

THE FEASTOF OUNLEAVENED BREAD

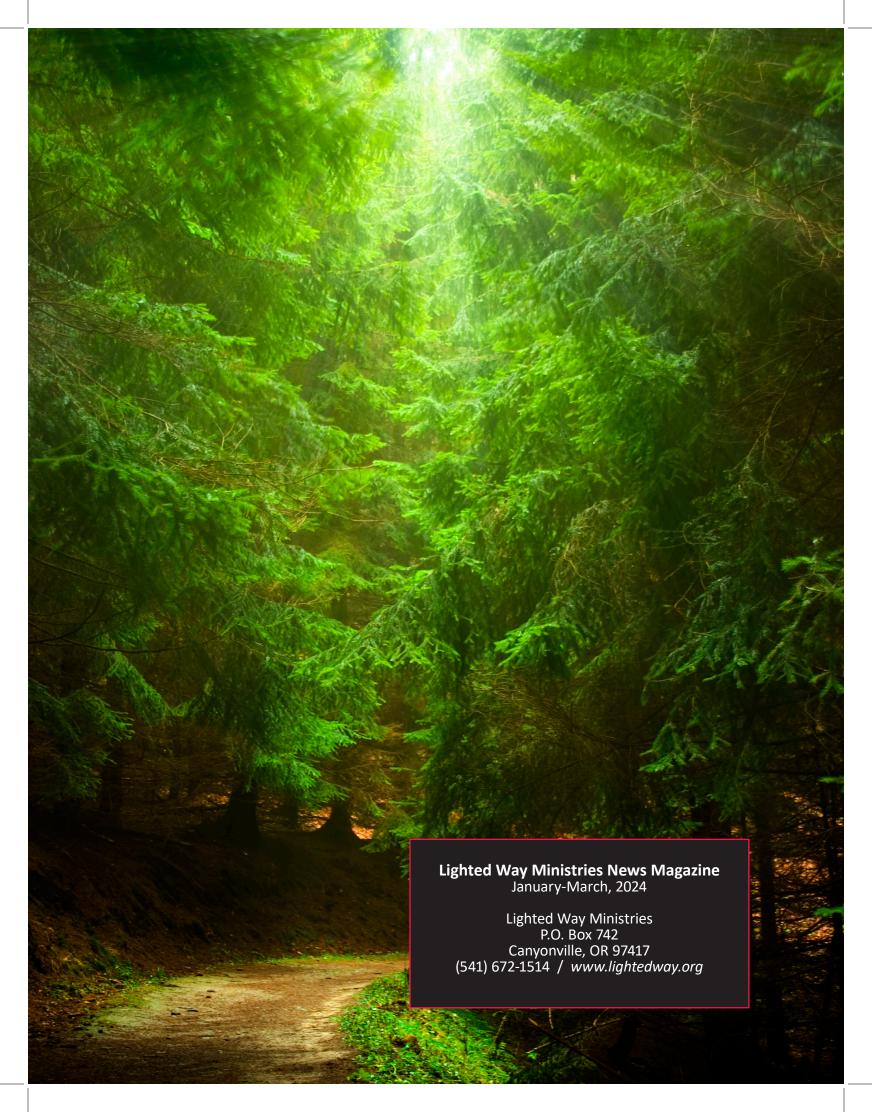


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January - March, 2024
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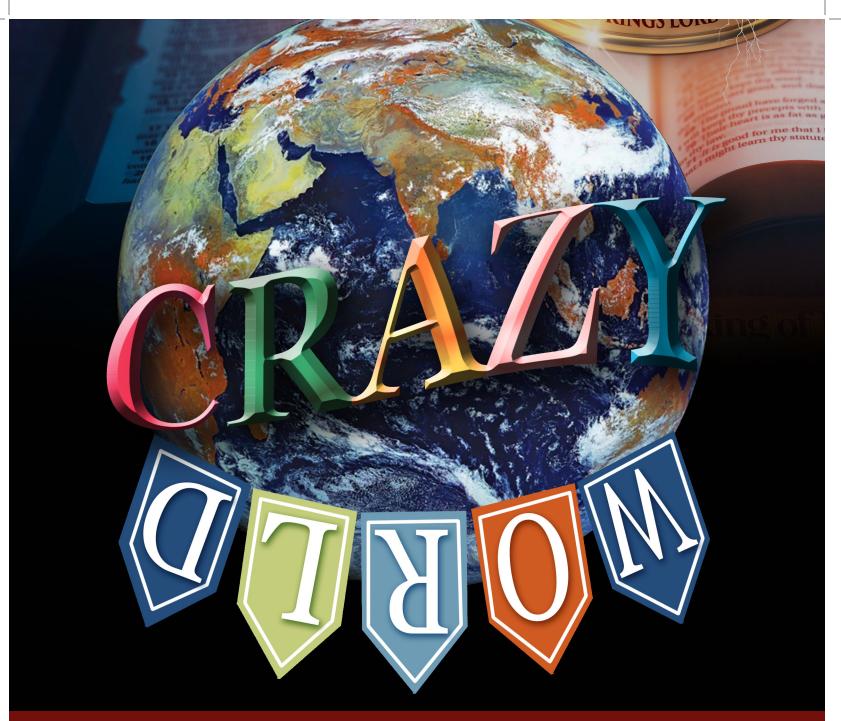
Lighted Way Ministries News Magazine (January-March, 2024 Issue)

Lighted Way Ministries
Writers: Mark and Shauna Manfredine
www.lightedway.org

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All past issues of our magazine are archived on our website.

This news magazine is prayerfully designed to encourage you in a deeper walk with *Yahweh*. The articles focus on studies of the Word, Bible prophecy, current events, and ministry reports.



Our Anti-Scripture Climate & Changed Worldview

On Feburary, 25, 2024, a **Fox News** article titled: **Attacks Against Churches Doubled in 2023**, warned that there is a 'Growing disdain for Christianity'. Floyd Brobbel of **Voice of the Martyrs Canada** spoke of increasing pressure on Christians. "I think increasingly in this world, you will see an attack on Scripture. You will see an attack on Christians' ability to share Scripture publicly, to share their religious viewpoints publicly."

But America was founded upon the Principles of Scripture! Why does society hate Truth now? Repackaged for a modern world, the deceived worldviews of the ancient pagans have replaced the Scripture-centered worldview, which was formerly held by Western nations.

Because the worldview has altered, the way people think and act is increasingly crazy to Bible-believers. But, if believers cannot understand people's frame-of-reference, they cannot effectively communicate the Gospel to them. How can the final Gospel go to this world?

Truth must be conveyed through the "language" of the hearer's worldview! Discover the three worldviews and learn to reach each with the Gospel...

Bringing the GOSPEL to a CRAZY WORLD

Acts 1:8 — "...And ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Being a believer is not a "spectator sport". There is no back row seating in the Body of Messiah, where you can just be a part of the "Club of the Saved" while keeping your head down at the same time. Immediately upon conversion-baptism, Messiah extends to each believer the Great Gospel Commission:

"...Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..."

Mark 16:15-16

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them... Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I Am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Matthew 28:19-20

Given society's growing angst towards Truth, this assignment would be difficult, if all it involved was "telling" the Gospel to the unsaved. But the Divine Commission doesn't stop at merely "telling". We are called to disciple others into the Body of Messiah, "teaching them to observe" and keep the Commands of **Yahweh**.

This means that we cannot check the Great Commission off our "to-do" list by simply shouting on a street corner, dumping ineffective words on passers-by with all the depth of verbal sneezing. It isn't enough to merely *tell* the Gospel. We are called to *communicate* it to others. And this is where it gets hard.

We find ourselves evangelistically

impaired by a serious obstacle, which must be overcome in order for us to fulfill our calling in Messiah. This obstacle is:

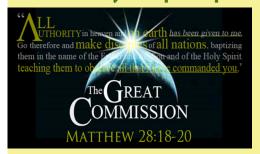
A "language barrier" of drastically differing worldviews. The Gospel Truth will be rejected or lost in translation unless we communicate it through the hearer's language and worldview...

Since the Tower of Babel, missionaries have understood that sharing Truth with pagans involved communicating the life-changing Message to them in a language they could understand. For this reason, believers who evangelize in other cultures must always spend the necessary time to learn the language, as a vital part of their mission training. But we often don't think of a person's worldview as being a potential obstruction to communication. Let's take a deeper look at the worldview to see why it is a "language barrier" and prayerfully overcome it, allowing the Gospel to be effectively communicated to the unsaved.

By definition, "effective communication is between two or more persons wherein the intended message is successfully delivered, received, and understood." In our world today we face a communication-barrier, beyond language. In other words, in our culture, effective communication can be hampered by divergent worldviews. In order to communicate the Message of Salvation effectively, we must overcome barriers and bridge worldview gaps so that the hearers can understand and receive it.

(continued on page 6...)

The Great Commission & Heavenly Discipleship...



The Great Commission is the calling of the Saviour, *Yahshua* Christ to His disciples to spread the Gospel to all the nations of the world. This calling not only includes those who followed Messiah at that Time, but also extends to every follower/disciple to the end of the world. The Great Commission is outlined in Matthew 28:16–20 where, on a mountain in Galilee, *Yahshua* instructs His followers to make disciples of all nations.

A disciple is a follower—a follower of *Yahshua*. Earlier in his Gospel, Matthew tells how Andrew, Peter, James, John, and the others left their daily occupations to follow *Yahshua* (see Matthew 4:18-22). They became His disciples by following Him as He traveled around Judaea and Galilee and also by following Him in actions and beliefs. A disciple of *Yahshua* is someone who follows Him by becoming like Him.

The Message which calls people into discipleship with Christ is also known as the Gospel of the Kingdom. Bearing the Gospel to the world is the final Work, which must be done at the End of the World, preparing the world for Messiah's Return:

"This Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world, as a witness to all the nations, and then the End will come." Matthew 24:14

(continued from page 5) ...What is a worldview? One's worldview is the lens through which the individual sees and interprets messages and events in the world around him or her. In the past, worldviews have been particular to cultures. But in our world today, the western world has lost its former worldview and has largely taken on the worldview which used to be unique to eastern and pagan cultures.

How important is a worldview? Very! Most believers naturally share the Message of Salvation from the language and construct of their own Biblical worldview. But if you speak from this worldview with someone who has a different worldview, the hearer will be as unable to understand as if you preached in English to a person who only spoke Chinese.

As we have seen, effective communication of the Gospel involves not only speaking another person's language, but also communicating to them through the lens of their worldview. With this in mind, let us take a look at the three main worldviews, shown in the infographic on the next page. They are:

- 1) Guilt vs. Innocence
- 2) Shame vs. Honor
- 3) Fear vs. Power

In Guilt vs. Innocence, which is the Worldview that used to be prevalent in America and in the Western World, morality is defined by the Law—which is fundamentally founded upon the Law of *Yahweh*. In such a worldview, there is a strong concept of right and wrong and individual rights and freedoms are highly regarded and protected.

For a society in the Guilt vs. Innocence worldview, as long as citizens don't break the Law, people enjoy their own individual freedoms and the ability to pursue personal happiness. People have the right to their own opinions and beliefs, and are largely not criticized or looked down upon for holding an opinion divergent from the majority.

Also, in a Guilt vs. Innocence culture, breaking the Law brings guilt. Someone is guilty of criminal activity, if they break the Law. But the view of such offenders is not that they are defined by their law-breaking. They are presumed innocent, until proven guilty through a just and fair legal process. If someone is found guilty of Law-breaking, they will suffer punishment proportionate to their crime. But once the punishment has been meted out and the person has served their time, they are re-integrated into the society without rancor or further repercussion.

Truth, freedom and what is right, as defined by the law, are the primary motivators in such a society. Obedience to the law maintains freedom and order and brings a judgment of happiness and success in the lives of the society's citizens. Of course, the Guilt vs. Innocence worldview, being based upon the fundamental principles of the Law of God, is a Biblical worldview. In this society, people are redeemable from their infractions against the Law and perception is not more important than Truth.

In a Guilt vs. Innocence culture, citizens know whether they are good or bad by their conscience, which is fundamentally connected with the Law. This worldview focuses on law and just punishment. A person in this type of culture may ask, "Is my behavior right or wrong, fair or unfair?"

Emphasis is placed upon obedience to the Law of God and the righteous laws of the land, which are founded upon it. Significantly, and unlike pagan cultures, the "sinner" has value outside of his "sin". This is because a sinner is not defined by his sin in the Biblical Guilt vs. Innocence worldview.

We see this in Bible times in the story of Moses' sister Miriam. In addition to Moses, Miriam and her brother Aaron were also called to be prophets through whom the Word of *Yahweh* was conveyed to Israel (Numbers 12:2; Exodus 15:20-21). Miriam sinned by speaking evil of her brother, Moses (who was ordained to lead Israel by *Yahweh*) because he had married a "Cushite" wife (Numbers 12:1-15). *Yahweh* punished Miriam by making her "white" with leprosy. Miriam had to leave the camp of Israel.

Instead of being vengeful or using the embittered, "cancel culture" approach against his back-biting sister, Moses quickly interceded with *Yahweh* on her behalf. *Yahweh* responded to Moses' prayer by healing Miriam. After dwelling outside the camp of Israel for a week, Miriam was fully restored in Israel and reinstated into her former position of leadership.

This full restoration of Miriam would not have been strange to Israel. She had been found guilty of breaking *Torah*. She had been punished, with a punishment which was mingled with much mercy, due to Moses' prayer. And having served her just punishment, Miriam was no longer viewed as an "offender". Thus, full restoration to her former role as a prophetess and a leader in Israel was perfectly understandable and expected. But it would have been an impossible outcome for a society with any other worldview.

The pagan nations which surrounded Israel, in biblical times, did not operate with a Guilt vs. Innocence worldview. The pagan nations operated from a Shame vs. Honor or Fear vs. Power worldview—or a combination of these two. Concepts like justice, mercy, forgiveness, and an understanding of Truth were unique to Israel—the light of the world:

"Ye are the light of the world.

A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

Notably, these worldviews of the past are still the ideological basis for societies today. Modern thinking has deceptively tried to sever these worldviews from their religious roots, associating them with cultures instead of worship-based ideologies.

In fact, in today's society it is not uncommon to find many believers holding a Shame vs. Honor worldview instead of the Guilt vs. Innocence beliefs founded upon the principles of Scripture. But, whether Christians realize it or not, the truth is that the worldview a person or a society holds is inextricably connected with who and what they worship.

Just as it has always been, the Biblical thinking of Guilt vs. Innocence is the *Yahweh*-centered, *Torah*-based worldview. This is the worldview which causes Israel to shine with the Light of Truth, enlightening the darkness of an increasingly wicked world. In fact, America and the Western (free) world were founded upon the Guilt vs. Innocence worldview.

It has been said that "a pure democracy is two wolves and a sheep voting on what's for dinner". Thus, the founding fathers of the first free nation in the world did not form a pure democracy. America was founded as a Democratic Republic. And since the United States of America was founded by Bible-believing, conservative Christians, the Constitution and first laws of this land were *Torah*-based. Beyond question, the God which this nation corporately worshiped, and to which it pledged, was Yahweh. Thus, the United States of America—and every nation of the Western world which

followed its pattern of freedom—began as a nation with a Guilt vs. Innocence worldview. Thus, in the Western world, an individual's rights and freedoms were preserved. Everything is measured with the yardstick of right and wrong, as defined by Biblical principles. Our courts of justice were places for determining innocence or guilt.

America's children were taught to be law-abiding and were expected to develop a conscience. Innocence was defined as being right or as righteousness. Truth was understood to be absolute and was absolutely founded upon the Word of God. (For more information on this history of America, see Kirk Cameron's online *Monumental Documentary: Matrix of Liberty*—The entire video is viewable at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bv6bCP3scW4).

But, sadly, the love of *Yahweh* and His Word is waning and the Bible-based Guilt vs. Shame worldview is dying out—even in the Western world. According to the *Beyond the Front Door*, June 19, 2019, online article, "How to Recognize Different Cultures: Guilt, Shame, Fear", an estimated "70% of the world" now holds the pagan-rooted Shame vs. Honor or Fear vs. Power worldviews.

Guilt vs.
Innocence
Honor
Power

The Shame vs. Honor worldview, which was considered more "Eastern" in modern times, has become mainstream in Western nations too. In fact, the majority of professing Christians have made the worldview shift, without being aware that they have done so. America's former focus on preserving individual freedoms has given way to the Shame vs. Honor culture's collectivist approach. In Western society, the issue isn't what's right or true. The focus and main concern is people's perception...

(continued on page 8...)

(continued from page 7) ...Like the non-Christian nations of the East, acquiring honor and avoiding shame are the highest goals. And shame comes from failing to fulfill the group's expectations.

Never was this worldview more blatantly manifested than during the time of COVID-19. The World Health Organization required citizens to wear face-masks. This was ostensibly for the purpose of preventing a virus-infected individual from passing the virus to others around them. Of course, scientific research showed that breathing one's own exhale isn't healthy, as one does when wearing a mask. But, setting aside the question of whether masks were effective or ineffective, the fact is that most people wore face masks in stores and public areas.

But it went far beyond masking up to "protect" ourselves and others. One could quickly notice that the real issue



behind masking or not masking for many people had nothing to do with health. People were wearing the face masks in order to be well thought of in society! To demonstrate this, consider the reason why many wore face-masks while driving alone in their cars. Since there is no one else in the vehicle, the purpose of wearing the face-mask cannot be "germs". The mask is being worn for perception. The person is seeking "honor", desiring society to think well of him or her. This demonstrates a Shame vs. Honor worldview, which used to be foreign to Western thinking. Today, in

America:

"Perception is more important than reality. If someone perceives something to be true, it is more important than if it

is in fact true."

"It used to be, everyone was entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts. But that's not the case anymore. Facts matter not at all. Perception is everything." Stephen Colbert

"All things are subject to interpretation. Whichever interpretation prevails at a given time is a function of power and not truth." Friedrich Nietzsche

(continued on page 10...)

Bible-times Pagan Cultures Exhibited...

Andent Persia was a Shame-Honor Culture- Case Study: Haman & Mordechai

The highest attainment anyone could receive in a Shame vs. Honor culture was honor. And the most dreaded punishment was to be shamed, "cancelled" (removed from the position of honor), and ultimately put to death. The book of Esther tells a story steeped in the Shame-Honor culture of ancient Persia. Haman, principal minister of the king Ahasuerus, sought worshipful honor from society. Bowing in respect-

ful greating does not violate *Torah*. In fact, *Torah* tells God's people to honor our elders and leaders (*Genesis 49:2*; *Leviticus 19:32*). But bowing to a Persian magistrate went beyond respect. It was a form of worship. Esther's *Torah*-keeping cousin, Mordecal, would not sin by worshipfully bowing to Haman. It was an ongoing war of the worldviews...

Andent Babylon was a Shame-Honor Culture-Case Study Daniel & the Jealous Plot The Book of Daniel tells the inspiring account of the Prophet Daniel, whose unwavering obedience to Yahweh continued without regard for social pressure-or even the unrighteous laws of the king. In the Guilt vs. Innocence, Bible-based worldview, sin or guilt comes from breaking Yahweh's Law. From the start of his captivity in Babylon, Daniel purposed not to "defile" himself, meaning commit sin. When Daniel was appointed head of the Babylonian wisemen, many under him were jealous of his honor. They flattered the king into requiring everyone to worship only him

for a month. But the threat of being shamed, cancelled or

even killed was not a deterent to Daniel. Daniel did not hold the Shame-Honor worldview which prevailed in Babylon.

Culture Comparison Chart

GUILT vs. INNOCENCE Culture Characteristics	SHAME vs. HONOR Culture Characteristics	FEAR vs. POWER Culture Characteristics				
Bible-based, conservative Worldview.	Originally pagan, unbiblical, "eastern" (now Western) view.	Unbiblical, extremely idolatrous Worldview.				
Society with God's Law as its foundation.	Society with man-made laws and perception as foundation.	The "laws" and "whims" of the powerful prevail (autocratic).				
Truth is absolute. Truth exists whether one believes it or not.	Truth is relative. What is "true" for one is not for another.	Deception prevails. Society is coerced to agree with lies.				
Right and wrong is defined by the Law.	"Right" and "wrong" is defined by social perception.	"Right" and "wrong" are the mandates of the powerful.				
Sin is breaking the Law, which defines guilt or innocence.	It is "shameful" to offend society, even if society is wrong	"Right" is obedience to the order. It is "wrong" to disobey.				
Law-breaking results in just and righteous punishment.	Offenses result in unjust and often vengeful punishment.	The weak are punished unjustly and with cruelty.				
Mercy is present in meting out justice.	No mercy. Punishment-shame doesn't end Cancel Culture	No mercy. Punishment designed to make others fear.				
Forgiveness and restoration are extended to those who have served their punishment.	Offenders can find no forgiveness or restoration.	Offenders can find no forgiveness or restoration.				
BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW	PAGAN WORLDVIEWS					

...the Shame/Honor & Fear/Power Worldviews



10

(continued from page 8)...

"Our society is built on the values of free speech and mutual respect, but cancel culture rejects both. In place of free speech, it demands conformity."

Nikki Haley

Because Guilt vs. Innocence cultures put a heavy emphasis on one's inner convictions, they are less vulnerable to "groupthink". In the words of Rabbi Sacks, Guilt vs. Innocence societies are "living protest[s] against the herd instinct." They endow their community members with a sense of personal responsibility in the face of adversity.

Shame vs. Honor cultures, in contrast, are conformist; one's public image matters most. Consequently, Shame cultures have little room for honesty and sincere apologies. People are more inclined to save their image by denying any wrongdoing or by blaming others. Thus, in the Shame vs. Honor worldview, there is no need to self- scrutinize or to repent for sin.

One of the most sobering of the differences between Guilt and Shame cultures is that the former separates sin from sinner, agent from act, whereas the latter views sin and sinner as inseparable. As was demonstrated in the cases of Miriam and king David, in the Guilt culture of Israel, people's actions can be divided from their value as a person because they are seen as capable of change and repentance. As a result, their past mistakes don't have to haunt them forever.

But, in a Shame-based culture, repentance is not only unnecessary. Because there is no forgiveness, "fessing up" to one's wrongdoing

is downright dangerous. In Shame cultures, a person's misdeeds or mistakes can remain a permanent stain. Just as was done in ancient pagan societies, the unjust, vengeful and even cruel responses of "cancelculture" may completely destroy the offender and his entire family. This was common in Babylon, Persia and Rome. Sadly, it is now common in America also. Consider the sad case of Adam Smith. In 2012, Smith posted a video of himself berating a Chick-fil-A employee over the company's conservative, political stance on the gay lifestyle.

By the next morning, Smith was regretting his rudeness. He posted an apology and attempted to apologize in person to the drivethrough worker. By the time he got to work, however, the situation was out of his control. His rude video went viral, and Smith—the CFO of a Tucson, Arizona-based medical device manufacturer—lost his wellpaying job. That was bad enough, but things were going to get worse. His e-mail was filled with scathing threats. His personal information was released, including the address for his children's school. Hateful and threatening letters were nailed to his door.

Smith flipped back and forth between anger and wondering whether he deserved this response, "There was a tremendous amount of shame that I felt. There were truths: I was rude. I didn't feel good about my side of the street," he said. "And then there were elements of 'no, I don't (deserve this). This is not right.' So I was on both sides depending on the minute."

For several years, the episode

dogged him. Adam was unhirable and unable to provide for his family. His wife and children were suffering for his outburst.

"If someone says something offensive, others are certainly allowed to respond. But," he added, "the idea that the person should have to pay for it the rest of his or her life is unjust. It's been rough," he added. Then, perhaps unknowingly reflecting the values of the Guilt vs. Innocence worldview, he added, "Even death row inmates are more than the worst act they've ever committed."

Adam had to sell his house and move to a new city. He (pictured on the right, with his wife and family) wondered whether he'd always be followed by his unkind act. "I went into depression..." he remembered. At one point he even considered suicide.

Thankfully, Adam's difficult story didn't end with his total destruction, which is often the case for those targeted by their Shame vs. Honor cultures. Adam, with inspiring grit, managed to re-invent himself. Today, he is a successful author and speaker. But Adam's experience with the vengefulness of the pagan-rooted, unforgiving Shame-based culture in which we live is far from an isolated incident.

America, a formerly Guilt vs. Innocence culture has left its biblical
foundation. And the price-tag for this
defection from the Way of Truth is
heavy—both individually and corporately. For conservative believers,
who still hold the Biblical worldview,
this culture appears crazy and unrelatable. As Lot was with Sodom (2
Peter 2:8), our souls are vexed by the



moral depravity and spiritual decline of our increasingly pagan society. Formerly shameful lifestyles are paraded, black is made white, up is viewed as down. As Scripture warned for this last time in earth's history, "Truth and justice lay dead in the streets" (Isaiah 59:14).

What can we do about it? Conservative believers don't even think like most people because our worldview is so divergent from theirs. So how are we supposed to communicate the Gospel with people, when the whole world seems to have gone crazy? Actually, we find ourselves back to square one, so-to-speak. The harvest field, into which we are called Jonathan Cahn powerfully explains the to work today, is surprisingly similar to the world into which the disciples and early Christians brought the Gospel in the control of the nations, in the time when time of the Book of Acts. The war of the worldviews is an old one. But the apostles society had embraced the pagan Shame did share the Gospel Message effectively! Truth transformed hearts, formerly deceived people were brought to repentance and forsook their pagan worldviews. This is highlighted in the panel at the bottom of pages 8 and 9 in this article.

Like the apostles of old, we are called to evangelize a largely pagan world. It may seem a daunting task, but we have their Spirit-filled success to encourage and spur us on. Like they did, we can accomplish this Calling through the Power of the Spirit of **Yahweh**!

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

"And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."

Matthew 10:1

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name." lohn 1:12

"...For I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness... To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me." Acts 26:16

In his book, Return of the Gods, culture war that was going on in the time of Acts. Due to the demonic spirits' the Gospel first went forth, most of vs. Honor worldview.

"The gods were everywhere. They haunted the ancient world... For most of recorded history the gods were in every land and enthroned on the pinnacle of every major culture and civilization... Where ever there were people, there were gods. They reigned over nations, over cities, over cultures... Their presence permeated the lives of their subjects. The people were bound to them." (Return of the Gods, p 11)

In Deuteronomy, Moses speaks of a

people departing from God and turning elsewhere. In turning away from Yahweh, they worship other gods." Those "other gods" are identified as the *shedim*. In all the Hebrew Scriptures the word appears only once more, in the book of Psalm:

"They sacrificed to **shedim**, not to God, to gods they did not know, to new gods, new gods that had come." Deuteronomy 32:17 (translated from

"They served their idols, which became a snare to them. They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to shedim."

> Psalm 106:36-37 (translated from Hebrew by Jonathan Cahn)

Shedim comes from the Hebrew root word Shud, which means "to act violently, to lay wasted, to devastate, that which brings destruction". In ancient Babylonian writings, the word **shedim** or **shedu** speaks of spirits—malevolent spirits who would lay waste, devastate and bring destruction. When the ancient Jewish scholars rendered the Hebrew Bible into Greek, in a translation known as the **Septuagint**, they had to find the right word in Greek to stand for **shedim**. The word they used referred to a spirit, a principality, an occult entity—a false god. The word they used to translated shedim into Greek was daimonion.

It is from this word that we get the English word **demon**, a malevolent or evil spirit. In the Bible times, the shedim were known to be demonic spirits. The *Septuagint* translates Deuteronomy 32:17 and Psalm 106:36-37 this way:

"They sacrificed to daimoniois, not to God (Yahweh), to gods they did not know, to new gods, new gods had come to them."

Deuteronomy 32:17 (Septuagint)

(continued on page 12...)

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(continued from page 11)...

"They served their idols, which became a trap for them. They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to *daimonion*."

Psalm 106:36-37 (Septuagint)

Writing to the believers in the city of Corinth, the apostle Paul spoke of the sacrifices offered up on the altars of the Gentiles, or pagan peoples:

"The things which the Gentiles (pagans) sacrifice, they sacrifice to *daimonia* and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with *daimonia*."

1 Corinthians 10:20 (translation by Jonathan Cahn)

The words of Paul in 1 Corinthians are strikingly similar to the words of Moses in Deuteronomy 32 and of the psalmist in Psalm 106. All three Scriptures speak of spirits, the *shedim*, the *daimonia*, as being worshipped and offered sacrifices. In Deuteronomy and Psalms, those sacrificing to the *shedim* were the Israelites who had turned away from *Yahweh*. In 1 Corinthians, those sacrificing to the *daimonia* are of the pagan world.

When we look at the Truth hiding behind the curtain, so to speak, we find that belief systems relate to worship. And worship is directed to spiritual entities. Deceived worldview belief systems are directly connected with false worship. And false worship is replacing the worship of Yahweh with the idolatrous worship of demons.

When the Israelites offered up their children as sacrifices, they were doing so on the altars of specific gods. And when the Gentiles offered up sacrifices to idols, they represented specific deities—gods of the pagan world—which were actually demons. In other words, the gods of ancient Canaan and Phoenicia, of ancient Greece, Babylon and Rome, to which the



Israelites sacrificed were not simply the figments of pagan imagination, but actual demonic, spiritual entities.

Gods with such names as Jupiter, Apollo, Vesta, and Bacchus were not simply the imagined or invented characters of pagan mythology—but were connected to demonic spirits.

Let us make no mistake. Demonic entities were behind the deceived and *Torah*-less teachings of the shame and fear-based cultures in the time of the apostles. And the kingdom of Hell is equally backing the unscriptural worldviews of today.

Worldviews, as we have seen, are connected with worship. Worship is connected to spirituality. Spirituality is connected to the Spirit of *Yahweh* or to demonic spirits. And while angelic entities are joined to the worship of *Yahweh*, demonic entities, by nature, are at war with the worship of God. This spiritual war is really what is the root problem behind what we call "the war of the worldviews".

Since the gods are really demonic spirits, entire peoples, nations and civilizations become possessed when given over to idolatry. And idolatrous, spirit-possessed cultures held Torah-

less, unforgiving, unjust, and deceived worldviews-all of which were based upon the philosophies of man, rejecting the Truth of God's Word.

This is the world into which the Gospel was preached the first time. And for anyone who has felt overwhelmed by the magnitude of demonic activity and possession in our modern society, this is where the story gets very encouraging! Jonathan Cahn goes on to explain how the world was impacted when *Yahshua* came and the Gospel Message was given.

The earliest accounts of Yahshua's Ministry record His performing miracles in the signs of the Judean multitudes. The lame walked, the blind received sight, the lepers were healed. Another miracle of healing that He was recorded to have performed was described by the Greek word ekballo. Ekballo means "to expel, to eject, to cast out, to send away". The Bible records several encounters between Yahshua and those possessed, or demonized by unclean spirits. In each case, He cast out the demonic spirit. In each case, the person was set free, healed, and restored to his or her right mind.

Before the end of His Ministry on earth, *Yahshua* imparted the same power of *ekballo*, the casting out of spirits, to His disciples and followers:

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My Name shall they cast out devils. They shall speak with new tongues. They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Mark 16:17-18

In the fourth decade of the first century, the Gospel spread first through-

out the land of Judea. Then it went into the nations—to the Gentiles. The Gospel and the Word of God had crossed into the pagan world. And that crossing would change the course of human history.

Of course, the kingdom of hell didn't take this Gospel defeat without a fight. In the early years of the fourth century, the Roman emperor Diocletian launched what would become known as the Great Persecution. The number of Christians arrested became so great that common criminals had to be released from Roman prisons in order to make room. Beyond imprisonment, Diocletian's persecution would lead to the torture and execution of countless believers. And just as modern society's increasing hatred of God and His Word is rooted in Hell, the Great Persecution with its deadly fury against the Gospel, was rooted in the gods.

It was launched on the day called Terminalia, the festival of the Roman god Terminus, lord of boundaries and endings. This was because the persecution was intended to bring about the end of faith in *Yahshua* and the Gospel through terminating *Yahshua's* followers. Christians would be commanded to offer sacrifices to the pagan gods. If they refused, they would be imprisoned or killed.

But there is a story behind the story. The Great Persecution had its origin in the city of Didyma, in the hilltop temple of Apollo by the Aegean Sea. It was there that the emperor Diocletian sent a delegation to have an audience with the Temple's demon-possessed oracle, known as the Oracle of Delphi.

Diocletian believed that the gods

were angry at the new faith. He feared that the Gospel was interfering with the ability of the gods to transmit prophecies to their priests and priestesses. In fact, Satanic society was hampered and unable to fully function because of the Gospel! So the emperor came with a delegation to the oracle to ask what to do about the Gospel. He wanted to know whether he should launch a persecution against the believers of *Yahshua*.

The oracle's response gave Diocletian the answer he wanted. He was to make war against the believers and the new faith. So the greatest persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire was launched by a woman possessed by a spirit, one of the *shedim*, the daimonia, the spirit of a pagan god. But, as Jonathan Cahn explains:

In the end, it was not the gods that prevailed, or the might of the Roman Empire, or the words of the oracle. Against all odds, the overwhelmingly powerless followers of the crucified Redeemer overcame the fires of persecution. And the message of the Gospel, of God's love and forgiveness, overcame the reign of the demonic gods.

The polytheism and pantheism of the Greco-Roman world gave way to the belief in one God — Yahweh, the true God of Heaven. The spell of the gods was broken! Their names no longer inspired fear and awe. Their festivals attracted fewer and fewer worshippers. Their shrines were abandoned. Their temples fell into ruin. It was the twilight of the gods... The carnal and licentious acts of pagan worship and rituals were banned from the public sphere. And human sacrifice became a distant memory.

(Return of the Gods, p21)

What happened to the oracle of

Delphi? In 362 AD, the pagan Roman emperor known as Julian the Apostate sent a representative to consult her. She sent back word that would become known as her last pronouncement. It is recorded that she said this:

"Tell the emperor that my hall has fallen to the ground. Phoebus (the god Apollo) no longer has his house, nor his mantic bay nor his prophetic spring: the water has dried up." (n 21)

The pagan empires of Rome, Greece, Babylon and Persia were governed by the Shame and Fear based worldviews. But, through the Gospel, these worldviews fell, giving way to the Guilt vs. Innocence worldview, founded upon Scripture, love for *Yahweh*, and His Law.

And so it will again. But, in giving this Message to our world today, we need to be prayerful and mindful of how it is shared. We need to understand the pagan worldviews we are up against, and share the Gospel in a way which can best be understood by the deceived masses. So, how do we do that?

Evangelism is likened to fishing, by Messiah. A fisherman catches fish of course. But *Yahshua* has called His Gospel-bearers to serve as "fishers of men". The means to "catch" lost people in the Net of Salvation is similar to how fishermen caught fish. In Bible times, fishermen fished at night. This was because *light was the lure* they used to attract the fish! Fishermen would hold a torch or light source above the waters and fish would come to the light. Just as light was the lure for catching literal fish, so also is Light the lure for Gospel-bearers.

(continued on page 14...)

(continued from page 13) ...We may know what Light to Share by prayerfully knowing what ray of Truth is most relevant to the individual we are sharing with. To the vast majority of the world, who are a part of the Shame vs. Honor worldview, the Light of the Gospel Message shines best through Christ's invitation of belonging and overcoming shame.

For the Shame-based hearer, *Yahshua* packaged the Gospel Light in the story of the Prodigal son, who shamed himself and his family. The Prodigal asked his father for the inheritance he was due to receive upon the father's death. In essence, he told his dad, "I wish you were dead!"

Without rancor, the father gave the requested money to his son. The son left home and eagerly sought out a self-indulgent, party-boy life, in which he squandered his inheritance and fell to his sinful desires. At last he ended up penniless, friendless, homeless, and destitute. When he hit rock bottom, he realized how good he'd had it back home. But, he also recognized how wicked he had been towards his father. Sorry for his foolishness and in desperation, the Prodigal returned home. Not expecting his father to welcome him back as a son, he planned to ask his father for a job—as a servant.

But, his father, who portrays *Yahweh's* love for His fallen children, was watching for his wayward son. Day after day, his eyes had scanned the road leading up to the gates of his estate, hoping to catch sight of his son. When at last, the father sees his son on the road, he ran out to meet him and grasped him in a hug. The Father would hear nothing of making the Prodigal a servant. Instead he took

away his shame. He replaced his son's filthy garments with his own robes, put a ring of family honor on his finger and threw a feast to welcome him home!

Such is the heart of Yahweh in longing for sinners to come Home. We can tell the Shame-based people that *Yahsh-ua* brings the lost into a relationship with God, removes their shame, and grants them the honor of being part of His Kingdom—His Family (*Ephesians 1:5-6; Ephesians 2:19*).

The Good News to the Shame vs. Honor culture is the revelation that they do not belong to Satan, by creation. Rather, they have a Heavenly Father Who, through the gift of Messiah, has prepared a Home and Place for them in His Kingdom. Like the Father who welcomes the prodigal son back into his household by throwing a joyful celebration to honor his return, we can assure them that the Heavenly Father is preparing a Feast for all His Children when His Kingdom comes into its fullness at the End of Time.

And how do we speak the language of those trapped in the Fear vs. Power cultures? To those who spend much of their lives using sacrifices and spells, and working to appease demons, we may relieve them of their fears by sharing the Light with them of the Almighty Power of God. Yahshua calmed the storms and walked upon the water. He healed the sick and cast out the demons as a clear demonstration of his power over the spirit realm. This He did with numerous miracles, before demonstrating His total power over sin and Death by dying on the Cross and raising from the Dead.

The Light of Truth is still the lure, just

as it was in the time of the disciples. The Gospel Message, given by Elijah and John and by the early Christians of the First Century is powerful and life-changing. It meets the deepest needs of everyone in every world-view.

For those who recognize their guilt and long for innocence, *Yahshua* offers to wash away the stains of their sins so they can stand blameless on the Day of Judgment. For those who wish for honor and acceptance in place of their shame and spirit of rejection, *Yahshua* offers citizenship in His Kingdom and makes them Children of *Yahweh* and joint-heirs of the King. And for those who, in the fear of their weakness, are seeking power, *Yahshua's* Death-defeating Power is offered. His Power through His Spirit indwelling.

Messiah and His Word address every need—head-on. *Yahshua* answers the heart-cries of every person and every worldview. He conquers all demons, curses, weaknesses, strongholds, and gives victory over Hell itself. Yes, the Gospel is still powerful! And God will use it to transform the world at the End, just as He did in the time of Acts.

Like the apostles of old, we just need to fulfill the Gospel Commission in the language people can understand transcending their worldview barriers. In *Yah's* Spirit, we can! And in the process people find the Truth of God's Word, and are restored to the original *Yahweh*-centered worldview.



Join Us Online or In Person—April 23-30

For those attending in person, there is no charge to attend the retreat. Two meals are provided per day. For traveling guests, overnight accommodations must be arranged with local hotels or campsites. Please RSVP to insure that we have sufficient food, handouts and seating!

If you cannot come in person, you can join us online! We will be broadcasting everything—Passover Seder included! To join us online, you can always go to our webite to get the video links. Go to: **www.lightedway.org**. Each day, during the retreat, beginning with the Passover Seder, the video links will be on our website homepage.

Passover Blessings

LWM SPRING RETREAT SCHEDULE:

	Passover	Feast of Unleavened Bread								
Time	Tuesday, April 23	Wednesday, U.B. Sabbaton April 24	Thursday, U.B. Day 2 April 25	Friday, U.B. Day 3 April 26	Sabbath, U.B. Day 4 April 27	Sunday, U.B. Day 5 First Fruits April 28	Monday, U.B. Day 6 April 29	Tuesday, U.B. Day 7 April 30		
10:00 AM		Breakfast - provided by Lighted Way Ministries								
	Traveling Guests Arrive	First Fruits Workshop		Group Activity/ Outing		Workshop - anfredine		First Fruits Workshop		
11:30 AM		Part 1: "Passover Promise"	Group Activity/ Outing		Part 3: "Two Leavens"	Part 5: "Increase with Yah"	Fellowship & Free period	Part 6: "Seeking the Rain"		
1:00 PM		Break	or	or	r Break					
1:30 PM		Part 2: "Be Un- leavened"	Fellowship & Free period	Fellowship & Free period	Part 4: "Counting the Omer"	Fellowship & Free period		Part 7: "In Spirit & Truth"		
4:30 PM		Dinner - provided by Lighted Way Ministries								
	Passover Seder Meal and Program	End-time Prophecy in Torah Series - Shauna Manfredine								
6:00 PM		Part 1: "Issues of Dominion"	Part 2: "Paradise Lost"	Part 3: "Serpent's Seed"	Part 4: "End-time Lessons from Noah & Sodom"	Part 5: "Divine Adoption"	Part 6: "Abraham's Seed"	Part 7: "Law of the Kingdom"		
7:30 PM		Songs & Praise Around the Campfire								

Lighted Way Ministries News Magazine



Mark and Shauna Manfredine **Lighted Way Ministries** P.O. Box 742, Canyonville, OR 97417

Lighted Way Ministries

(541) 672-1514 www.lightedway.org

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and MORE...

The Lighted Way News Magazine



ONLINE PRAYER MEETING - WEDNESDAYS NIGHTS @6 (PST)

Be connected with others in Messiah's Body and help to raise up the Praying Church / Ezekiel Bone Army! Join LWM's Wednesday evening PRAYER MEETING—online on Zoom. To join us go to the Zoom link on our website: www.lightedway.org.



ONGOING ONLINE CLASSES - ON ZOOM

The following weekly classes are available: **Prophecy Class with Shauna Manfredine—**In

Prophecy Club, we study Bible Prophecy in-depth.

Currently we are studying the Scroll & Seven Seals. For more information, please visit www.shaunamanfredineprophecyclub.blogspot.com.

Torah Class with Shauna Manfredine—We are studying the full Torah this year. Currently we are studying the Statutes for First Fruits, Pentecost, the Sabbaticals & Jubilees. For more information, please visit the class blog at www.godsamazingstarsecret.blogspot.com.



ing class, we cook delicious, healthy foods together - everything from main dishes, to soups, salads, and desserts. More info at: www.cookingwithshaunamanfredine.blogspot.com.

WHAT'S NEXT: LIGHTED WAY MINISTRIES' SPRING RETREAT

April 23-30, 2024 - Join us (online or in person) for Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread! There are many inspiring things coming your way for this important, spiritual time! Retreat information and meeting schedule inside this magazine. Each day's broadcasts can be viewed online on our website: www.lightedway.org. Join us on our Youtube Channel or our Vimeo Channel at: https://vimeo.com/channels/lightedwayministries.

