

## How NOT to show YAHUAH love



— F A L S E W O R S H I P —

*how we shouldn't love Yahuah*

Now that we have looked into why we should love our Creator and how He wants us to love Him, it's time to have a look at what the Scriptures say about how we shouldn't try to love Him. This can be a tricky one to get into, especially for those of us who grew up with tons of traditions and doctrines that tell us how exactly to do things.

A lot of what we know about worshipping the Father comes from what we have learnt at church or from family. We learned how to celebrate Christmas and Easter, we learned rote prayers and responses. We learned about lent and

Sunday worship before going out to eat. We worshipped under the shadow of a steeple, saying our, often very sincere, prayers looking up at a cross or a statue of Jesus, Mary or the saints.

Those of us who find ourselves in this walk, seeking out His Truth, we did all these things with a sincere heart, loving our Lord in all the ways we were taught.

There are some of us coming to this faith from a different walk too, not having known Yahuah in any way. Or perhaps from a Judaic viewpoint.

No matter our backgrounds, we all need to know the truth of His Word – the Messiah, the Torah, and the Ruach, that all teach us what we should and shouldn't do with regards to our walk with YAHUAH and how to worship and love Him.

Let's begin our dive into how we shouldn't be worshipping Him.

*“When there arises among you a prophet or dreamer of dreams, and he shall give you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder shall come true, of which he has spoken to you saying, ‘Let us go after other mighty ones – which you have not known – and serve them,’ do not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for YAHUAH your Elohim is trying you to know whether you love YAHUAH your Elohim with all your heart and all your being.”*  
Deuteronomy 13:3

Anyone or anything that leads us away from the Truth of YAHUAH and Scripture is false, and leading us astray. We are to know His truth and walk it out, He will judge us according to whose voice we follow.

*If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and are not doing the truth.* 1 John 1:6

### **Forgetting to worship Yah and keep Him first**

*Be on guard, lest you forget YAHUAH who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim, from the house of bondage.* Deuteronomy 6:12

*“Be on guard, lest you forget YAHUAH your Elohim by not guarding His commands, and His right-rulings, and His laws which I command you today, lest you eat and be satisfied, and build lovely houses and shall dwell I them, and your herds and your flocks increase, and your silver and your gold are increased, and all that you have is increased, that your heart then becomes lifted up and you forget YAHUAH your Elohim who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim, from the house of bondage.”* Deuteronomy 8:11-14

*“I know your works, and your labour, and your endurance, and that you are not able to bear evil ones, and have tried those who say they are emissaries and are not, and have found them false; and you have been bearing up and have endurance, and have labored for My Name’s sake and have not become weary. But I hold this against you, that you have left your first love. So remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the first works, or else I shall come to you speedily and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.”*  
Revelation 2:2-5

Forgetting our “first love”, YAHUAH, is something serious that we will be held accountable for! We have been given Scripture to teach us about the Father and what he has done and will do for us, and we have been given the Ruach as our helper and guide to lead us in the ways of the Father. Forgetting the Most High is unforgivable. We need to repent and turn back to Him with all that is in us!

### **Israel falling into false worship**

*They also feared YAHUAH, and from every class they made for themselves priests of the high places, who offered for them in the house of the high places. They were fearing YAHUAH, and they were serving their own mighty ones, according to the ruling of the nations from among whom they had been exiled. To this day they are doing according to the former rulings: they are not fearing YAHUAH, nor do they follow their laws or their right-rulings, or the Torah and command which YAHUAH had commanded the children of Jacob, whose name He made Yashar’el, with whom YAHUAH had made a covenant and commanded them, saying, “Do not fear other mighty ones, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor slaughter to them; but YAHUAH, who brought you up from the land of Mitsrayim with great power and with an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, and to Him you shall slaughter.” 2 Kings 17:32*

*Then Samuel said, “What have you done?” And Shaul said, “Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered at Mikmash, so I said, ‘The Philistines are going to come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not appeased the face of YAHUAH.’ So I felt compelled, and offered an ascending offering.” And Samuel said to Shaul, “You have been foolish. You have not guarded the command of YAHUAH your Elohim which He commanded you. For now YAHUAH would have established your reign over Yashar’el forever. But now, your reign is not going to stand. YAHUAH shall seek for Himself a man after His own heart, and YAHUAH shall command him to be leader over His people, because you have not guarded what YAHUAH commanded you.” 1 Samuel 13:11-14*

*But when he became strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he trespassed against YAHUAH his Elohim by entering the Hekal of YAHUAH his*

*Elohim to burn incense on the altar of incense. And Azaryahu the priest went in after him and with him were eighty priests of YAHUAH, who were brave men. And they stood up against Sovereign Uzziyahu, and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziyahu, to burn incense to YAHUAH, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are set-apart to burn incense. Get out of the set-apart place, for you have trespassed, and there is no esteem to you from YAHUAH Elohim." And Uzziyahu was wroth. And he had a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was wroth with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of YAHUAH, beside the incense altar. And Azaryahu the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and saw that he was leprous on his forehead. And they hurried him from there. And he also hurried to get out, because YAHUAH had struck him. And Sovereign Uzziyahu was a leper until the day of his death, and dwelt in a separate house, because he was a leper, for he was cut off from the House of YAHUAH. And Yotham his son was over the sovereign's house, ruling the people of the land. 2 Chronicles 26:16-20*

*And YAHUAH says, "Because this people has drawn near me with its mouth, and with its lips they have esteemed Me, and it has kept its heart far from Me and their fear of Me has become a command of men that has been taught! Therefore, see, I am again doing a marvelous work and a wonder. And a wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their clever men shall be hidden." Isaiah 29:13*

We see over and over in Scripture how Yashar'el, the very chosen nation of YAHUAH, turns away from Him and fall into false worship. Time and again they are punished for their sins and for following after false gods. And time and again they are forgiven for repenting and turning back to YAHUAH.

### **The traditions and doctrines of man**

It is important to truly understand why we do the things we do, why we continue the traditions we know, and to know what is behind them. It doesn't matter if we are sincere in our practices and worship, and it doesn't matter what is "in our hearts".

*"The heart is crooked above all, and desperately sick – who shall know it? I, YAHUAH, search the heart, I try the kidneys, and give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds." Jeremiah 17:9-10*

Our hearts are fickle, our feelings and emotions often leaning into sin, pride, selfishness and rebellion. We often say, "The Father knows what is in my heart," which is true, but when our heart is inclined towards rebellion rather than obedience, He sees that too!

*Then Samuel said, “Does YAHUAH delight in ascending offerings and slaughterings, as in obeying the voice of YAHUAH? Look, to obey is better than a slaughtering, to heed is better than the fat of rams. 1 Samuel 15:22*

Our obedience, not only in what we do but also in *how* we do it, is very important to the Father.

Breaking the instructions of YAHUAH and doing things our way shows a spirit of rebellion and pride.

*These indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed worship, humiliation and harsh treatment of the body – of no value at all, only for satisfaction of the flesh. Colossians 2:23*

Following our own willful hearts rather than the wise instruction of Scripture satisfies our own sinful flesh, and saddens the Father’s heart.

Hasatan created fraudulent traditions, in all false religions, to mock the Truth of YAHUAH!

*So they forsook YAHUAH and served Ba’al and the Astoreths. Judges 2:13*

The false religions around the people of Yashar’el were enticing and called to the flesh. Many of YAHUAH’s people were led astray, falling into the false worship of the people around them. It is the same today! The false religions around us, as well as pagan traditions incorporated into our very churches, are exciting, fun, bright and enticing! The lure of presents, glowing lights on beautiful boughs, colourful chocolate eggs, yoga and spiritualism is all too obvious!

Every season we see the decorations for one or another pagan celebration everywhere in shopping centers, on TV shows and online!

But we need to look past all the gaudy, colourful forms of false worship and blatant paganism, and look to the One who created us as His own:

*And the children of YAHUAH put away the Ba’als and Ashtaroth, and served YAHUAH only. 1 Samuel 7:4*

**Yahusha, the Word of the Father who walked among us, had something to say about the hypocrisy of false worship and man-made tradition as well!**

*“Hypocrites! Yeshayahu (Isaiah) rightly prophesied about you, saying, ‘This people draw near to Me with their mouth, and respect Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as teachings the commands of men.’” Matthew 15:7-9*

*“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the congregations and on the corners of the streets, to be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and having shut the door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place. And your Father who sees in secret shall reward you openly.” Matthew 6:5*

*“Two men went up to the Set-apart Place to pray – the one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and began to pray with himself this way, ‘Elohim, I thank You that I am not like the rest of men, swindlers, unrighteous, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I acquire.’ But the tax collector standing at a distance would not even raise his eyes to the heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘Elohim, show favour unto me, a sinner!’ I say to you, this man went down to his house declared right, rather than the other. For everyone who is exalting himself shall be humbled, and he who is humbling himself shall be exalted.” Luke 18:10-14*

We are not to live our lives for man to see and approve, but quietly, for YAHUAH’s eyes only, for He is our Creator and judge. Impressing man (including ourselves) might get us far in this life, but it gets us nowhere in eternity. We need to walk away from manmade doctrine and tradition, they will do nothing for us except keep us away from the Truth and instruction for Life that YAHUAH has laid before us.

### **The golden calf**

*And when the people saw that Moshe was so long in coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, “Arise, make us mighty ones who go before us. For this Moshe, the man who brought us up out of the land of Mitsrayim, we do not know what has become of him.” And Aaron said to them, “Take off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me” And all the people took off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he took this from their hand, and he formed it with an engraving tool, and made a moulded calf. And they said, “This is your mighty one, O Yashar’el, that brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim!” And Aaron saw and built a slaughter-place before it. And Aaron called out and said, “Tomorrow is a festival to YAHUAH.” And they rose early on the next day, and offered ascending offerings, and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Exodus 32:1-6*

The people of Yashar’el were not going out of their way to worship a false idol, but in Moshe’s absence they thought they needed something to look up to. Aaron created the calf for them as an image representing the Most High, and they were sincere in their worship of YAHUAH. But that is not how He wanted

to be worshipped. There should never be any images or idols worshipped before Him or in His Name! When Moshe came down off the mountain he was angry at the people and his brother for what they had done, and YAHUAH was angry as well. He had to ask YAHUAH for forgiveness for what they did. This example shows us that we need to stick to the letter of the law with regards to how we are worshipping the Father, and not go our own way and think we know what is best about showing Him love. Whether or not we do it out of sincerity and love for Him, He still does not tolerate it.

### **Statues, images, symbolism and idols in churches**

*“You have no other mighty ones against My face.” Exodus 20:3*

*“Do not make a moulded mighty one for yourselves.” Exodus 34:17*

If we look at most modern churches (in fact, all that I have ever been to), we see symbols, images and statues that are actually against the Torah! We are commanded to never make an image to bow to, whether we feel the images symbolize Him or not. No matter how sincere we are in our worship of YAHUAH, He never intended for us to use any image to stand in for Him! Looking at the example of the golden calf, we should realize that the images that we look up to and pray before in church really shouldn't be there. How many sincere believers don't realize they are sinning when they raise their hands before the cross hanging above the pulpit in their church? Or those who bow before the statues of Mary and the apostles in other churches?

People have been deceived into believing that it is ok to have these images up, to look to them whilst praying and worshipping. But if you get down to the truth of the matter, this is not what the Father wants, and it angers Him.

### **Steeple (high places)**

*“Guard yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. But break down their slaughter-places, and smash their pillars, and cut down their Asherim – for you do not bow yourselves to another mighty on, for YAHUAH, whose Name is jealous, is a jealous El. Exodus 34:12-14*

The “high places” in Scripture refer to the poles or obelisks erected on hills and groves, where Ashtarah (Ishtar/Semiramis) the pagan goddess was worshipped.

YAHUAH decreed that all of these pillars had to be cut down and destroyed!

Yet looking around our towns and cities, these very obelisks are everywhere around us! Mosques, temples, and sadly churches, all have high places and steeples built tall and proud for all to see. They are all very reminiscent of the

phallic obelisks of the ancient times – the very pillars the Father instructed His people to destroy!

Once you see it, it is impossible to ignore that, once again, so many churches are engaged in false worship.

### **Aaron's sons**

*And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his fire holder and put fire in it, and put incense on it, and brought strange fire before YAHUAH, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from YAHUAH and consumed them, and they died before YAHUAH. Then Moshe said to Aaron, "This is what YAHUAH spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me let Me be set-apart! And before all the people let Me be esteemed!'"* Leviticus 10:1-3

*And these are the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab, the first born, and Abihu, El'azar, and Ithamar. These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, who he ordained to act as priests. And Nadab and Abihu had died before YAHUAH when they brought strange fire before YAHUAH in the wilderness of Sinai. And they had no children. So El'azar and Ithamar acted as priests in the presence of Aaron their father.* Numbers 3:2-4

With this story, we can see that YAHUAH does not take false worship lightly. He has a prescribed way of being worshipped, laid out in His Torah. He had to make an example of Aaron's sons, one of whom would have been the high priest after Aaron. The Most High could not, and would not, allow any form of false worship to be introduced. It was a crime punishable by death, even for the sons of Aaron!

This is definitely an issue to be taken seriously!

### **Jewish tradition**

I don't know too much about all the different traditions held up by the Jews these days, but I have looked into it a little, especially when first coming to Torah a few years ago.

I have realized that it is so easy, once learning that so many Christian traditions are wrong, to fall straight over the narrow path and into a different set of traditions!

The year we started keeping the Feasts of YAHUAH, the Sabbaths, the food laws, etc, pretty much all the initial research into keeping Old Testament commandments leads you straight to Jewish doctrine. How do we keep Passover? By doing the Seder meal. How do we keep Sabbaths? Don't switch on any lights, use any electricity or any warmth for 24 hours. Make the challah



just so and say this specific blessing over your children. Kosher food? Yeah, and kosher law allows a small percentage of pork contamination. Eeek!

None of this is Biblical!

We should not walk away from false doctrine just to pick up a whole different set of false doctrine!

As I mentioned above, Yahusha even had something to say to the Jewish leaders about their keeping of manmade doctrines in the place of the Torah given by His Father.

Now I am going to, briefly, touch on some of the modern false traditions that are kept by many sincere believers, not realizing that these practices are rooted in paganism and sin. If you would like to know more about this, feel free to do some more research into each! There is so much more to the history of each of these celebrations.

### **Christmas**

*“For the laws of these people are worthless, for one cuts a tree from the forest, work for the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool. They beautify it with silver and gold, they strengthen it with nails and hammers so that it does not topple.”*  
Jeremiah 10:3

It sounds like the prophet is talking about Christmas trees!

When we speak to family and friends about Christmas, we usually get the same answers: “To me, it’s about remembering the birth of Jesus, or “God knows my heart about it.” We have already touched on what the Father truly knows about the hearts of man, so let’s look into a bit of the history of Christmas.

December worship actually has many roots, the celebration of Yule, the welcoming of the solstice and the move towards spring, and most often the birth of the sun god of many religions. Celebrations varied widely from one group of people to another.

Saturnalia was the name of the festival in ancient Rome, celebrating the solstice and the rebirth of their sun god. Trees were even decorated for this cheerful holiday!

Yule was a northern European tradition involving evergreen trees, holly, mistletoe, reindeer and our traditional colours – green, red gold and silver. We can also find the 12 days of Yule!

Santa and his demons, ahem, I mean elves, also find their origins in Yule!

Looking around us at Christmas time, we see even devout and sincere believers falling prey to commercialism and pagan traditions – even those who say they keep Christmas to celebrate the birth of their Messiah (and I won't even go into that here). We lose sight even of the baby Jesus in the nativity set amidst the presents, the decorations, the twinkle lights and tinsel. And hearing loved ones talking to each other about what "Santa" brought for their children just makes my heart sore!

And the "Christmas spirit" so often praised by believers and in the jolly songs that get stuck in our heads each year, is the same spirit that causes strife in families each December, as well as the greed, rebellion and gluttony that we see at that time of the year. This is definitely not a spirit from the Father!

### **Easter**

The celebration of Easter, which many modern Christians equate with Passover, comes from an ancient pagan practice that is quite frankly disgusting! Please read the following section with caution.

Semiramis (also known as Astoreth or Ishtar), the wife of Nimrod, died and was sent back down to earth as an egg, and emerged from the egg as a rabbit! Both eggs and rabbits are ancient symbols of fertility.

Ishtar's day was celebrated shortly after the spring equinox. At sunrise, the priest of Ishtar would impregnate virgin priestesses. They would then take the babies conceived on that day in previous year and sacrifice them on the altar, dipping eggs in their blood.

Easter is also related to the celebration of the death and resurrection of Tammuz, the son of Semiramis and Nimrod! And Lent, the Catholic fast leading up to Easter, is reminiscent of the 40 days of weeping and fasting for the death of Tammuz. The tradition was to kill a boar to roast, to commemorate the boar killing Tammuz (Easter ham anyone?).

### **Valentine's day**

The same Tammuz that I mentioned above had another name in the Roman pantheon – Cupid! Cupid that is memorialized every 14<sup>th</sup> of February. Valentine's day is a modern day of commercialism, but historically it was a day of fertility rites and sex. No two ways about it!

We need to move away from worldly traditions, doctrine and celebrations, repents, and look at what Scripture says we should be doing – all the many examples of how we SHOULD love the Father, how we SHOULD worship Him. I've already written all about this.

Let us all seek out instruction in the Word of YAHUAH on how He wants us to show Him love, rather than relying on our own fickle hearts, or the traditions that came before us.