

Shabbat Morning 19 December 1992 Londrina, Brazil

Keeping Covenants; Blood Covenant; Luke 16:9

David told his son Solomon that he would always have to seek for YHWH because YHWH is One who hides Himself. Morning by morning we get up and we have to seek for Him in order to find Him. In 1 Chron 28:9-11, David was giving Solomon instruction about how to endure to the very end. But if anyone knows the history of Israel, they know that Solomon did not endure in that covenant. He just quit seeking for YHWH. In the same way, the first church quit seeking for Him and one by one, each person fell away until there was not even a remnant left on earth of those who sought for YHWH. There were no overcomers left. There were a few overcomers, but they eventually died, and so the first church, early in the second century, turned into Christianity. They were without God. They had a form of godliness but the Son of God was no longer enthroned in their hearts. He was not King of the house of Jacob on earth anymore — only in heaven. So there was no longer a light — a witness on earth. The first church was dead (on earth). Rev 3:1 — Even though they had a reputation of being alive, they were dead — their deeds of love and works of service were incomplete. Everything turned in on them and they started thinking of how to better themselves and their families, going into their own houses, separating themselves, they did away with the Sabbath, community life waned, they started going to church on Sundays, and it became the Catholic church. And you can see the abominations that took place in the Catholic church in the centuries that followed. And then Martin Luther came along and started the Reformation and established the Reformed Catholic Church and then he tied himself to the state and the government and in so doing he made his church even worse, for they had an even greater form of godliness. And then it divided into thousands of denominations which you see today. And there you have Christianity. You cannot find God there. God does not live there. There is no household of God. The first church remained that household of God as long as they sought for Him and held their first confidence, their first, newborn springtime love and confidence for Him. Like in a marriage, we hold our first love and don't let it grow cold. In Heb 3:6 it tells a story of how that household fell. And it says the same in the letter written to the Roman Catholic church in Romans 11:22.

Back when Paul wrote that in Rom 11:22, it wasn't considered the Roman Catholic church. But it was only when this Roman church started taking predominance over all the other churches everywhere in the world, and they had a pope and started worshipping the pope, and he did away with the Sabbath and took over the eastern churches and then it all became the Roman Catholic church. And then there was the western/eastern division between western and eastern churches. The western did away with the Sabbath then the Eastern church followed suit and they were the Roman Catholic Church and the Greek Orthodox Catholic Church respectively. And they exist that way today. These 'churches' have come to the point of being ridiculous — the evil one has made a sport of it. Even Judaism has come to the point of being ridiculous. The evil one has twisted and contorted those forms into crazy, evil, demonic type expressions. You can see in Rev 18:2 what our Father in heaven thinks about Christianity today. And it all started when people started coming in over the wall and it started to become a den of robbers with insincerity and all kinds of evil going on and it still goes on today in the Catholic Church and Protestant churches. You can even read about it in the testimonies of our own people who were in Christianity.

If the Roman church had done what Paul, in the Holy Spirit, told them to do, they would not have been cut off from God's hessed — His mercy. They would not have been cut off from God's mercy, loyalty, lovingkindness. That word 'kindness' in 11:22 actually is 'hessed' — mercy. It is the boundary within which we must dwell. It is possible that we can go outside of God's hessed as a result of our attitudes or our behavior. There are ways we can deviate and drift from that course that He has given us — the narrow way we must stay within. In any relationship there are borders you stay within, like in marriage. And even in the world, God has given us the boundaries of good and evil and people who live by their conscience stay within the boundaries of what is good and right. And if they see themselves going outside of those boundaries and they let themselves go anyway, then they find themselves in a mess and say to themselves, "How did I get here? How did I get AIDS?" But it was because they went outside the boundaries of the second covenant.

And we too, have a covenant to stay within the boundaries of. And David was telling Solomon how to stay within that covenant. But Solomon didn't. The life of Solomon is history. Everyone knows how he started seeking everything else but YHWH, and marrying foreign wives who filled the temple he had built with foreign gods — the very same temple of God that David had the plans for. But God would not let David build it because David was a man of war — he brought peace into Israel by destroying the enemies of God. As a result, Solomon never knew war; he was a man of peace — he was to build the temple. So there in 1 Chron 28:9-10, David was telling Solomon what he must do in order to stay within the confines of God's grace — in His mercy, just like in Rom 11:22 Paul was telling the Romans what they must do in order to stay within the confines of His grace and mercy. "1 Chron 28:9-10"

And then David gave Solomon the plans for the temple. Yet we know that God is not interested in temples made of stones, but the true plan has been given to build the spiritual temple made up of people who have Him living in the sanctuary of their spiritual heart and they have become one with Him. Whoever has joined himself to Him is one with Him (1 Cor 6:17). When you join yourself to someone, you become one with them. Every person you have joined yourself to sexually, you have become one with; you have married them. That is how you marry someone. Isaac and Rebecca married by going into his mother's tent. And you 'married' those people by joining yourself to them. But it is not a real true marriage — not a covenant marriage. In the world some people marry several times a week; there is no covenant to that. Mankind has gone totally berserk — deserving of the second death even more than Sodom and Gomorrah — more than any other time in history.

In the first church (Rev 3:4) there were only a few who had not stained their garment. Everyone else did — meaning, they had gone outside of the covenant, they had gone outside their relationship with YAHSHUA — they stained their garment, stained their honor — like Solomon stained his honor (Ecc'cus 47:20). They were no longer worthy to walk with Him in a white garment. [Solomon joined himself with every foreign wife. He had hundreds of wives and he took on their spirits and their gods. It is said that finally, he went to bed with the Queen of Shebah and gave her everything she asked for, and tradition even says that he gave her the arc of the covenant and that it is in Ethiopia today (tradition based on Isa 18) and was replaced by some other duplicate. Nevertheless, the arc of the covenant was never brought back nor put in the temple that was built after the

Jews came back from Babylon.] For there was no 12-tribed completed whole nation of Israel to worship (as Acts 26:7; Mt 21:43), only the Jews. Israel is Israel only as a completed whole. Israel is a name given to 12 tribes — Jacob had 12 sons. (Isa 49:6; Rev 7:5-8).

So in Rom 11:22, Paul told them what to do, (The rest of the chapter is like a parenthesis) and then in 12:1 Paul went on to tell them exactly what to do in order to continue in that covenant relationship, to stay within His kindness, His mercy, where His grace is found — for without grace we can do nothing. And so there it is in Rom 12:1: it speaks about giving our bodies as a living sacrifice in order for our deeds to be completed. (Incomplete deeds — deeds not fully done with a sincere heart, incomplete — anything that is incomplete is good for nothing and does not register in heaven.) Our deeds must be complete. We can see, from the result of the present so-called church, that the Romans did not heed that warning that Paul gave them that they would be cut off if they did not continue in His kindness. (Rev 3:2)

Rom 12:1 is the antitype, the very fulfillment of what the Old Covenant sacrifices of burnt offering were trying to communicate to Israel. Their burnt offering had to be loved and pitied and petted — the best of their flock, brought into their home, the most perfect most beautiful one, the one they loved the most. And when they would present that animal, it meant the same as if it were them — the animal was dying in their place as our Father saw it. And if the animal was pure and thus represented them as such, then it was accredited to them as righteousness and so when they died they would go to the bosom of Abraham in death and wait for YAHSHUA to come to death, to save them. They would be waiting in hope, unlike the other people who offered insincere animals, who only sniffed at them and didn't inspect them. But these people who offered their best, they waited anxiously while the priest inspected it. (Like Paul said, my conscience doesn't accuse me but that doesn't acquit me — it is God who acquits me, (1 Cor 4:4,5) for He is going to bring to light the motives of men's hearts. So the people waited anxiously as the priest inspected their offering. To their knowledge, the animal was the best, but still, maybe there was something they didn't know about. So they waited anxiously to see because all they knew was that if the priest found one thing wrong with that animal, if the priest found some hidden disease or such, it would not be accepted and they would find out that they didn't judge themselves perfectly. But if it was accepted, the priest would take the skin off and burn the fat on the altar and it was received in heaven and the offerer would save the skin as a reminder that they had made a pleasing sacrifice. They went away forgiven (in order to offer the burnt offering, they had to first offer a sin offering.) and they wanted to never fall into sin again. And then they would wait until the following year. They hoped they would never sin again. (Prov 28:13)

Now we offer our bodies every morning without defect and we have to be careful that there is nothing in us that would keep this sacrifice from rising up to our Father. Each and every one of us has to judge our part of the animal. We are one animal so I've got to judge myself and you have to judge yourself. Sometimes we don't offer a perfect sacrifice because someone doesn't judge themselves. So it makes our offering into a mere ritual. It is because someone is not making sure that they are in communion and that their sins are forgiven and so the sacrifice is not accepted. But each person is responsible and has to answer at judgment someday as to why they held the Body back. If you are not with Him, you are against Him. If you are not building, you are destroying (Mt 12:30). We have the

opportunity to build this temple, just like David told Solomon, and when it is built, God, in His Son YAHSHUA, will suddenly come to that temple (Mal 3:1) and manifest Himself. But in order for this to happen, pure offerings have to be presented (v.3); it must be an acceptable sacrifice. We are now being made pure to offer pure sacrifices. Mal 1:11 says that pure offerings will someday be given, but first someone must shut — shut what? What do they have to shut? In verse 10 you see that there is no offering because they were uselessly offering up animals. And it is possible that we, in the New Covenant, can uselessly stand here every morning and lift up our hands, and the fire of God will not come down and consume it. But our Father is purifying us individually and as a Body, squeezing the insincere out of the community. The insincere are not able to exist here in the light because hypocrisy cannot last long without eventually being exposed. Eph 5:11 says we are to expose it. We must do more exposing, not allowing anyone to come in over the wall (Jn 10:1). We sometimes let thieves and robbers come in over the wall and not through the door and they rob and steal.

The burnt offering in the old covenant, the offering of our entire animal, expressed the person's readiness and willingness to give themselves. When a person offered that animal which they identified with since they had raised, loved and pitied it from youth, it was the same thing as offering themselves to be burnt on the altar — the same as far as our Father was concerned. In our Father's eyes, the offering and the offerer were the same. When we are baptized, we have to die to our old life just as much as YAHSHUA died to His life. When our Master died, when that spear went into His heart and the only thing that came out was water and the last few drops of blood, HE DIED. And we, in baptism, die. We die 100%, like He died 100%. If we do not die 100%, there is no covenant, no contract, no forgiveness of sin and we still have to pay for our own sins. When you truly hear the gospel, you repent and totally change your direction; the path you were on is abruptly ended and you go the other way entirely. If you were going down, you go up; if you were going east, you go west. If that would not have happened in our lives, nothing could have changed. If that didn't happen in our life, you can expect nothing else but death and paying for your sins forever and ever. Our Master paid for our sins that we would no longer live for ourselves but for Him who died and arose again on our behalf (2 Cor 5:15). So what are we living for? David told Solomon to build the temple but to serve with his whole heart for YHWH searches the heart and there is no way to fool Him. He knows it when people make a false confession and He doesn't give His Spirit to anyone unless they want to serve Him with all their heart. It is very clear. It's getting all too clear. Derush said that one time. He had come in over the wall and we started talking about Rom 6:2,3,4,5 and he said, "It's getting all too clear." He knew that he had not yet paid the price of eternal life by his own death. He had been hanging onto his life, his flesh, for dear life. But we are to die the same type of death that our Master died and then we live the same type of life He lived. It is the same — 100%. Rom 6:3,4,5 A person cannot give his life up until he sees that YAHSHUA is worth it. (Rom 10:17)

So, when you give yourself to Messiah, the bad attitudes you had passed away and now you live a new life. Now you are able to be corrected and instructed because you are a new person, because YAHSHUA dwells in your heart. When you are corrected, you won't be offended, for it is only your flesh that gets offended at correction. All of your strong opinions are your flesh — and your flesh is what you must keep dead. Your flesh has to die daily. Daily. It is dead. Consider it dead — dead dead dead. If a person dies, he

cannot change his will. That's why it doesn't even go into effect until the person dies. We die, so our will cannot be changed. (And YAHSHUA does not change His will either.) Of course we have seen people change their will by leaving. But by this we know that they did not die. They did not make a covenant. As a matter of fact, man has lost the instinct to make covenants, to make lasting agreements, to give his lasting word. But to say, "Yes, I will. YAHSHUA is my sovereign," it cannot be something in your head, it must be deep in your being. Otherwise you are just one more Christian (like Billy Graham gets from the TV: "Telephone calls are coming in folks. We've got one more believer in New Mexico..."). What changes about you? nothing — you still smell the same way (Jer 48:11).

[Regarding **COVENANTS**, please read Ha-Emeq's comment to the BURNT OFFERING teaching which was taught in Sus, 12 March 1989, pages 11-12.]

It is difficult to see people say something and go back on it. Such people are worth — less — they are not worth giving eternal life to. The lake of fire is made for people like that. They don't know the covenant-making God. The covenant-making God made a covenant with man and He is going to keep it and fulfill it. And He wants true men who want to be bound in a covenant. We have a covenant-making nature because our God has this nature and we are made in the image of God. This nature is underlying the desire in man to marry. [It used to be that the marriage covenant was a sacred thing. It was sealed in blood upon the union of a man and woman (Dt 22). But in the case that there was no blood on the sheet, the parents of the girl had no proof that she was a virgin and the girl would be stoned. Do you think that is good or bad? That is how it is supposed to be. That is the consequence of her actions. But we, in our day, have lost this reverence. We live in a crazy world where people connect themselves with anyone, going to bed with every person they like, taking on the spirits of every person they ever slept with. Fornication takes people to the second death. Our children are being raised up to be married to someone who loves them. So if they lose their virginity with someone, they might as well be stoned to death. As long as she is in her father's house, a young girl is to be pure and her father is to give her away to someone who also is pure. If she is promiscuous in her father's house, she was to be stoned. They kept the covenant. It was something deep in their heart. This is how it still should be.]

Men make covenants with one another, to seal agreements or to seal their loyalty. Love makes covenants. It is what naturally flows from a man's heart as their love grows. Take the covenant David made with Yonathan. You are missing so much if you don't know of the beauty of the kind of love David had that made a covenant with Yonathan. However, in the last days, men will not keep their word. They will lie to one another. They will say that they'll be there at two and they won't come until four — they will not keep their word.

Baptism is our entrance into the blood covenant with our Master, sealed by our death in the water. Marriage is a blood covenant. But in the last days men will actually forbid marriage, true blood-covenant marriage. They will not make a covenant. Instead they go to bed and become one with someone in hypocrisy and then a week later, after it doesn't feel good anymore, they leave. It says it, that in the last days, they won't make covenants. They will have totally hardened themselves to their deep need for blood covenant, being taught that commitment is bondage. Now they live together with no binding agreement. It is because they are a generation of puny men who will not let blood flow. Our Master

was not a puny man. He let His blood flow to make that covenant that was going to save us. He swears to his own hurt (Ps 15:4); a breaker of the covenant is despised in His eyes; He hates it. Those puny men will not let their heart be pierced to the point of making a covenant. On the day of Pentecost, those who were saved were pierced to the heart and then asked, "what shall we do?" (they would have done anything). (Acts 2:38) Another covenant, circumcision, lets blood flow. No one will do that today either. They won't let blood flow. But covenant unto the shedding of blood is the character of our Father. It means we keep it regardless of what we have to suffer to maintain it.

The first community knew about covenants but then they failed to keep it, they fell, they didn't do what David told Solomon — to search for Him daily. Our Master spoke about violent men (Mt 11:12) who take the kingdom by force. Violent men are not going to allow an evil spirit to come in and deceive them and make them feel sorry for themselves, thinking, "Oh, there's no hope," just because they are suffering. That is a big lie. You are going through suffering because you need to. (Phil 1:29; Acts 14:22; Rom 8:17,18). You need to cry out to Him in the midst of your suffering. He is your Sovereign and He is sovereign over everything. That means that you don't go by your feelings anymore because He is your Sovereign, not your feelings. If He is sovereign, then He is sovereign over everything. So you are violent and you live by your will. Violent men are taught and controlled by their will. We surrender our will to our Father so His will can be done through us. We have been chosen to live by our will. Considering our upbringing in this age of puny men, we are the people who are the least likely to make it. "All Creteans are liars." It seems like here [in Brazil] you cannot depend on anyone to keep their word. Maybe some places on the earth people keep their word more than others, nevertheless, our wills are weak and puny. So our Father is taking extra care with us to make sure that we don't fail like the first community failed. We have the new covenant scriptures and part of it is HOW they failed and did not heed the warnings they were given. (For instance, the Roman church obviously no longer offers their bodies as a living sacrifice.) Our sacrifice is only as good as the one who doesn't offer his body as a living sacrifice. There is no use in me offering my body as a living sacrifice if you are not doing it and there is no use in your doing it if I'm not. (Heb 10:24; 12:15) In the Old Covenant they dissected the animal and inspected each part. Each and every part has to be perfect, but now we have to judge ourselves. I trust that you do, so that our prayers can be answered. The sacrifice is everyone together. It cannot be just some in communion, it has to be everybody. We are devoted to each other; we made a covenant. Others have given their word but it was in hypocrisy. They are the most worthless people who ever lived, puny men who you cannot trust. But out of the ruin and chaos and decay of this evil world, God is choosing one here and one there who will be true to their word and He is making a people out of them who will stick together and lay down their lives for each other. He is doing this in order to bring this age to an end and put to shame those who turn against him and who won't take hold of the hand He is reaching out toward them, and then He is going to start all over with a new nation of people who love Him and whose hearts are turned toward Him.

1 Jn 3:16 is not written for nothing. We actually made a covenant and we stick to it; we are not going anywhere; we are on the rock; we are not taken off by our emotions. The whole world is like Sodom and Gomorrah. We were like Sodom and Gomorrah but now we are new creations. There must not be any more Sodom and Gomorrah in us. We come

from a preserved seed (Rom 9:29), new and holy. He is attracting people who can be converted and become new and holy, not those who are perfect and good. There is a God, Elad [our guest]. You may think you have a good excuse, but God will not accept it. Christianity has corrupted the whole earth. All religions are going to burn — their smoke is going to go up forever and ever and ever because they corrupted the whole earth (Rev 19:2,3) by their sorcery. God is a God of love and He doesn't want anyone to perish. But God expects people to respond to the word. "My sheep hear My voice." The only reason some cannot hear God's word is because they want to hold onto their selfish life and stay in their dullness and indifference. If you love your life you will lose it. If you lose your life, you will find it. To those who are perishing, this is a stench of death, but to those who are being saved, it is the aroma of life.

Nahaliel — I can see this lack of covenant among men — how it has been destroyed even though it was created in us from our Father. People say they are going to meet you at two and they don't get there till four or they don't show up at all and they never even phoned or called. They say, "Oh yeah, I forgot." They expected that you knew that nobody does what they say they are going to do.

The precious thing that God made between a man and a woman, He made it only for within the boundaries of the covenant of marriage and that kind of marriage doesn't really exist anymore.

And his temple, there is no temple where God lives if there is not that bond of a covenant. That temple that Solomon built was only a representation of what He was going to do with our lives. He started to build His temple with the people of the first church but it was destroyed too. There was no longer that bond of people — there wasn't that covenant where love could bear life. There wasn't a true temple anymore because God didn't exist in the people's lives anymore.

It used to be that a man's word was worth something. It was 'a man's word'. But it is not worth anything anymore. But now this is being restored in us — this instinct to make a covenant — even to the point of shedding our blood. If we won't go into death to make a covenant, we are not going to come into a new life.

Yoneq — Our Master said you should let your yes be yes and no be no. Otherwise it is from the evil one.

Elezar — When people started leaving I felt bad especially Carlos' family. It hit me with great fear that I would have in me the same thing that took them away. Yoneq said we cannot change our will after we die. When a person makes a will he registers it and it can't be changed and in the same way when we give our lives to our Father, He registers it in the Lamb's book of life and there it is — it can't be erased. The only way you would escape from it is if it was never registered. And I asked our Father that if mine wasn't affirmed, that he would reveal it.

Yoneq — Well, a good tree can't bear bad fruit and a bad tree can't bear good fruit. You can know by Jn 15:5-8, you will know if you are truly His disciple if you bear much fruit. [A guest expressed that she wants to spend some time here. Yoneq questioned her about her situation and then shared:]

If a person comes here now just because that man deserted her, and he is the reason she didn't come in the first place, three months ago when she was first coming around, well it's too late. (Lk 16:9) You can't say, 'Oh, I can't be a disciple now, I have too much money. Let me go spend it first.' Then he loses his money and thinks, "Hey, I can go to

the community." But they wouldn't receive him. We are told the story in Luke 16:9 so that we can discern people's true motives, so they would not just come here after they lose everything. There are things that cause people to reject Messiah, whatever they love in their life. If a person waits until those things are all gone, it's too late. Our Father wants us to forsake those hindrances, not wait until they are all gone.

Do you think what our Master did in Lk 16:9 was cruel? Do not trust anyone who comes to us and then has an excuse why he doesn't receive Messiah — because of something he has, and then comes back when he loses it. DON'T TRUST HIM. If a person waits until he gets AIDS to come, it's too late. If you get AIDS, it's good you have it — you need it. We don't feel sorry for a snake charmer when he gets bit by a snake, do we? And we shouldn't have sympathy for people who rejected Messiah — a reprobate (Ps 15:4). One who rejects the truth is despised.