt among the gawkers were a few whose hearts were pricked by listening to Noah’s Heaven-inspired messages. Some may have argued, “He might be right, you know,” But, as folks do today, they quieted their consciences with excuses:

“If what Noah teaches is truth, people would accept it. You can be sure it’s false by the fact that no scientist agrees.”

“My ‘pastor’ says that Noah’s just a crazy old man. Noah can’t be right. My pastor is a smart man; he knows what is going on. I’ll listen to him.”

“If Noah is right, my religious organization would warn us. All truth comes through my church. Until my church accepts him, neither will I.”

The attitude of the people in Noah’s Day is a shadow picture of the hatred to be exhibited as we approach the end of the world (Matthew 24:37-39). With full-blown anger, the derisive tides of popular opinion will then be directed against the true followers of *Yahweh*.

Not only is the humiliation and “chastisement” of *Yahweh*’s people foretold in the camp test of *Moseroth*, the name also reveals the reason for the expected derision. *Moseroth* is from the word *mussar*, the root of which means “inherited tradition.”¹⁴⁷ Jeremiah wrote about “inherited traditions” of the Last Days:

Attitudes in Noah's day are a shadow picture of attitudes toward Yah's End-Time people.

O (Yahweh), my Strength, and my Fortress, and my Refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto Thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit, Jeremiah 16:19.

It wasn't just the surrounding pagan nations who had inherited vain traditions. As the name of this camp-lesson indicates, ancient Israel had inherited some vain traditions, as well. This is certainly true of those who comprise final, spiritual Israel.

Scripture warns about following the traditions of the world. *Yahshua* rebuked the Pharisees for their traditions which had replaced the Commandments of *Yahweh*.

Why do ye also transgress the Commandment of [Yahweh] by your tradition? Thus have ye made the Commandment of [Yahweh] of none effect by your tradition, Matthew 15:3, 6. [See also Mark 7:3-9].

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after [Messiah], Colossians 2:8.

Those who refuse to follow these “traditions of men,” will be the ob-ject of loathing and contempt. But the message of *Moseroth* reminds us that we must not fear what man can do; we must fear instead, the punishment from the Righteous Judge when His mercy comes to its end!

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell, Matthew 10:28.

*Joy follows
sorrow;
blessing
follows
correction.*

CHASTISEMENT IS ABOUT MERCY

The emigrants out of Egypt, being doomed to judgment, ceased to be the subject of sacred history, while the rising generation, in whom centered the life and hope of Israel's Covenant, had, as yet, no history of its own. We mark this period by the death of the old, rather than by the life of the new. The wanderings of Israel are marked by the graves left behind, as their carcasses fell in the wilderness sand.¹⁴⁸

As we progress with Israel through the wilderness, we should ever be mindful of the merciful and chastising favor of the Heavenly Father. For every discipline there has been a station of gentle favor. The believers walk is often without realization that it is the Father's favor to prepare His children through hardship: joy follow sorrows; blessing follows correction. Walking through the shadows sharpens the strength of the light.

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ [Yahshua] shall suffer persecution, 1Timothy 3:12.

In *Moseroth*, we have all the meanings of the name at once: The word may be used to mean either “bonds,” “chastisements,” or “instructions.” In the light of the last station, these meanings become very important. At *Hashmonah* the Israelites were guilty of hasty and petulant numbering of their soldiers, as if to go to war in their own strength, waiting and trusting not in the direction of the Almighty. For this presumption, the punishment fell at *Moseroth*, the place of “chastisement.”¹⁴⁹ The root for this name is found in a number of Scriptures.¹⁵⁰ Here is one example:

Blessed is the man whom Thou chastens, O Yahweh, and teaches him out of Thy Law, Psalms 94:12

CHASTISED AS SONS

While disobedience brings chastisement, which is unpleasant for a time, it will yield the “peaceable fruit of righteousness” (Hebrew 12:11). If we DESIRE righteousness, for “godly living,” the Heavenly Father will “burn out the dross.” The process may be painful, but the product will be eternally beautiful and holy. Divine correction only imparts true knowledge to those who are “exercised thereby,” according to the author of Hebrews. The knowledge of YAH, of His divine Law, of the sinfulness of sin, and of its punishment to come, – are all revealed

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to the repentant one who endures the chastisement of our loving Father.¹⁵¹ With the discipline comes the instruction, then the glorious blessing.

Few humans, prior to this last generation, have received more chastisement than Job; yet, he could say in the midst of his suffering:

Behold, happy is the man whom YAH corrects: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty. Job 5:17.

Yes, Job needed to be corrected, for he thought himself more highly than *Yahweh* (Job 32:1-2)! But his chastisement held instruction that brought Job to exclaim:

I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes. Job 42:5, 6.

Consider the “instruction” of the *Moseroth* experience. We who have spent much time in the teaching profession, have seen every reaction to “instruction” known, perhaps, to mankind. A typical classroom has one or two eager and able learners who encourage the teacher and tease others into envy. At the other end of the spectrum are the “reluctant learners” who have to be “tricked” into learning without their knowing or consenting. In between are the students who receive instruction when they like the teacher, or when they like the subject, or when they feel special, or when they enjoy that which challenges them. Then, there are those who learn only when the subject is “fun.” Some first require of the teacher “encyclopedic knowledge,” and still others are only motivated by instruction when they have responsibility and recognition in the process.

Adult “children” of the Heavenly Father often display the same variety of learning styles. Often, it is recognition that keeps them in a “church,” regardless of the level of truth or error taught there. Many young people, who leave the “church” scene, do so because it is no longer “fun.” Few today are bonding with the Heavenly Teacher. Only those who firmly bond with the Heavenly Parent and Teacher,

however, will ever accept the chastening that comes for the purpose of instruction.

Certainly, all these learning modalities and personalities were present in Moses' congregation and "classroom." We cannot imagine, however, Moses and Aaron drawing up puzzles and game boards that they might reach the wider audience of reluctant learners. We have wondered if any in the congregation were "auditory learners" at all, for there seems to have been little retention of the verbal "sermons" and "instruction" delivered by the Almighty.

TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

In the Greek language the word for "instruction" also signified "chastisement," just as in the Hebrew language. These concepts were two sides of the same coin. Note the following New Testament examples.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of YAH, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 2 Timothy 3:16.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent, Revelation 3:19.

Like some teenagers today, many in Israel "hated instruction" (See Psalms 50:17). Solomon wrote about responses to instruction in twenty-five Proverbs, the number of which means "maturing for service." Most of these texts are admonitions to receive instruction and be wise. Only those who receive Heavenly Instruction will finally be chosen as "sons."

If we are honest, we must admit that there are few, who welcome rebuke. Yet, the acceptance of reproof is a mark of mature humility, meekness, and love.

Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning, Proverbs 9:8-9.

The statute says:

Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him, Leviticus 19:6.

Luke adds:

Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him, Luke 17:3.

MEANING IN THE NUMBER

In conclusion, consider the meaning from the ordinal number of this encampment. In the Gematria of the Hebrew number twenty-six, *Moseroth*, the “twenty-sixth” camp, provides profound insights and a promise for us. We who are eager to be named *Yahweh*’s “sons and daughters,” are accepted into the Father’s Family through affliction. His Name is engrafted on His children through suffering. Significantly, twenty-six is the number of His Name.

Twenty-six is the number of *YHVH*.¹⁵² This is our Heavenly Father’s Covenant-Keeping Name, and the number associated with the “sum” or “total” communication from Heaven. This divine number not only applies to the Heavenly Father, it also applies to the Son. *Yahshua haMashiach*, has been given this number to reveal His divine mission from the Father; “The Word made flesh” (John 1:14), for the purpose of taking our ultimate chastisement.

Consider the sacred Name, which in Hebrew is a tetragrammaton (a word with only consonants), and its numeric meaning. *Yahweh*’s Name, in Hebrew is the following four letters, equating to *YHVH* in English. See it on the next page.

יהוה

Yod = Y
Hey = H
Vav = V
Hey = H

In Gematria, **YHVH** may be added like this:

Yod = 10
Hey = 5
Vav = 6
Hey = 5
TOTAL = 26
or (10 + 5 + 6 + 5 = 26)

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed, Isaiah 53:5.

He will be glorified in you, dear Reader, if you covenant with Him in submission to His “refiner's fire.” He will write His “Name” in your “forehead” so your thoughts will be first of Him. He will write His name in your “hand” (Revelation 3:12), so that you will serve Him in everything you do. Thus, He may say of you:

I am in My Father, and ye in Me, and I in you, John 14:20.

Consider the significance of His “Name” **in you**:

*Keep your eye
upon the prize; it
is worth
anything and
everything!*

Yod = Y= 10=Your testing and confidence complete in Him.
Hey = H= 5 =The Holy Spirit's "former rain" to nourish and
cleanse you.

Vav = V= 6 =Your humanity humbly and completely hidden
in Christ.

Hey = H= 5 =The Holy Spirit's "latter rain" as complete
"baptism" (by fire) for His glory.

Through the work of His chastening "chisel," we may be cut and polished for His "Palace." By the burning of the "refiner's fire" we are made fit to dwell with "Everlasting Burning" (Isaiah 33:14-15)! Keep your "eye" on the "prize;" it is worth anything and EVERYTHING! Can you do it? NEVER! Can He do it in you? ABSOLUTELY!

At *Moseroth* we are urged to eagerly listen and joyfully learn, even when we are "chastised." May we, who seek to be sons and daughters of the Most High, recognize that this sonship comes not only through entering the Covenant relationship with *Yahweh*, but also through submission to Him in the discipline of being hated, persecuted and tried. We are called to bear these trials patiently, in thankful praise to the One Who bore the weight of our ultimate chastisement, and by whose stripes we are healed!

While *Moseroth* typifies the great difficulties which come to every follower of the Master, it also bears powerful promises given to every true son and daughter of *Yahweh*:

Behold, happy (blessed) is the man whom YAH correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: For He maketh sore, and bindeth up: He woundeth, and His Hands make whole, Job 5:17-18.

And ye shall be hated of all men for My Name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved, Matthew 10:22.



SUMMARY OF CHAPTER TWELVE

- *Moseeroth*, Israel's 26th encampment name means “chastisement” and “instruction.”
- The Children of Israel needed to learn the lessons of humility and faith in the YAH of Abraham. They could not turn again toward the Promised Land until they had fully surrendered.
- Patiently, He disciplines and comforts and teaches and strengthens us that we may release all earthly ties and bond with the Son of Man who gave Himself for us.
- When they were surrendered to *YAH*, He would name them with His own Holy Name, the number of which is 26, and the theme of this camp-lesson.
- The same will be true for each of us who determine to remain as one of His children, faithful to the End.
- Joy follows sorrow; blessing follows correction.