PROOF THAT YAHSHUA IS THE CHRIST

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As we approach the anniversary of the greatest day in all history, the day of Yahshua's resurrection, it would be well for us to give some thought and study to just what it is that we celebrate with such faith and joy. What is the foundation upon which our faith is built? What is the meaning of the tremendous events of that last week in Yahshua's earthly life? What was accomplished thereby? For the answers, we must look to both the Old and New Testaments, for they are the parts of one book and each proves the authenticity of the other.

We know the Old Testament is truly the inspired word of Yahweh, because its greatest prophecies were fulfilled in the New Testament. We know the New Testament is also the inspired word of Yahweh. Its great events were those which had been prophesied in the Old Testament.

Remembering this, let us review the scriptures dealing with Yahshua's ministry and see just what He accomplished. I need not review the fall of Adam, causing the loss of our original position in Yahweh's plan. This made necessary a Redeemer for Yahweh's children, eventually to be known as Israel, this is familiar to all Christians. The Redeemer is one of the principle themes of the Bible. Most of it in the Old Testament, is not generally understood because so much of it is stated in the form of symbols and ritual.

The first promise of a Redeemer is found in <u>Genesis 3:15</u>, Yahweh had called Adam, Eve and Satan before Him to account for their actions. Yahweh told Satan, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between **thy seed and her seed**: He shall crush thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel." The Redeemer who destroys the power of Satan, is to be a descendant of Eve. The time when He would come is not stated yet. It is obvious from certain other verses of scripture, that Yahweh further told them, in considerable detail, that He Himself would be the Redeemer. He would pay the price for us and the penalty of death.

Abel knew this, for he understood the necessity and the significance of the blood sacrifice. In <u>Hebrews 11:4</u> Paul tells us, "**By faith**, Abel offered unto Yahweh a more excellent sacrifice than Cain." You can't possibly have faith in something that you have never heard of, so this confirms Abel's knowledge of the promised redemption. There is also another clear evidence of this. Yahweh had said, in the presence of Eve, that the

Redeemer would be of her seed or descendant, though He didn't specify in which generation He would come.

When Eve bore her first child Cain, the King James Bible quotes her as saying, "I have gotten a man from the Lord." In the original Hebrew, what she said was, "I have gotten a man, even Yahweh." Yahweh, as most of you know, is the name of our God. Eve thought that her first born child would be the Redeemer, Yahweh born in a human body. Well, she is not the only one who has hoped for redemption before the appointed time. Note however, **Eve understood the Redeemer was to be Yahweh**.

In further corroboration of this, the great prophecy of <u>Isaiah 9:6</u>, which all agree refers to Yahshua says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulders: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, **the mighty Yahweh**, the Prince of peace." In fulfillment of it, Yahshua told the apostle Philip, recorded in <u>John 14:9</u>, "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." It was not merely death alone that could make the sacrifice, which brings redemption, for all things die under the curse of sin. Emphasis was always laid upon the shedding of blood, a violent death of the sacrifice, not the natural death of ordinary mortality. In <u>Leviticus 17:11</u> we are told, "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 soul." In <u>Hebrews 9:22</u> Paul says, "For almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without the shedding of blood is no remission."

The blood sacrifices of the Old Testament were never intended to be considered as sufficient in themselves. They were just symbolic of the great sacrifice which was to be made, not by us but for us, by Yahweh. In the thousands of years this knowledge was carried down from generation to generation, it was heard by the surrounding pagan people, who lacked the spiritual insight which Yahweh gave to His own people Israel. The pagans wove it into their own pagan religions in a distorted and parodied form. To the pagans, **man** had to make the sacrifice to appease angry gods. Only in our own religion have we the pure truth that **Yahweh** made the sacrifice to save us.

The great Patriarchs understood this. Consequently we find the incident, recorded in the <u>Genesis chapter 22</u>, where Yahweh tells Abraham to take his only son Isaac, and offer him as a sacrifice, a burnt offering. Abraham cheerfully starts out to do this, not with the grief of a loving father about to lose his only son, but with serene confidence. When Isaac asked his father, "Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? Abraham replied, My son, Yahweh will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering." Abraham understood the reality that Yahweh would provide the lamb slain from the foundation of the world as the sacrifice for us. Even in the symbol, the burnt offering, Abraham's faith was rewarded. Yahweh did provide the ram, caught in the thicket as the sacrifice, so this saved Isaac.

Yahshua's authenticity and authority as Redeemer depend upon His being the one named in the Old Testament as such, the one who fulfills the Old Testament prophecies. He recognized this as He always cited these prophecies as proof of His authority. Yahshua opened His ministry this way, <u>Luke 4:16- 20</u> tells it as follows. "And he came to Nazareth where He had been brought up; and as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day and stood up for to read. And there was

delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it is written, The spirit of Yahweh is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent Me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of Yahweh, And He began to say unto them, **This day is scripture fulfilled in your ears.**" At the very start, He quoted <u>Isaiah 61:1-2</u> as His authority.

In John 5:39,46 Yahshua told the Jews, "Search the scriptures: for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and it is they which testify of Me. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me: for he wrote of Me." When John the Baptist was in prison, he began to wonder if he could have been mistaken and sent some of his disciples to ask Yahshua, "Art thou He that should come, or do we look for another?" Yahshua again based His authority on the scriptures, for in the <u>Matthew chapter 11</u> He told John's disciples, "Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, and the poor have the gospel preached to them."

Yahshua was not merely saying, report that I do miracles, for this would not have been proof. The magicians at Pharaoh's court were able to duplicate a number of the miracles that Moses performed. The things which Yahshua reminded them of were all mentioned in <u>Isaiah 3:5-6 & 29:18-19</u>.

What Yahshua really was telling John the Baptist was, "John you know the scriptures, remember what Isaiah said, you see I am fulfilling his prophecies. I need not boast of Myself, the scriptures identify Me." In <u>Matthew 5:17</u> Yahshua said, "Think not that I come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill."

As Yahshua recognized, the proof of His identity and of what He accomplished, does not rest upon His ability to perform miracles. The shallow and unspiritual Jews constantly demanded that He perform a miracle as a sign to prove who and what He was. He always refused, for that would prove nothing. The proof must and did consist in His fulfillment of those Old Testament prophecies which foretold what the Messiah, the Redeemer, would do when He came.

Much of the Old Testament prophecy is found in its symbols and rituals. For example, all of the great feasts or holy days, were symbolic of either the first or second coming of Yahshua. The spring festivals were symbolic of His first coming, crucifixion and resurrection. He fulfilled the reality of which these were the symbols, each on the day of the appropriate festival. The fall festivals are symbolic of His second coming, for which we are now waiting expectantly. We know that in whatever year He comes, He will fulfill the realities symbolized by these fall festivals, each on its own day.

The first of the spring festivals was the Passover, for the salvation and redemption from death, Yahweh's deliverance of His people Israel. This was so important that in <u>Exodus 12:14</u>, Yahweh commanded that celebration of the Passover should be an ordinance **forever** among His people Israel. Clearly it symbolized the sacrifice of the Lamb of Yahweh, slain from the foundation of the world.

The celebration of the Passover was first commanded when the people of Israel were still in Egypt. Moses had performed many miracles as proof that he was sent by Yahweh to command that Pharaoh release the nation of Israel. Some of these miracles wrought great devastation in Egypt, but still Pharaoh would not yield. In Exodus chapter <u>12</u>, Yahweh warned Moses that He was going to pass through the land of Egypt and kill all the first born, from the cattle in the fields to the first born son of Pharaoh. The people of Israel would be spared if they would follow the instructions, to kill and eat the Passover lamb and put its blood on the door posts outside their front door.

They could not just secretly eat the lamb while hiding at home. There must be a public proclamation of their faith, by putting the lamb's blood on the door posts. By the death of the lamb they would be delivered from death. It was by showing Yahweh that they relied upon the blood of the lamb, that they would be saved. By eating the flesh of the lamb, they gained strength for their journey out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom. All this is symbolic of our salvation and redemption by Yahshua upon the cross, let's examine it in detail.

The lamb for the Passover offering was to be selected on the 10th day of the Hebrew month Nisan (Nee-sawn), but not actually sacrificed until the 14th day of Nisan. Yahweh instructed Moses in <u>Exodus 12:3, 6</u>, "In the 10th day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the household of their fathers, a lamb for an household, And ye shall keep it until the 14th day of the same month; and the whole assembly (qahal) of the congregation (edah) of Israel shall kill it in the evening." The Hebrew words translated here, in the evening, actually mean between noon and sunset, or in the afternoon.

Then Yahweh commanded Moses to tell Israel in <u>Exodus 12:22</u>, "They shall take of the blood and put it on the two side posts and on the lintel of the door of the houses where they shall eat it." The flesh of the lamb was to be roasted and eaten with bitter herbs. The families were to be ready to march out of the land of Egypt immediately. This command further provides that not a bone of the lamb may be broken.

So much for the **symbol of the Passover**, now let us see how the reality fulfilled it. On the 10th day of Nisan, Yahshua was selected for death, <u>Mark 11:15-18</u> records it. "And they came to Jerusalem; and Yahshua went into the temple and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the seats of the money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves; And He taught, saying Unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves! And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy Him: for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His doctrine."

On the 14th day of Nisan, Yahshua was crucified, the day the Passover lambs were killed. In fact, He died at the very hour which was in the midst of the slaughter of the lambs. The Hebrew day began at sunset. The night was divided into four watches of three hours each. The day was divided into 12 hours, beginning at sunrise, which at that time of year was about 6 A.M. in our time. He was crucified somewhere around noon, the sixth hour of the day in Hebrew time.

<u>John 19:14</u>, speaking of the end of His trial before Pontius Pilate, says it was about the sixth hour. <u>Luke 23:44</u>, speaking of the time just after Yahshua was nailed to the cross, also says it was about the sixth hour. Since neither man carried a wrist watch, John estimated the end of the trial to be slightly before noon, while Luke estimated the crucifixion to be soon after noon.

All the Biblical accounts agree that there was darkness over the land from the sixth hour (noon in our time) until the ninth hour, or 3 P.M. in our time, when Yahshua died on the cross. Remember, the Passover lambs were to be killed between noon and sunset and this was in the very middle of that period. John 19:33, 36 records that while the legs of the two thieves were broken to hasten their deaths, not a bone of Yahshua's body was broken, thus fulfilling the rules regarding the Passover lamb. In <u>Corinthians 5:7</u> Paul reminds us that Yahshua, our Passover, is sacrificed for us.

This sacrifice made for us by Yahshua was, in every respect, His own voluntary act, even to the instant of death itself. In the King James Bible <u>Matthew 27:50</u>, "Yahshua when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost." This is not an adequate rendering of the Greek, which says He **dismissed His spirit**, an act of His own will. This fulfills His own words in <u>John 10:17-18</u>, "I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself."

Since Yahshua's sacrifice upon the cross was the fulfillment of the Passover, Yahweh expressly commanded in <u>Exodus 12:14</u>, "This day shall be unto you for a memorial: and ye shall keep it a feast to Yahweh throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance **forever**." Perhaps you are wondering why we no longer celebrate the Passover in the old way. There is a good reason for this. The Passover, as the ordinance in the Old Testament prescribed it, looked to the future, to something which had not yet happened. It was the believer's proclamation, "I believe that my Redeemer will **someday in the future**, come and make the true sacrifice for me, giving His life to redeem mine."

As long as Yahshua had not yet come, this was the proper form for it. After He had actually come and given His life for us, we could no longer say that we were still waiting for something to be done in the future. To do so would be a rejection of what He had already done for us. It was still to be an ordinance forever, but **its form must be changed** so that it now recognized that our redemption has already been accomplished. This is why Yahshua taught us the new form of it, Yahshua's supper or communion. We still symbolically eat the sacrifice for the nourishment of our spirit, "Take, eat, this is My body." <u>Matthew 26:26</u> and <u>Mark 14:22</u>. We still symbolically proclaim our faith that by His blood we are redeemed. <u>Matthew 26:28</u> says, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." The form is changed, to show our recognition that our Redeemer has already come and redeemed us. However, the real meaning of the sacrifice is indeed eternal.

Yahshua's crucifixion came at the prophesied time. His ministry covered three years. The Gospel of John records at least three and possibly four Passovers in this time. The first Passover is recorded in John 2:13-25, which also records Yahshua's first cleansing of the temple by driving out the money changers. John 5:1 mentions, "A feast of the Jews; and Yahshua went up to Jerusalem." It is not further identified, while it

might be the second Passover, we can't be sure of this. John 6:4 records what is at least the second and possibly the third Passover. John 11:55 shows that Yahshua's last visit to Jerusalem, ending in the crucifixion, was also for a Passover, this was just possibly the fourth Passover. As Yahshua's ministry had already begun before the first of these Passovers, either three or four is consistent with the ministry of three years.

For the significance of this, let us first turn to the prophet Daniel. In <u>Daniel 9:26-</u> <u>27</u> the prophet says, "And after three score and two weeks shall the Messiah, the Prince be cut off, but not for Himself: And He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease." We know that the three score and two weeks, sixty-two weeks, or 434 days, had worked out correctly on the prophetic scale of one year for a day.

The people of Judea knew the Messiah was due and were restless in anticipation of their deliverance. This is why the Romans were so worried about what even a small disturbance might cause. As to the words, in the midst of the week, a week on the prophetic scale being 7 years, then in the midst of the week, would be any time after three years. As we have seen, Yahshua's ministry fulfilled this. That He did confirm the covenant with many, is proclaimed by Paul in <u>Romans 15:8</u> where he says, "For I say that Yahshua the Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of Yahweh. **To confirm the promises made unto the fathers.**"

Paul shows us that Yahshua did cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, as Daniel prophesied. In <u>Hebrews 10:11-18</u> we read, "And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering often times the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: but this Man, **after** He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of Yahweh; For **by one offering** He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. Now where remission of these is, **there is no more offering for sin**." Although the Jews still curse and revile Him, even they seem to have recognized the futility of offering any more animal sacrifices. Nowhere in the world today have they revived the ancient sacrifices.

On what day was Yahshua crucified? This will indeed surprise you. One thing is certain, He was not crucified on a Friday! Yes, I know that nearly all churches celebrate Friday as the crucifixion day, but they are certainly wrong. Note that the word sabbath not only means the regular weekly sabbath Saturday, but it also means several other holy days, which are expressly called sabbaths in the Bible. For example, let's take the new year, the so called feast of trumpets. In the Hebrew Leviticus 23:24-25 reads thus: "Speak unto the sons of Israel saying, In the 7th month, on the first of the month, a memorial of shouting, a holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work and ye shall bring near a fire offering to Yahweh." You will note that this was on the first day of the seventh month, regardless of the day it might be, it was always a sabbath. Let's take a look at the day of atonement. In the Hebrew Leviticus 23:27-28, 31-32 says, "On the tenth of this seventh month is the day of atonements: ye have a holy convocation: and ye humble yourselves and bring near a fire offering to Yahweh; and ye do no work in this selfsame day, for it is a day of atonements, to make atonement for you before Yahweh your God ... Ye do no work, a statute age long to your generation in all your dwellings. It is a sabbath of rest to you."

The words holy convocation and sabbath are practically interchangeable as every holy convocation is a sabbath. Let's take <u>Leviticus 23:2-3</u> to illustrate this. In the Hebrew, it says "appointed seasons of Yahweh which ye proclaim, **holy convocations** are these: they are My appointed seasons: six days is work done and in the seventh is a sabbath of rest, a holy convocation."

The Passover began with the evening of the day of the preparation. This is the day on which the lambs were killed and on which day Yahshua was crucified. Nobody can dispute the Passover is a holy convocation, a sabbath, <u>Leviticus 23:5-8</u> makes it so. Here is how it reads in the Hebrew. "In the first month, on the fourteenth of the month, between the evenings, is the Passover to Yahweh; and on the fifteenth day of this month is the **feast of the unleavened things** to Yahweh; seven days unleavened things do ye eat; on the first day ye have an holy convocation, ye shall do no servile work; and ye bring near a fire offering to Yahweh seven days; **in the seventh day** is a holy convocation; ye do no servile work."

Yahshua was crucified on Nisan 14th, the Passover, the day the lambs were killed. The next day Nisan 15th, was the first day of the 7 day feast of unleavened bread, a holy convocation or sabbath day. This was regardless of the day of the week on which it fell. All the gospels agree that the day following the crucifixion was a sabbath. John 19:31 also mentions, **that sabbath was an high day**, not just an ordinary Saturday sabbath of every week, but a special sabbath, a high holy day. It was a special day for it was the first day of unleavened bread.

The next thing to note is that all four gospels say that Yahshua was resurrected on the first day after the sabbaths. Note that sabbaths here is in the plural. The King James Bible doesn't show this, but in the original Greek, all four gospels <u>Matthew 28:1</u>, <u>Mark 16:2, 9</u>, <u>Luke 24:1</u>, and <u>John 20:1</u> show this. These plural sabbaths shows Friday was the high holy day sabbath, the first day of the feast of unleavened bread, followed by Saturday, the ordinary weekly sabbath. **So, the sabbath necessarily occurred on a Thursday, not Friday.** Note that if the high holy day sabbath had fallen on Saturday, this would not have made two sabbaths of it.

Yahshua said in <u>Matthew 12:40</u>, "For as Jonah was 3 days and 3 nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of man be **three days and three nights** in the heart of the earth." Nobody can make 3 days and 3 nights out of the time from 4 or 5 o'clock Friday afternoon, until sometime early Sunday morning before dawn. Two nights, one day and a tiny fraction of another is all you can count. However, if He was in the tomb part of Thursday, all of Thursday night, all of Friday and Friday night, all of Saturday and most of Saturday night, you have two whole days and part of a third day, two whole nights and most of a third night. He did not say that it would be 72 hours, so it need not be full days and nights down to the very last minute.

We see that in His crucifixion Yahshua fulfilled, on the correct day, all the realities of salvation and redemption of which the Passover was the symbol. Yahshua is fully identified as the true Messiah or Christ, promised to us in the scriptures. We have an Old Testament high holy day to consider, the feast of the firstfruits. On the morning after the sabbath following the Passover, each Israelite was to bring to the temple some of the firstfruits. This was in the spring when the grain was harvested. The barley

ripened several weeks before the wheat, so the firstfruits offering was of barley. The offering was to be a sheaf of barley, containing many kernels of grain.

This was a symbol which Yahshua fulfilled in His resurrection, as Paul recognizes in I <u>Corinthians 15:20, 23</u>, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the **firstfruits** of them that slept. But every man in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits**: afterwards they that are Christ's at His coming." On the morning of the day after the sabbaths, the exact time of the feast of firstfruits, Yahshua became the firstfruits from the dead. Note another thing, the firstfruits offering was a sheaf of grain, containing many kernels of grain. Yahshua also fulfilled this because at the same time, He also resurrected many people. We read in <u>Matthew 27:52-53</u>, "And the graves were opened and **many bodies of the saints which slept arose** and came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city and appeared unto many."

The firstfruits offering was both a pledge that the tithe would be brought into the temple when the harvest was complete and also a symbol of that tithe which represents Yahweh's elect. In the Hebrew they were called the qahal and in the Greek the ekklesia, the called out ones, translated into English as the word church.

Was the resurrection something new and unheard of? No, Yahweh had prophesied this in the Old Testament. In <u>Hosea 13:14</u> Yahweh promised us, "I will ransom them from the power of the grave: I will redeem them from death." How would this be done? <u>Isaiah 26:19</u> clearly prophesies exactly what Yahshua did, for it says, "Thy dead men shall live: **together with My dead body shall they arise!** Awake and sing, ye that dwell in the dust: for thy dew is dew of light, and the earth shall cast out the dead." Truly, together with His dead body they did arise, when Yahshua presented His firstfruits from the dead. Clearly He had the authority and power to make and to fulfill His wonderful promise. In John 8:51 Yahshua states, "Verily, verily, I say unto you: **if a man keep My saying, he shall never see death.**"

This is recognized and confirmed in the New Testament. In <u>Hebrews 2:9, 15</u> where Paul says, "But we see Yahshua, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; **that He, by the grace of Yahweh, should taste death for every man**. And deliver them who, through the fear of death, were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

Some other religions have preached a form of immortality, but only in a spiritworld to which none of the dead could go. Also from which none could ever return and where their life was really little more than mere existence. It was not inspiring and they have had few martyrs willing to die for **their** faith. Only Christianity has the tangible evidence, proven by many eye witnesses, of the fact of the resurrection. This was seen by some 5,000 people over a period of 40 days. We have more than just faith. We can say, not just I hope or I believe but, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand, at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see Yahweh: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold and not another." Job 19:25-27.

There remained one more spring festival to be fulfilled, that of Pentecost. It was called in the Hebrew, the feast of weeks. As we saw, the firstfruits offering was just a pledge, made before the principal harvest was ripe. The wheat needed another month

to ripen, to be ready for the harvest. <u>Leviticus 23:15-21</u> gives the rules for the feast of weeks. "And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven sabbaths shall be complete: even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days: and ye shall offer a new meal offering unto Yahweh." By this time the whole grain harvest was complete, what had been merely promised in the firstfruits offering, could now be fully given.

Yahshua fulfilled this symbol also, on its own day. When His followers had seen Him with their own eyes after His resurrection, they were filled with triumph and wanted to start their work at once. However, it was not time yet, so Yahshua told them in <u>Acts</u> <u>1:4-5</u>, "You should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which ye have heard from Me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence." The apostles were impatient and asked Him, "Yahshua, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." <u>Acts 1:6-8</u>.

It is not enough that they were now ready to be His witnesses. It must be done in the way and at the time Yahweh had prophesied, in order that it might bear the proof of its genuineness. Accordingly we read in <u>Acts chapter 2</u> that on the exact day of Pentecost, the feast of weeks, Yahweh gave the fullness of His Spirit upon them, the power to do what up to that time, they could only wish for. In the resurrection they had seen the firstfruits, the demonstration of Yahweh's power and that Yahshua the Christ was the one who had it, the promise of what was yet to come. It was as Yahshua had promised, and on the exact day when the scriptures symbolically foretold its coming, they received the power upon themselves. The New Testament records they now had the power to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, even raise the dead, acting under the Holy Spirit which Yahshua had promised them.

We started out this lesson with the proposition that just the mere ability to work miracles was not enough to prove the One who did them was our Redeemer. There were many men in ancient times who could do things we cannot now duplicate or explain. Only the One sent by Yahweh to redeem us could be the Christ. Proof of His identity and authority, must be found in the prophecies in which Yahweh had given us the signs which would identify Him.

We saw that Yahshua agreed with this. In John 5:31 ,36 Yahshua said, "if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. There is another that beareth witness of Me: and I know that the witness which he witnesses of Me is true. I have a greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given Me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of Me that the Father hath sent Me."

We have examined in detail the great prophesies in which Yahweh had pointed out what the Messiah, would do and what He would accomplish by it. We have seen that Yahshua correctly fulfilled, even to the exact day when He did each of the works which Yahweh had set out for Him to do. We have the proof in actual demonstration, He is our Redeemer. He has paid the penalty for us, He has brought us the gift of eternal life and by His resurrection has proven it to be a fact. There can be no possible doubt that Yahshua is in truth the Christ. **Truly, I know that my Redeemer liveth.**

Critical note by Clifton A. Emahiser: It is apparent that, while Comparet did an excellent job on this topic, he didn't quite have all of his ducks in a row on the subject of the three day and three nights that Yahshua was to remain in the grave. I found the following information in my Libronix Digital Library under *Difficulties In The Bible* by R. Torrey, 1998, c1996, Alleged errors and contradictions. Woodlawn Electronic Publishing: Willow Grove. Chapter 21: "Was Jesus Really Three Days and Three Nights in the Heart of the Earth?" Part of the article reads:

"... It has been figured out by the astronomers that in the year 30 A.D., which is the commonly accepted year of the crucifixion of our Lord, the Passover was kept on Thursday, April 6, the moon being full that day. The chronologists who have supposed that the crucifixion took place on Friday have been greatly perplexed by this fact that in the year 30 A.D., the Passover occurred on Thursday. One writer in seeking a solution of the difficulty suggests that the crucifixion may have been in the year 33 A.D., for although the full moon was on a Thursday that year also, yet as it was within two and half hours of Friday, he thinks that perhaps the Jews may have kept it that day. But when we accept exactly what the Bible says, namely, that Jesus [sic Yahshua] was not crucified on the Passover day but on 'the preparation of the Passover,' and that He was to be three days and three nights in the grave, and as 'the preparation of the Passover' that year would be Wednesday and His resurrection early on the first day of the week, this allows exactly three days and three nights in the grave.

"To sum it all up, Jesus [sic Yahshua] died about sunset on Wednesday. Seventy-two hours later, exactly three days and three nights, at the beginning of the first day of the week (Saturday at sunset), He arose again from the grave. When the women visited the tomb just before dawn the next morning, they found the grave already empty. So we are not driven to any such makeshift solution as that any small portion of a day is reckoned as a whole day and night, but we find that the statement of Jesus [sic Yahshua] was literally true. Three days and three nights His body was dead and lay in the sepulcher. While His body lay dead, He Himself, being quickened in the spirit (1 Peter 3:18), went into the heart of the earth and preached to the spirits which were in prison (1 Peter 3:19) ..."