

Eating Things Sacrificed to Idols: A Warning to the Bride

The greatest danger facing us as Believers today is not some outside enemy, or persecution, or even death.

Our greatest danger is something that we hold in high esteem, and greatly revere among ourselves. It is however, a form of idolatry, and because of this Yahushua will have a few things against us. That something is our widespread practice of (unknowingly) eating of things sacrificed to idols!

Let's see what this is, so that we might remove it from our practice.

Eating Things Sacrificed to Idols: The First Warning

Today there are many who are becoming serious about preparing themselves for their Bridegroom. For those of the Bride Company who desire to remove the spots and wrinkles, and be without blemish, Yahushua gives a serious warning, in two separate passages, regarding eating things sacrificed unto idols:

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. (Revelation 2:14)

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. (Revelation 2:20)

First, let us notice that both of the above passages in Revelation are addressed to the last-days congregations (that's us). Taken together they give a clear warning, and together they reveal what this idolatry is. We will begin with Revelation 2:14.

In verse 14, we are told that the Doctrine of Balaam results in a stumblingblock (something that impedes or prevents our walking in The Way). Then we are told the two-fold nature of this particular stumblingblock: 1) to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and 2) to commit fornication. These two items describe one single stumblingblock, and one single practice.

Next we see in verse 14 that this one stumbling block results from the 'teaching' that is taught to YHWH's people.

We are also told here that this teaching is the Doctrine of Balaam, taught in the same way it was taught to Balak, and having the same results. So let's review briefly what Scripture reveals about the Doctrine of Balaam.

The Doctrine of Balaam Teaches

As we saw in detail in the teaching - [The Error of Balaam](#), the Doctrine of Balaam is the practice of the Error of Balaam. We found in our examination of Scriptures in (Numbers 22:12, 20), that the Error of Balaam was the fact that Balaam rejected the 'earlier' Word of YHWH, but was willing to obey only the 'later' Word of YHWH. Balaam's motive was greed — but it was because of his action of rejecting part of Yahweh's Word that YHWH sought to kill him! We saw that the *Doctrine of Balaam* is simply the teaching that rejects the *earlier* Word of YHWH in favour of His *later* Word.

Today in our Congregations we are doing exactly the same as Balaam did. We are practicing the Error of Balaam, and teaching the Doctrine of Balaam — for most of our congregations have rejected the earlier Word of YHWH (the 'Old' Testament), and have accepted only the later Word of YHWH (the 'New' Testament). This has happened because many of us have believed the words of the theologians, and have not read the Scriptures for ourselves.

Some might ask, is this a 'Salvation' issue? We need only be reminded that Messiah clearly tells us He will "have a few things against" those of us who hold the Doctrine of Balaam. So let's look briefly at a few results of the Doctrine of Balaam, to see why Messiah will have a few things against us, unless we repent.

Some Results of the Doctrine of Balaam

Here are a few Scriptures that tell us some results of holding the Doctrine of Balaam:

Some Results of Holding the Doctrine of Balaam

- The Doctrine of Balaam rejects part of YHWH's Word. Those who reject His word are displaying rebellion. No King will allow rebellion to remain within His Kingdom for long (Matt 13:41-42).
- When we reject some of the Truth of YHWH's Word, we show that we are not subject to the Law of YHWH, but instead have a 'carnal' mind, which is at enmity against YHWH (Rom 8:7).
- The apostle Paul expressed the travail he was in, until such time that Messiah would become (fully) formed within his 'little children' (Gal 4:19). This is our goal too, that Messiah-in-you (and in me) would become mature, become fully-formed in us, and begin to live in fullness within us, in our daily lives. For Messiah to live in His fullness within us, however, implies that we 'allow' Him to keep all of Father's Commandments and Festivals, in us, just as He did while on earth in His own body.
- If we have been grafted-in, we are now a part of His Covenant people; we are no longer foreigners, no longer 'gentiles' in the spiritual sense, so we are called to no longer walk as the rest of the gentiles (Gal 3:28; Eph 2:11-13; Eph 4:17). If we reject part of Father's Word, we walk as the rest of the gentiles walk, who know not YHWH.
- If we reject part of Father's Word, we prevent Messiah-in-us from that part of the (required) eternal expression of His Life within His Covenant people.
- His Words are 'Life' for us. (John 6:63; Prov 4:20-22). If we are missing some of His Word, we are missing some of His Life-in-us.
- How do we determine what the Life of Yahushua-in-us should consist of? If a Doctrine or practice is truly of Yahushua, it will be clearly seen in Scripture, in the lives of Yahushua and His disciples, and the apostle Paul, as we are told we have them for our examples (Php 3:17; 1Pet 2:21; 1Jo 2:6; 1Jo 3:2). If it is truly of Yahushua, it will also be found within the writings of 'Moses and all the Prophets' (Jo 5:47; Lk 24:25,27).
- Thus the fullness of Messiah-in-us is simply for us to allow the examples of Yahushua and the Disciples to come forth in our own lives, as He provides the

Grace to do so! The fullness of Messiah-in-us can occur only when we co-operate by studying, then using, the same written Scriptures Yahushua and His Disciples used. He used His own Words that He gave to Moses and the Prophets — the Torah! The Doctrine of Balaam thus rejects some of Yahushua's own Words, and so prevents Messiah-in-us from fully appearing in us.

- When we reject the Truth of some of YHWH's Word, we show that we do not have a love for the Truth, and we open ourselves to receiving a strong delusion sent from YHWH, that we might believe a lie (2Thess 2:10-11). When men begin to believe lies, they become deceived, and fall easy prey to idolatry in all its forms.

We see from the brief list above that the Doctrine of Balaam rejects some of YHWH's Word, creates enmity with YHWH, and allows one to be deceived into practicing idolatry, and more. Let us now look at this idolatry most of us have been practicing. Let's briefly review what an idol is.

What is an Idol?

We saw in the teaching - [Graven Images and Idols: the Scriptural Definition](#), that Substitution of man's own Doctrine or practice, in place of that prescribed by YHWH, is the basic definition of idolatry. We found that an idol can be a *dejure* idol, such as a forbidden object. It can also be a *defacto* idol, which includes Man-made substitutes for Truths of YHWH, either in Word or in practice. When we continue to hold onto an idol, we are practicing idolatry. Throughout the Scriptures YHWH pleads with His people to forego their idolatries, which YHWH likens to spiritual fornication.

Now let us see how the *Doctrine of Balaam*, as the rejection of the *earlier* Word of YHWH, teaches us to eat things sacrificed to idols.

Eating Things Sacrificed to Idols: The Second Warning

We noted that the above passage (Rev 2:14) is addressed to the last-days congregations (to us). We also noted that we are given the same warning in two separate passages, so we know this practice must be a very serious and great stumbling block to YHWH's people. Let's look now at the second warning in Rev 2:20:

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. (Revelation 2:20)

Here in verse 20, we see several things in common with verse 14. First, we see that the Bridegroom says to the potential Bride-Candidates, "I have a few things against thee because...." This is a repeat of His warning to us, so we want to take this warning very seriously!

Notice we see here in this passage, just as we saw in verse 14, that the eating of things sacrificed to idols is the result of *teaching*. This time, instead of the *Doctrine of Balaam*, it is the '*woman Jezebel*' who teaches. Let's see who this woman is.

Two Women

There are two '*prophetic*' women that appear throughout Scripture, who are competing for a husband, and for rulership. There is the True Bride, sometimes seen as the

Daughters of Abraham and the *Daughters of Zion*. And then there is the False Bride, also seen as the *Daughters of Babylon*, the *Strange Woman*, and the *Harlot*. This False Bride is sometimes seen as having the spirit of Jezebel.

We recall that Jezebel, as wife of Ahab, was a 'usurper' of her husband's authority to rule, and she accomplished this usurping through deception and intimidation. Jezebel is thus seen in the prophetic light as any demonic spirit that would motivate someone to be a *usurper* of someone else's rightful headship or rule, especially in a Family or Religious setting. This spirit is also a major stronghold behind deception and intimidation, as a means of accomplishing a goal.

We see in Scripture that the prophetic *False Bride* speaks of the entire apostate, Religious World. This False Bride is portrayed in our subject passage as Jezebel, because she appears as a 'usurper' of someone else's rightful authority in spiritual matters. Who is of rightful authority but the True Messiah? And who is a 'usurper' of that authority but one who is a substitute for the True?

The Woman Teaches

We then see this woman Jezebel is teaching YHWH's '*servants*,' so we conclude this is a congregation of YHWH's people. The duty of the True Shepherd is to feed the Flock with Truth. The duty of the False shepherd is to teach lies, and to seduce, and to offer substitutes for the True.

But why is this congregation of YHWH's people called Jezebel?

There is an actual class of mid-ranking demonic spirits named Jezebel, who continually try to motivate both the false shepherds and the true, to offer substitutes of YHWH's Word to the Little Flock. Because the False-Bride congregation is given over to these spirits, she is thus called by the name of Jezebel, the actual authority and motivating power behind her activities.

We can not go into much detail now, but we can generalise by saying the chief characteristic of these Jezebel congregations, is that though appointed by YHWH, the Leaders of these congregations have become mere figureheads, as Ahab was to Jezebel. These Leaders, however, are still the real authorities in YHWH's eyes, but they have subordinated their authority to someone else, hidden behind the scenes. Thus the authority of YHWH's Word is trampled underfoot by this unseen, usurped authority.

This situation becomes a dilemma for the Believers, who are to maintain an attitude of submission to YHWH, through submission to His delegated Pastors and spiritual Leaders, whether they are right or wrong. Until the Bride becomes separated from one Leader, and placed by YHWH under another, she is constrained by the Set-apart Spirit to maintain proper submission to her leaders, and to all with whom she is in fellowship.

Let us now summarise who the woman is who teaches YHWH's servants.

In Rev 2:14, we saw that the teaching was called the Doctrine of Balaam.

In Rev 2:20, we saw that the teaching was done by a prophetic woman named Jezebel, a congregation of YHWH's people. Since the True Bride and False Bride of Scripture both speak of two opposing Companies found within the entire religious world, this woman Jezebel represents not just one isolated congregation, but encompasses the religious world in general.

Combining the two passages, here is what we see. Among the Congregation of YHWH's people, there are those among us that hold the Doctrine of Balaam; and through this Doctrine, men are taught to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols, which have become a stumbling block, preventing them from walking in The Way. Taken together, the two warnings of verse 14 and verse 20 are one and the same warning.

Let's now see what this sacrifice is.

Eating Things Sacrificed to Idols: What is The Sacrifice?

In the above warnings, Yahushua is telling us that the Doctrine of Balaam teaches men to 'eat things sacrificed to idols.' We have seen that one form of an idol may be a man-made substitute for a Word or practice that is commanded by YHWH.

The one outstanding feature we see in both of the above Revelation passages is the '*eating of a sacrifice.*' We could say that since the eating of this sacrifice involves idolatry, it must involve a substitute for the true — which we call a *counterfeit*.

We could also say, "Where there is a *counterfeit*, there must also be the *true*."

This idolatry is relating to a counterfeit sacrifice, a substitute for a True Sacrifice. So in order to find what the counterfeit sacrifice is, we must first know what the TRUE sacrifice is!

The True Sacrifice

Our subject passage refers to the eating of a sacrifice, and likely involves a counterfeit of a TRUE Sacrifice. But if it is a *counterfeit*, a substitute for a TRUE sacrifice, we must next ask, "What is the only legitimate and True Sacrifice today?"

There is only one True and legitimate Sacrifice today found in Scripture: the Body and Blood of Yahushua! (See Heb 9:14; 10:10; 1Pet 1:18-19; Ex 34:25; Deu 12:27.)

Now let's look closely at the TRUE sacrifice. As Believers in Messiah, what are we told to eat and drink, as representing the True Sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Yahushua?

Scriptures tell us clearly:

18 And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples. ... 26 And as they were eating, Yahushua took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. (Matthew 26:18; 26-28)

14 And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guest chamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? ... 22 And as they did eat, Yahushua took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. 23 And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. 24 And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. (Mark 14:14; 22-24)

15 And He said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before

I suffer: ... 19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. (Luke 22:15; 19-20)

23 For I have received of the Master that which also I delivered unto you, That the Master Yahushua the same night in which he was betrayed ['Passover'] took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. (1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

The above passages all clearly reveal that the Body and Blood of Yahushua were eaten and drunk at the Passover meal with Yahushua and His Disciples.

We also saw in the above table of *Results of Holding the Doctrine of Balaam*, that Yahushua and His Disciples are an example for us today, so that we might allow the fullness of Messiah-in-us to come forth.

The Passover meal eaten by Yahushua and His Disciples (the TRUE Master's Supper) was not some "new" Doctrine for the Disciples — it was something YHWH's people had practiced for thousands of years, as commanded of ALL of YHWH's people, in Lev 23:4-5. Yahushua was simply revealing the TRUE meaning of Passover for them, and for us today. Yahushua tells us clearly in Luke 22:20 that the Passover cup is the New Covenant in His Blood, so we now understand that our drinking of the cup at Passover is *our part* in confirming the *New Covenant* ratified in His Blood! This is the New Covenant Passover!

Now read the above paragraph again, and let this truth sink in!

When we have an understanding from Scripture of [The New Covenant Passover](#), we can more easily understand the words of Yahushua:

Then Yahushua said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. (John 6:53)

We can understand clearly from Scripture that wherever Yahushua speaks of eating His Body, and drinking His Blood, He is referring to the Passover meal, which is only for His people, and is not for 'outsiders.'

It is the outsiders who have 'no Life in them' (Yahushua living in them). The 'outsiders' can not keep Passover, for 'Messiah-in-you' is the One who desires to keep Passover, and only those who are 'Born-Again' have Messiah living within them. Messiah-in-us wants to participate in the Passover, while living in our body, just as He did 2,000 years ago when He lived in His own body!

YHWH commands His people to observe Passover as a memorial for ever (Ex 12:14). Thus we see Yahushua and all His Disciples keeping the Passover. Even the apostle Paul reminds us that because Messiah was our Passover sacrifice, we are to keep Passover (1Cor 5:7-8). Here Paul saw the need to remind Believers to keep Passover, maybe because men were already beginning to make man-made substitutes for Passover in his day, just as we see in our day.

The False Sacrifice

We have seen the TRUE sacrifice for end-time Believers is the Body and Blood taken at the Passover meal by Yahushua's Disciples. We have also seen that by their example, we are to keep the Passover today, and are to take the Body and Blood of Messiah as our Passover sacrifice.

Now we must ask, "What is the FALSE sacrifice that is eaten as an idol — a counterfeit, or man-made substitute for the TRUE?"

If the TRUE sacrifice is the eating of flesh, and drinking of Blood of Messiah at Passover, we must conclude the FALSE sacrifice must be a man-made substitute, or counterfeit of the TRUE. The counterfeit must look very similar to the TRUE, and must also represent the TRUE in every respect. The counterfeit must also *appear* to be according to Scripture. But because the counterfeit results from the Doctrine of Balaam, which rejects the earlier word, it will not be seen in the *earlier* Word of YHWH, the Torah ('Old' Testament).

What is this FALSE sacrifice?

Since the Doctrine of Balaam rejects the earlier Word of YHWH, including the TRUE Passover, this rejection allows for the Doctrines of Men to create a 'substitute' or *counterfeit* Passover, even calling it by the Biblical name of 'communion,' the Greek word '*koinonia*,' meaning fellowship and sharing! The counterfeit has also assumed the Biblical name of 'Lord's supper' that is given to the TRUE Passover meal.

This 'substitute' for Passover can be easily seen as a counterfeit, as it is not found in the Torah ('Old' Testament) Scriptures the Bereans used when verifying what the apostle Paul taught. The Bereans are also an example for us in how we can be more noble, as they were, by searching the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). This substitute for Passover thus provides a ready answer to those who are taught to ignore the Torah ('Old' Testament), but who still ask about Yahushua's Words in the Gospels, which urge us to eat His Flesh, and drink His Blood.

When we refuse Yahushua's Passover, but practice a man-made replacement of Passover called *communion* or *Lord's supper*, we have substituted a *man-made* practice for the *Biblical* practice of Passover! Our man-made substitute is an idol! When we eat and drink this substitute passover, we are eating and drinking a man-made Sacrifice, which is eating a **sacrifice** made unto **idols**!

In YHWH's sight this practice is spiritual fornication, for we are His people, and 'Betrothed' to Him as a Bride. By His Grace, He enables us to walk in His Word. By His mercy, He overlooks our ignorance. He longs to walk with us in closer fellowship, but our (un-repentant of) sins continue to keep us separated from Him! He will thus have only the repentant among His Bride, and will refuse all others!

Now we can understand how most congregations today unknowingly promote and teach their people to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication. The Doctrine of Balaam has taught them to reject part of YHWH's Word, so they have embraced a substitute!

When we forget the 'earlier' Word of YHWH, men will attempt to invent many doctrines to take its place. The end result is that we transgress the Law, which is Sin under the New Covenant! (1John 3:4).

A Side Issue

As a side comment, some have misunderstood Paul's remarks in (1Co 8:1, 4, 10; 10:28) where Paul says "an idol is nothing." Peter reminds us that the unlearned and unstable 'wrest,' or twist the meaning of Paul's words (2Pet 3:16). This happens where there is only a surface understanding of Scriptures. If we believe these teachings without reading the Scriptures for ourselves, we can become deceived.

In the 1Corinthians passages, Paul is addressing *physical* meat bought in a *physical* marketplace. Even though the nature of the meat is not changed by this idol "non-entity," Paul tells us eating this meat may become a stumbling block for someone else, because of that person's conscience of where it came from. In this case we would refrain from eating this meat, so as to not stumble our Brother.

In this writing, however, we have covered how rejection of YHWH's Word creates a stumbling block that we make for ourselves, by eating a man-made counterfeit version of a true *spiritual* meat. We have seen that the rejection of part of YHWH's Word, and substituting it with a man-made counterfeit, is idolatry and is Sin (transgression of the Law) according to the New Covenant.

If this were an unimportant issue, Yahushua would not need to give us the double-warning we have seen in Revelation. Because He has warned us twice, it must be very important to Him!

The Remedy

Here is the remedy prescribed by Yahushua for the double-warnings seen above:

Repent; or else I will... fight against them with the sword of my mouth. (Rev 2:16)

Behold, I will cast ... her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. (Rev 2:22)

If we repent, and stop doing what we have been doing, then Yahushua will not send us a strong delusion. Now we can see how widespread the problem is today, and how serious the issue is. Now we see why Yahushua gives us a double-warning, and a double call to repent.

Conclusion

For those who desire to prepare themselves for their Bridegroom, let us stop committing fornication, and eating of things sacrificed to idols. Let us instead begin to embrace the TRUE Passover meal - the TRUE Body and Blood of Yahushua. We will do this only when we cease practicing the Doctrine of Balaam, and begin to obey the earlier Word ('Torah') of YHWH.

This writing is a call to You, Dear Reader! Yahushua is personally calling you to dig into the Scriptures, and read them for yourself! Believe no man! The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!"