



## THE PROTOCOL OF YAHWEH'S HOUSE

*Entering and Exiting*

*by Matt German*

Yahweh is all about order – not empty religious ritual, but Spirit-led order. When He spoke to Moses concerning the Tabernacle in the wilderness, He told him “see that you make it according to the pattern” (Exo. 25:40). Similarly, David gave to Solomon “the pattern of all that he had by the Spirit” for the temple (1 Chron. 28:11-12).

**Order** is defined as “a condition in which each thing is properly disposed with reference to other things and to its purpose; methodical or harmonious arrangement; a group of people united in a formal way”.

When an ambassador is sent overseas by our government to represent us to a foreign nation, he or she is given instructions about what is and what is not proper conduct in that country. In fact, most governments of the world have the equivalent of an “office of protocol” for just this purpose.

**Protocol** is “a code prescribing strict adherence to correct etiquette and procedure (as in diplomatic exchange and in the military service); a code of correct conduct”.

Yahweh has an established order or protocol for the local assembly. Paul told the believers at Corinth “let everything be done decently and in order” (1 Cor. 14:40). In other words, let everything be done “according to the pattern”. This doesn't mean that everything will be the same at every gathering, but there should always be some sense of order.

The senior elder or spiritual father over a given assembly bears the ultimate responsibility not only to establish the order but to teach it and enforce it. Paul instructed Titus, “I left you in Crete for this reason, that you would set in order the things that were lacking, and appoint elders in every city, as I directed you” (Titus 1:5). We will look at some detailed instructions later, but perhaps the reason he had to address this in the first place with the Corinthian assembly is because he had not established the proper order there in the beginning.

One of the key things that needs to be taught is the principle of

“entering and exiting”. How we enter and exit Yahweh's house matters to Him; it ought to matter to us.

**Eze 43:10-12** You, son of man, show the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and let them measure the pattern. <sup>11</sup> If they be ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the form of the house, and the fashion of it, and the exits of it, and the entrances of it, and all the forms of it, and all the ordinances of it, and all the forms of it, and all the laws of it; and write it in their sight; that they may keep the whole form of it, and all the ordinances of it, and do them. <sup>12</sup> This is the law of the house: on the top of the mountain the whole limit of it round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house.

Obviously, Yahweh takes His house seriously. He desires for those in leadership to “make known the form of the house” to His people, to help them understand and “measure the pattern” of it. Each of us must also know the “exits” and “entrances” of it; we must make sure that when we come together in His house, we aren't bringing any ‘baggage’ with us – negative attitudes or mindsets, etc. We need to understand that we're about to tread on holy ground – wherever it is that we're meeting – because “where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there I am in their midst” (Matt. 18:20).

“Entering and exiting” also encompasses how we become a part of or leave a ministry. There is a proper way to do it. Unfortunately, few believers have ever been taught anything about that. This, too, must change.

**Eze 44:5-9** Yahweh said to me, Son of man, mark well, and see with your eyes, and hear with your ears all that I tell you concerning all the ordinances of the house of Yahweh, and all the laws of it; and mark well the entrance of the house, with every exit of the sanctuary. <sup>6</sup> You shall tell the rebellious, even to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord Yahweh: you house of Israel, let it suffice you of all your abominations, <sup>7</sup> in that you have brought in foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in My sanctuary, to profane it, even My house, when you offer My bread, the fat and the blood, and they have broken My covenant, to add to all your abominations. <sup>8</sup> You have not kept the charge of My holy things; but you have set keepers of My charge in My sanctuary for yourselves. <sup>9</sup> Thus says the Lord Yahweh, No foreigner, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter into My sanctuary, of any foreigners who are among the children of Israel.

We are to “mark well the entrance with every exit” (v5) and ensure that “no foreigner, uncircumcised in heart and in flesh,

shall enter My sanctuary (v9). During the restoration under Jehoida the priest, we're told that "he set the porters at the gates of the house of Yahweh, that no one who was unclean in anything should enter in" (2 Chron. 23:19).

Within the Body of Messiah there are those who are called to be watchmen, porters and gatekeepers. That is true within each local assembly, as well. But we EACH have a responsibility to guard Yahweh's sanctuary and ensure that no "foreigners" (spiritual 'illegal aliens') come in. This obviously requires spiritual discernment.

### **"Table Manners"**

There is basic etiquette or "table manners" regarding how we conduct ourselves while we're together in Yahweh's house. First, we must be aware of the words that we speak in His sanctuary and make sure that we are keeping the focus on Him, His Son, and His Kingdom.

Second, we must take care with regard to outside influences. There are many good books, sermons, and other teaching materials out there. But there is also a lot which we must be wary of. Guests at a local assembly should not pass out or distribute material from other ministries without the express permission of the senior elder. That would be like going into the home of strangers and giving their children candy – or medicine – without asking the parents' permission.

Spiritual Gifts. The apostle Paul, in his first epistle to the Corinthians, gave detailed instructions about spiritual gifts and how they are to function in the local assembly. The key is to realize that "each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation; let everything be done to edifying (building up)" (1 Cor. 14:26). Everything that happens in the local assembly should be for the purpose of building up the Body. We must ask ourselves if we're doing our part and truly contributing to the building up of the Body.

Laying hands on others. We do not have the right to lay hands on someone else in the assembly without their explicit permission. This is not referring to ordination – which should only be done by those who are themselves elders and deacons – but to intercessory prayer and personal ministry. Many believers are uncomfortable having someone they don't know well lay hands on them. Let's understand and respect personal boundaries.

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### **The Chronology of Messiah's Birth**

Everything that Yahweh does has a purpose and occurs exactly "on time". In fact, we're told in Ecclesiastes that "to

everything there is a season and a TIME to every purpose under heaven. A time to be BORN and a time to die..." (Eccl. 3:1-2a).

The coming of the Messiah was prophesied and had a specific time at which it was to be fulfilled. He had an appointed time both to be born and to die. In the case of His death, it was Passover; in the case of His birth, what do the Scriptures indicate? Was He born in the dead of winter... or is there another story?

Before we get into the actual time of year of His birth, let's consider the general timeframe in which He was prophesied to appear. We're told in the book of Daniel that "... from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem to the Messiah, the Prince, shall be seven weeks, and sixty-two weeks..." (Dan. 9:25-26).

Seven weeks and sixty-two weeks is sixty-nine weeks or 483 days. Using the Biblical day-for-a-year prophetic principle, this actually gives you 483 yrs (see Num. 14:34 and Eze. 4:4-6). Historically, several decrees went forth regarding the rebuilding of Jerusalem, but it was the decree of Artaxerxes, King of Persia, in 457 BC that resulted in the actual rebuilding of Jerusalem. If we begin at 457 BC and add 483 years, we come to 26 AD, the year that Yahshua Messiah began His earthly ministry. History attests that during the first half of the first century AD there was a great ground-swell of expectancy in Judea for the appearing of the Messiah.

The Bible states that Yahshua was about 30 years old when He began His ministry (Lk. 3:23). Based on a careful reading of the Gospel accounts, we know He had a 3½ year ministry, making Him 33½ years old when He died at Passover (Abib, March-April). Therefore, He would have been born approximately six months earlier, around the month Tishri (corresponds to Sept.-Oct.). This, of course, is month when the Feast of Tabernacles is observed. Let's see if there is more evidence for this.

Among the Gospels Luke has given us the most thorough birth record of Messiah. He also declared that he "had perfect understanding of all things from the very first" (Lk. 1:3). Therefore our source of information is reliable.

The first point we need to remember is that the Biblical calendar begins in the springtime, not in the dead of winter. The first month is Abib (Exodus 12:1, 2; 13:4). Second, since the births of John the Baptist and the Messiah are closely related, we can use John's birth as a reference point in determining Yahshua's date of birth.

In Biblical days there were 24 courses or divisions of priests who served yearly in the temple, two for each month (1

Chronicles 24:7-10). Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist, was of the eighth course called Abijah (Luke 1:5; 1 Chronicles 24:10). This places Zachariah's ministry in the temple in the fourth month, roughly corresponding to June on our modern calendar. According to Bullinger's Companion Bible, historical calculations actually place this course of service around the 3rd week of June that year.

Immediately after those days, in the beginning of the fifth month, Zacharias returned home to Elizabeth, and John the Baptist was conceived. He was born nine months later, around the month Abib (March-April of the next year).

According to Luke, Elizabeth was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John when Yahshua was conceived (Luke 1:26, 36), which would be the beginning of the eleventh month, Sebat (January-February). That would place His birth nine months later in the month Tishri (September-October). From January to October would be a normal gestation period of 280 days. We know that the Feast of Tabernacles was and is celebrated annually during the month of Tishri. And we also know that "the Word (Yahshua) became flesh; and tabernacled among us" (John 1:14).

**Isa 9:2-3, 6-7** "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: those who lived in the land of the shadow of death, on them has the light shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased their joy: they joy before you according to the joy in harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be on His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end, on the throne of David, and on his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from henceforth even forever. The zeal of Yahweh of Hosts will perform this."

This Messianic prophecy from Isaiah directly links the birth of Messiah to the "joy in harvest". Of course the Feast of Tabernacles, in particular, is called out as a festival of joy and was to be celebrated after the Israelites had completed their harvest (Deut. 16:13-15, Exod. 23:16).

In Luke's account of Messiah's birth, we're told that when Yahshua was born "there were shepherds in the same country staying in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock" (Luke 2:8). Historically, shepherds in Israel always brought their flocks in before the autumn rains and the onset of winter, not later than the end of October/beginning of November.

Furthermore, we need to remember that the reason that Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem in the first place was because of a Roman census (Lk. 2:1-4). Such censuses were

not conducted in the winter time because of freezing temperatures and poor travel conditions.

From all of this we can logically conclude that the Messiah was born during the Feast of Tabernacles in the month Tishri (September-October), probably on Tishri 15 (the first day of the feast). He was circumcised 8 days later, likely on the "Last Great Day" (Lev. 23:39; John 7:37).

The Feast of Tabernacles was also known as the Feast of Ingathering at the conclusion of the latter (summer) harvest (Exodus 23:16). It was a time of special offerings of praise and thanksgiving to Yahweh for the blessings of the harvest. As children of Yahweh we should take this time to thank Him for how bountifully He has blessed us, as well as for how productive we've been in sowing the spiritual seed of His word and reaping souls for the Kingdom (Luke 8:5-15).

Prophetically, the Feast of Tabernacles represents the great end-time harvest of souls for the Kingdom and the millennial reign of Messiah on this earth! That is certainly something to rejoice over!

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\* \* \* **A CALL TO RELATIONSHIP** \* \* \*

*Personal from Matt German*

I have been led by the Spirit in recent years to minister on the importance of relationships within the Body. I've done this with some frequency because of what I've seen (and haven't seen) in relationships in the world around us, as well as relationships in different parts of the Body of Messiah.

In most of the western world, especially here in America, too often what we see are "relationships of convenience" – relationships that only last as long as it's convenient and beneficial for both parties. That's why the divorce rate is greater than 50%. If people can't uphold a marital covenant, why should we expect to see them pursue non-marital relationships with any true sense of commitment? But the Body of Messiah is called to so much more than this.

I'm looking for real, living, and committed relationships with men and women who desire to conduct their lives, ministries, and businesses in a way that will establish and increase the Kingdom of Yahweh in the earth. In short, I'm looking for those who are looking for me – those who desire to be related beyond an occasional e-mail, phone call, Facebook chat, or casual contact. If you're looking for someone who will stand by you through good times and bad – and are willing to commit to doing the same – then let's talk. Apart we can do little of lasting significance. Together we can impact the worlds in which we live and shake the foundations of the earth!

## Recent Sermons

- Fear (Not) (8/15/09)
- Faith – Seeing the Unseen (8/22/09)
- Visions & Dreams (09/12/09)
- The Tabernacle of His Presence / Sold Under Sin (10/05/09, 10/06/09) – by Matt German / Ray Boshers

We're also offering a brand new booklet, **The Biblical Holy Days: An Overview**. Request your free copy today.

## Recommended Tool of the Month

Point Man: How a Man Can Lead His Family by Steve Farrar. The adversary has declared war on the family, and the husband/father is a primary target:

*“Point Man encourages and equips Christian men to lead their families successfully through hazards and ambushes like divorce, promiscuity, suicide, and drug addiction. Men will find practical insight on topics such as a father’s influence, maintaining purity, and husband-and-wife teamwork.”*

Available at Amazon.com for \$10.19.

## *Yahweh’s Feast Calendar – 2010*

We understand that people have different understandings of Yahweh’s calendar. These are the feast dates for 2010 as observed by Lion of Judah Family Worship Center:

Passover*	Apr. 28 <sup>th</sup> (Wed.)
Days of Unleavened Bread	Apr. 29 <sup>th</sup> – May 5 <sup>th</sup> (Thu. – Wed.)
Pentecost	June 20 <sup>th</sup> (Sun.)
Trumpets	Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup> (Fri.)
Day of Atonement	Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup> (Sun.)
Feast of Tabernacles	Oct. 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> (Fri. – Thu.)
Last Great Day	October 29 <sup>th</sup> (Fri.)

*\* observed the evening before*

*Bear in mind that the Biblical day begins at sunset the night before.*

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