

לְחַיֵּימָם

לחיים

L'Chaim – to life – is a familiar phrase among Jewish people.
The enjoyment of life, living life to the fullest, is what most people seek.

Life! But what's it all about?

Some people feel that a satisfying, worthwhile life consists of

- a good education
- close friends
- a good marriage and healthy children
- helping those in need
- involvement with Israel and the Jewish community

Written by John Fischer

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These are important . . .
yet we all know people who have or do these things
but who aren't satisfied.

Why?

Because there is something
even more important than all these.
The Holy Scriptures*
tell us five vital facts we need to know.

*All quotations from the Tenach, both English and Hebrew, are taken from the Jewish Bible.



God is the source of a satisfying, worthwhile life.

*“Thou wilt show me the path of life:
in Thy presence is fulness of joy;
at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore” (Psalm 16:11).*

תודיעני ארְחַח חַיִּים שְׂבַע שְׂמֵחֹת אֶת־פְּנֶיךָ נְעֻמֹת בְּיַמִּינְךָ נֹצֵחַ:

This kind of life is the result of a close relationship with God.
*“In Thy presence...at Thy right hand” speaks of a personal relationship which
can be as intimate as the one between Abraham and God:*

“Abraham my friend” (Isaiah 41:8).

אַבְרָהָם אֶהְיֶה

**Deep down, just about everyone
wants a life and
relationship like this.**

As a Jewish scientist put it:

*“The Jewish nature and soul needs to know God. This is its purpose on earth.
Our souls are looking for God and we are trying to know God.”*

**Why, then,
aren't most people experiencing
this life and relationship?**



Man has separated himself from God.

God's character is the standard
by which man is to live.

"Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy"
(Leviticus 19:2). קדושים תהיו כי קדוש אני יהוה אלהיכם.

Anytime man deviates from God's holiness, he violates God's standard, and this is called sin. Obviously, then, all of us have sinned.

"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not"
(Ecclesiastes 7:20; cf. Psalm 53:3-4). כי אדם אין צדיק בארץ אשר יעשה טוב ולא יחטא.

Since God is holy and just, He will not establish a personal relationship with anyone until his sin is dealt with because He cannot allow sin in His presence.

*"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil,
and canst not look on iniquity"* (Habakkuk 1:13).

טהור עינים מראות רע ובהיט אל-עמל לא תוכל

Because sin is a violation of His standard and character, God must judge man's sin and reject it. This is why sin causes spiritual death and results in separation from God.

"But everyone shall die for his own iniquity (sin)" (Jeremiah 31:30; cf. Ezekiel 18:20). כִּי אִם-אִישׁ בְּעוֹנוֹ יָמוּת

"Your iniquities have ever made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have caused Him to hide His face from you" (Isaiah 59:2).

כִּי אִם-עוֹנֹתֵיכֶם הָיוּ מִבְּדֵלִים בֵּינְכֶם לְבֵין אֱלֹהֵיכֶם וְחַטָּאוֹתֵיכֶם הִסְתִּירוּ פָנִים מִכֶּם מִשְׁמוֹעַ:

**But can't man solve the problem
by living properly, by prayer,
repentance and good deeds?**

No, man cannot remove the sin barrier by his own effort.

“And enter not into judgment with Thy servant; for no living man can be regarded righteous before Thee” (Psalm 143:2; cf. Ezekiel 33:13).

וְאַל-תִּבְּוֹא בְּמִשְׁפָּט אֶת-עַבְדְּךָ כִּי לֹא-יִצְדָּק לְפָנֶיךָ כָּל-חַי:

Human effort is not adequate because, in God's sight,

“We are all as an unclean thing and all our righteousness (good deeds) are as a filthy garment” (Isaiah 64:5; vs. 6 in some translations).

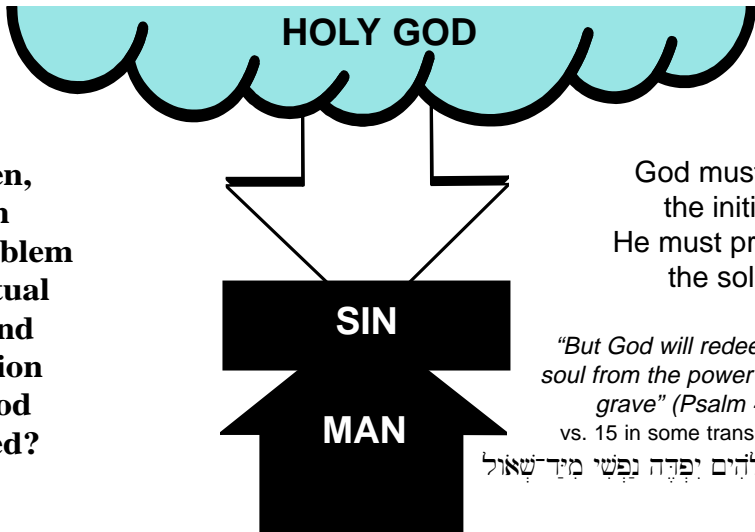
וְנָהִי כְּטָמֵא כָּלֵנוּ וְכַבֵּגְד עֵדִים כָּל-צַדִּיקֵינוּ
וְנָבֵל כְּעֵלָה כָּלֵנוּ וְעֹנֵנוּ כְּרוּחַ יִשְׁאָנוּ:

Human effort is not adequate because
man cannot do enough to solve the problem.

“No one can in any wise redeem his brother, nor can he give to God redemption for himself; for the ransom of their soul is too costly”

(Psalm 49:8-9; vs. 7-8 in some translations).

אִם לֹא-תִפְדֶּה אִישׁ לְאֶחָיו לְאֱלֹהִים כְּפָרוֹ: וְיִקַּר פְּדִיוֹן נַפְשָׁם



**But, then,
how can
this problem
of spiritual
death and
separation
from God
be solved?**

God must take
the initiative;
He must provide
the solution.

*"But God will redeem my
soul from the power of the
grave" (Psalm 49:16;
vs. 15 in some translations).*

אֲדֹנָי־אֱלֹהִים יִפְדֶּה נַפְשִׁי מִיַּד־שְׂאוּל



The sin barrier can be removed by believing (having faith in) God's Word and by having the blood of the atonement.

Abraham was an example of how the sin barrier can be removed.

"And he believed in the Lord; and he (God) counted it to him for righteousness"
(Genesis 15:6). וַיִּאֱמָן בַּיהוָה וַיַּחְשְׁבֶהָ לּוֹ צְדָקָה:

We must follow the same pattern.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever" (Isaiah 26:3-4; cf. Habakkuk 2:4).

יֵצֵר סְמוּךְ תִּצְרֶה שְׁלוֹם שְׁלוֹם כִּי בְךָ בְטוּחִים: בְּטַחוּ בַיהוָה עַד-עַד

But Moses said that one more thing is essential, the blood of the atonement.

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul" (Leviticus 17:11; cf. Leviticus 10:17; 4:35).

כִּי נַפְשׁ הַבָּשָׂר בַּדָּם הוּא וְאֲנִי נִתְּתִיו לָכֶם עַל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ לְכַפֵּר עַל-נַפְשֹׁתֵיכֶם
כִּי-הָדָם הוּא בְּנַפְשׁ יְכַפֵּר:

But why would God want man to go through the awful procedure of killing an animal?

When the offerer saw the sacrifice suffering and bleeding for the sins which he had committed, he was impressed with the awfulness of sin and the penalty of death the sinner deserved (see Ezekiel 18:4, 20).

The sacrifice showed him God's:

- * HOLINESS because of His hatred of all evil.
- * JUSTICE because He does not leave sin unpunished.
- * MERCY because of His readiness to pardon the truly repentant and believing by providing a substitute for Him.

The animal sacrifice thus provided the blood of atonement and was an act of faith acceptable to God.

But without a priesthood and without a temple, there can be no sacrifices. How can we have the blood of atonement today?



God has provided the blood of atonement for today.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath caused the iniquity of us all to fall on him."

כָּלֵנוּ כַצֹּאֵן תָּעִינוּ אִישׁ לְדַרְכּוֹ פָּנֵינוּ וַיְהִיָּה הַפְּגִיעַ בּוֹ אֶת עֵוֹן כָּלֵנוּ:

"For he was cut out of the land of the living; for the transgressions of my people was he stricken." כִּי נִגְזַר מֵאֶרֶץ חַיִּים מִפֶּשַׁע עַמּוֹי נִגַּע לְמוֹ:

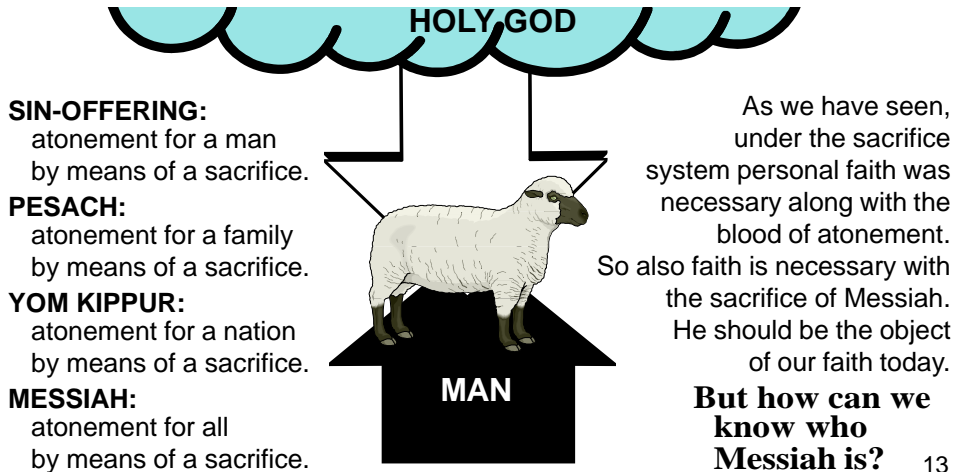
"And he took off the sin of many" (Isaiah 53:6, 8, 12).

וְהוּא חָטָא רַבִּים נָשָׂא

In the prologue to Isaiah 53 (Isaiah 52:13-15) the author identifies the "HE" of these passages.

He is described as God's servant who will be exalted.
In other parts of his work, Isaiah equates this servant of
God with Messiah (e.g., Isaiah 42:1).

God's provision of the blood of atonement through the Messiah follows the same principles God set up in the sacrifice system.



**God made sure we could recognize Messiah
by certain specific identifying marks.
These are described by the
prophets of Israel.**

- His ancestry was from the family of David (Jeremiah 23:5-6).
- The city of His birth was Bethlehem (Micah 5:1).
- He had a supernatural nature (Jeremiah 23:5-6; Micah 5:1 [5:2 in some translations]; Isaiah 9:5-6).
- The manner of His execution was crucifixion (Psalm 22:14-17).
- He rose from the dead (Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 53:10).
- The time of His coming was before the destruction of Herod's Temple in 70 CE (Daniel 9:26).

**Do you have any idea if anyone has
fulfilled these prophecies,
or has even come close?**

**History tells us that Yeshua Hamashiach
(Jesus the Messiah) fulfilled these
and many other prophecies.**

There are at least 48 specific prophecies concerning Messiah which Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled. The probability that one person could fulfill all 48 prophecies is 1 out of 10 with 157 zeros after it!

During His lifetime many people called Him Messiah ("Christ" is the Greek translation) and believed in Him (Matthew 16:16; John 1:45-51; Acts 6:7).

Many people since that time, both Jews and Gentiles, have had their sins forgiven and have gained a personal relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob through Messiah Jesus. Through Him one becomes a completed person; e.g., a Jewish person becomes a completed Jew.

**Since the blood of atonement has been
provided through Messiah Jesus, there is
only one thing left for you to do.**



**You must by faith receive Yeshua
into your life in order to have
a personal relationship with God
and a satisfying, worthwhile life.**

*“To all who received Him (the Messiah), to those who believed in His name,
He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).*

Receiving Messiah Jesus involves a moral decision to turn to God's ways and from your own, to trust Him to forgive your sins and bring you into a right relationship with God.

When you receive Messiah Jesus by faith (trusting what He has done for you), He comes into your life and gives you the power to live a satisfying worthwhile life.

Yeshua says:

*“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My
voice and opens the door, I will come into him and fellowship with him,
and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20).*

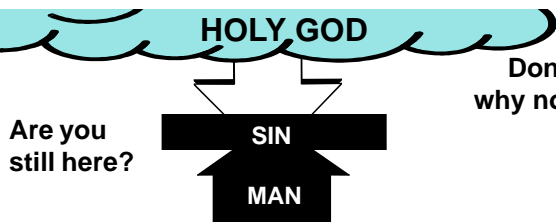
Some people think that receiving Yeshua by faith means you're no longer Jewish.

That's not true. As Jesus put it:

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them" (Matthew 5:17).

The apostle Paul felt the same way

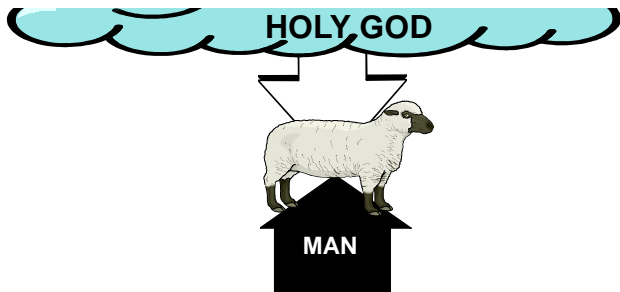
"It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain (in jail)" (Acts 28:20).



Don't let anything hold you back – why not invite Messiah Jesus to give you a right relationship with God right now?

Remember:

1. God is the source of a worthwhile life.
2. Your sin has separated you from God.
3. God's provision through Yeshua is the solution to the sin barrier.
4. The only thing God asks you to do is to trust Messiah Jesus to forgive your sins and give you a right relationship with God.



**You can receive Yeshua
by faith right now
through prayer.**

Prayer is talking to God and is a good way to express your faith.

**You may want to use this prayer
to express your decision to trust Messiah Jesus.**

“Lord Jesus, I admit that I have sinned. I believe that you have provided the blood of atonement for me. I receive you as my Messiah. Thank you for forgiving my sins and coming into my life as you promised.”

Yeshua always keeps His promises.

**Did you receive Him by faith just now?
Do you know what that means?**

It means that the following promises are now true in your life:

1. Messiah Jesus came into your life, and He's there permanently (Revelation 3:20; Hebrews 13:5).
2. All your sins are forgiven (Colossians 2:13).
3. You have a brand new relationship with God – you're His child! (John 1:12).
4. You've become a completely new person inside, and you've got a great new life! (2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 5:11-13).
5. You've been set free from yourself to help others (John 8:31-35; Galatians 5:13).

So, what now?

Continue to trust Yeshua

The way you began is the way to keep going (Colossians 2:6; Hebrews 11:6).
If you keep trusting Him, you'll grow in your new relationship.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Let Him communicate to you; read His words (1 Peter 2:2).
2. Talk to Him about everything (Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:7).
3. Get together with others who have received Him (Hebrews 10:24-25).
4. Tell other people about Him (Acts 1:8). Remember to be tactful and kind.

*“From all your filthiness will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes”
(Ezekiel 36:25-27).*

וְנָקַתִּי עֲלֵיכֶם מִיָּמִים טְהוּרִים וּטְהַרְתֶּם מִכָּל טְמֵאוֹתֵיכֶם וּמִכָּל-גִּלּוּלֵיכֶם אֲטַהֵר אֶתְכֶם:
וְנָתַתִּי לָכֶם לֵב חָדָשׁ וְרוּחַ חֲדָשָׁה אֲתֵן בְּקִרְבְּכֶם וְהִסַּרְתִּי אֶת-לֵב הָאֵבֶן מִבְּשָׂרְכֶם
וְנָתַתִּי לָכֶם לֵב בָּשָׂר: וְאֶת-רוּחִי אֲתֵן בְּקִרְבְּכֶם וְעָשִׂיתִי אֶת אֲשֶׁר-בְּחֻקֵּי תֵלְכוּ וּמִשְׁפָּטֵי
הַשְּׁמֵרוּ וְעָשִׂיתֶם:

Don't forget, keep trusting Him!

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*There are some people who
really care about you!*

נְשָׁלוּם