



## ‘THE WORD MADE FLESH’

*How Does It Apply to Us?*

*by Matt German*

**John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Yahweh, and the Word was Elohim (“God”). <sup>2</sup> The same was in the beginning with Yahweh. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him; and without Him was not anything made that has been made.

Everything in existence began with the Word of Yahweh. As believers, most of us understand that. But do we also understand that everything of significance in our lives – everything that has or represents real life to us – begins with a word from Yahweh? Yahshua said that the words He spoke were Spirit and they were life (John 6:63). That is as true today as it was when He first said it nearly 2000 years ago. Yahweh’s proceeding Word to us today is Spirit and it is life. The question is do we receive it that way?

**John 1:11-14** He [Yahshua] came to His own, and those who were His own didn’t receive Him. <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the power to become children of Yahweh, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of Yahweh. <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us. We saw His glory, such glory as of the one and only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 makes clear that Yahshua was the Word made flesh and that He tabernacled among men. As those who have been “begotten again” by the Spirit; as those who have died to self and put to death the “old man”; as those who have become a new creation and who declare that “it is no longer I who live, but Messiah in me” – we, too, are “the word made flesh”! He is currently tabernacled within us. By receiving Him we have been given the power [*exousia* – the right, privilege, and authority] to become children of Yahweh. James also spoke of this when he said “of His own will He [Yahweh] brought us forth by the Word of truth” (James 1:18). He went on to say “receive with meekness the implanted Word...” (v21).

This paints an incredible picture of a profound spiritual truth: life begins at conception; spiritual life begins at spiritual

conception. We must humbly receive the implanted Word into our lives, allowing it to attach or take root in us. Then we must nurture it and allow it to grow. Only when it has become mature can we spiritually “give birth” to it.

**1 John 3:1-10** Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of Elohim! For this cause the world doesn’t know us, because it didn’t know Him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it is not yet revealed what we will be. But we know that, when He is revealed, we will be like Him; for we will see Him just as He is. <sup>3</sup> Everyone who has this hope set on Him purifies himself, even as He is pure. <sup>4</sup> Everyone who sins also commits lawlessness, for sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> You know that He was revealed to take away our sins, and in Him is no sin. <sup>6</sup> Whoever remains in Him doesn’t sin. Whoever sins hasn’t seen Him, neither knows Him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one lead you astray. He who does righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous. <sup>8</sup> He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. To this end the Son of Yahweh was revealed, that He might destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> Whoever is born of Yahweh doesn’t commit sin, because His seed remains in him; and he can’t sin, because he is born of Yahweh. <sup>10</sup> In this the children of Yahweh are revealed, and the children of the devil. Whoever doesn’t do righteousness is not of Yahweh, neither is he who doesn’t love his brother.

As believers which of us hasn’t asked the question, “Father, why me? Why did you call me?” This passage sheds light on the answer: “Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of Elohim” (v1). It was by His choosing and because of His tremendous love toward us that we should be called His children. This relates back to the verses we saw earlier in John 1:12-13 – He gave us the “right to become” by His own will, not through genealogy, the will of the flesh, or the will of man.

The Son of was revealed so that He could destroy the works of the devil (v8). If we understand that we, as believers, are now “words made flesh”, too, then we can also recognize the awesome truth that Yahshua is revealed or manifested in our lives for exactly the same purpose – to **destroy the works of the devil**. This is why He said “he who believes on Me, the works that I do he shall do also, and greater works than these he shall do, because I go to My Father” (John 14:12). This is why we are exhorted in this passage from 1 John 3 to purify ourselves and live a sinless life – because He has empowered us to do just that. His seed remains in us.

**1 Pet. 1:3-5** Blessed be the Elohim and Father of our

Sovereign Yahshua Messiah, who according to His great mercy has begotten (regenerated) us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Yahshua Messiah from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and unfading, reserved in Heaven for you <sup>5</sup> by the power of Elohim, having been kept through faith to a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time;

We have been begotten again through Yahshua's resurrection from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that doesn't fade away (v4). The same power that resurrected Him from the dead is now resident within us as believers. Too few of us have truly recognized and tapped into that truth.

**1 Pet. 1:22-25** Seeing you have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth through the Spirit in sincere brotherly affection, love one another from the heart fervently: <sup>23</sup> having been born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the Word [logos] of Yahweh, which lives and remains forever. <sup>24</sup> For, "All flesh is like grass, And all of man's glory like the flower in the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls; <sup>25</sup> But Yahweh's Word [*rhema*] endures forever." This is the word of good news which was preached to you.

We have been born again by the incorruptible Word of Yahweh, and His Word, whether *Logos* or *Rhema*, endures forever. That Word will not be stifled or stymied – it will always accomplish the purpose for which it has been sent forth:

**Isa. 55:11** "So shall My Word be that goes forth out of My mouth: it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

**Jer 1:4-12** Now the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, <sup>5</sup> Before I formed you in the belly I knew you, and before you came forth out of the womb I sanctified you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations. <sup>6</sup> Then said I, Ah, Sovereign Yahweh! Behold, I don't know how to speak; for I am a child. <sup>7</sup> But Yahweh said to me, Don't say, I am a child; for to whoever I shall send you, you shall go, and whatever I shall command you, you shall speak. <sup>8</sup> Don't be afraid because of them; for I am with you to deliver you, says Yahweh. <sup>9</sup> Then Yahweh put forth His hand, and touched my mouth; and Yahweh said to me, Behold, I have put My words in your mouth: <sup>10</sup> behold, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down and to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant. <sup>11</sup> Moreover the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, Jeremiah, what see you? I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. <sup>12</sup> Then said Yahweh to me, You have well seen: for I watch over My word to perform it.

Notice that the word of Yahweh "came" to Jeremiah and spoke to him. The message was that Jeremiah had a divine purpose

before he was even conceived or birthed into the world. Since Yahweh is no respecter of persons (1 Pet. 1:17), we recognize that this is a spiritual truth that applies to each of us – while we might not have been appointed a prophet to the nations, our heavenly Father nevertheless had a specific plan and purpose for our lives before we were ever conceived or born! I'm convinced that many professing believers have never really grasped the awesome simplicity of this.

This passage also highlights yet another instance where it pays to be diligent and research the underlying Hebrew words in the original text. When we do that, we find that Yahweh is actually making a play on words in v11-12. Jeremiah says that he sees "an almond tree". This is the Hebrew word *shaqéd* (#8247 in Strong's). The word translated as "watch over" comes from a nearly identical Hebrew word (#8245), transliterated as *shaqád* but meaning 'to be alert, i.e., sleepless, hence, to be on the lookout-- hasten, remain, wake, watch (for).

Yahweh used an object in the natural – an almond tree – to communicate another spiritual truth – that He watches over His word to perform it. This is true of the prophetic word that He releases through His people, but it is also true of us. If each of us as a believer is truly a "word made flesh", then He watches over us (and His Word within us) to ensure that we become exactly what we are meant to be!

## Heart of Worship

*'Having a Worshipper's Heart'*

People of the faith come from many diverse backgrounds. Therefore, even basic "religious" terms can sometimes carry different connotations for different people. One such term is "worship." What does that word really mean? According to an online dictionary, it is defined as "the reverent love and devotion accorded a deity, an idol, or a sacred object" or "ardent devotion; adoration." In Hebrew, the word is *shacháh* and means to bow down or prostrate oneself.

How important is it to understand the practical, Scriptural meaning of "worship?" According to Yahshua Messiah, it's absolutely crucial. Speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well, He said "the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and truth: for such does the Father seek to be His worshippers. Yahweh is Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth (John 4:23-24). So according to our Savior, we must worship not only in truth ... but in Spirit.

Many people today have a true hunger for truth, which is a good thing. But if all we have is "head knowledge" and we

never allow it to get down into our hearts, then we aren't worshipping in Spirit. If we only worship in truth – and not in Spirit – then we're missing the boat. Yahshua said that both must be active ingredients in our worship.

The heart of worship is having a worshipper's heart – in other words, having a heart FOR worship. It has little to do with ritual and much to do with the condition of the heart. Yahshua chastised the scribes and Pharisees because they did not have a true heart for worship. He said, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you ... 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.'" (Mark 7:6).

We can read about the same "heart problem" in Ezekiel – people who come and sit and hear the Words of Yahweh but don't **do** them:

**Eze. 33:30-33** As for you, son of man, the children of your people talk of you by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, everyone to his brother, saying, Please come and hear what is the word that comes forth from Yahweh. <sup>31</sup> They come to you as the people comes, and they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but don't do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goes after their gain. <sup>32</sup> Behold, you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they don't do them. <sup>33</sup> When this comes to pass, (behold, it comes,) then shall they know that a prophet has been among them.

These verses speak of a people that make a pretense of coming to hear the Word of Yahweh; they appreciate hearing a good song but never allow that song to take root in their hearts and bring forth fruit. We certainly don't want to fall into that category!

What are some governing principles of true worship? According to Scripture, we're supposed to be filled with the Spirit (*Ruach*), speaking to each other and teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Col. 3:16, Eph. 5:18-19). As these verses imply, music is (or can be) a powerful teaching tool. Just consider how quickly children can learn a nursery rhyme when it is set to music. Likewise, we can teach, exhort, and admonish one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. The apostle Paul made a decision that he would "sing with the Spirit and sing with the understanding" (I Cor. 14:15). David declared that Yahweh would "surround (him) with songs of deliverance" (Psa. 32:7-11) and said that Yahweh is actually enthroned upon – or inhabits – the praises of His people (Psa. 22:3).

The Scriptures give several interesting examples of what some have termed "prophetic praise and worship." One such instance occurred after the prophet Samuel had anointed Saul:

**1 Sam. 10:5-10** [and Samuel said to him] After that you shall come to the hill of Elohim, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall happen, when you are come there to the city, that you shall meet a band of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tambourine, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they will be prophesying: <sup>6</sup> and the Spirit of Yahweh will come mightily on you, and you shall prophesy with them, and shall be turned into another man. <sup>7</sup> Let it be, when these signs are come to you, that you do as occasion shall serve you; for Elohim is with you. <sup>8</sup> You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down to you, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace-offerings: seven days shall you wait, until I come to you, and show you what you shall do. <sup>9</sup> It was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, Elohim gave him another heart; and all those signs happened that day. <sup>10</sup> When they came there to the hill, behold, a band of prophets met him; and the Spirit of Elohim came mightily on him, and he prophesied among them.

The account states that when Saul turned to leave Samuel, Yahweh gave him "another heart," that he became "another man." This new man had a heart for prophetic praise and worship. He went out and met a procession of prophets with musical instruments who were playing and prophesying. When Saul encountered them, the Spirit of Elohim came upon him and he, too, began to prophesy.

A second such occurrence is found in 1 Chron. 25:1-3, where David appoints a "praise team" whose job is to prophesy "to give thanks and to praise Yahweh."

These two accounts bring up an interesting point: many people have understood "prophesying" only to mean foretelling future events. While it obviously has that meaning, in both of these examples the context indicates something different – they were praising and worshipping Yahweh under the inspiration of His Spirit. According to Scripture, that, too, is prophesying. Perhaps that is what the apostle Paul was referring to when he said that he would "sing with the Spirit and sing with the understanding."

Yahshua poured out His soul unto death. Likewise, we are called to pour out our souls and our hearts like water before Yahweh (Psa. 62:8, Lam. 2:19), specifically when we come to the house of Elohim (Psa. 42:4). Could this, perhaps, be our "drink offering" to Yahweh? (Num. 28:1-2, 9-10). True worship, after all, is dying to self, pouring out our souls so that Yahweh can fill us anew with His presence, His glory. When we come together, it ought to be more than "3 songs and out" or having a clock-watching, can't-wait-'til-it's-over mentality. We need to enter into His presence with thanksgiving and enter into His courts with joy (Psa. 95:2, 100:2). In fact, that's where there IS fullness of joy – in Yahweh's presence (Psa. 16:11).

At the dedication of the temple of Yahweh under Solomon, the Scriptures say that all of the priests in the “praise and worship band” sounded as one in praising and thanking Yahweh – and that the glory of Yahweh filled the house ... so much so that the priests could not even stand to minister because of it (2 Chr. 5:1-3, 12-14). Did this occur as a result of their beautiful music? Their extremely loud singing? Or was it simply due to their pure expression of unified worship? I submit that it was the latter.

Do we, as the children of Yahweh, desire that kind of encounter with Him, or are we satisfied to remain in the outer court? When we gather in His Name – whether on the Sabbath or at any other time – are we truly pouring out our souls before Him? That is the only way that His glory will fill His temple of believers. What if we were to experience His presence so palpably that we couldn't even stand to minister in His house? Would we be willing to let our order of service – our structured worship – “go out the window” and just bask in His presence? These are questions worth asking.

We must worship Yahweh in Spirit and in truth – for Yahweh desires and seeks such to worship Him. And that requires that we have a heart of worship – a worshipper's heart.



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