

Seeking the Presence of אַיָּהּ (YAHUAH)

Searching for Wisdom?

Seek אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) and His strength; Seek His presence continually. **1 Chronicles 16:11**

If My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My presence, and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from Shamyim (Heavens), and will forgive their Sin, and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7:14**

Believers are called to come "before the presence (face)" of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah). We are encouraged to "seek His Presence (face)". Yet many have no idea what this means.

The concept of being before the face of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) actually refers to being in His very presence - to encountering him "face-to-face", so to speak.

There are numerous Scripture verses that speak about this, some rather indirectly. As you review them you'll note that some of the connotations are not pleasant ones. Your relationship with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), whether you believe in Him or do not, seriously affects your experience when you are "before His face" - in His presence.

The Hebrew term that's typically translated as "face" is strong's: 6440 paniym (paw-neem), which means: presence and before. Derives from panah, (paw-naw); a primitive root; to turn; by implication, to face, i.e. appear, look, behold, regard, (have) respect, to (re)turn.

In order to comprehend what Scripture intends, it's important to understand what the Hebrews understood the face to represent. When one saw the face of another it meant they were "in the presence" of that person. It was not merely a matter of looking at their physical face. When they "faced" someone they entered into the full experience of the presence of that person.

This was especially true in one's relationship with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah). What we fail to remember is that no one has ever seen the "face" of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah). The following Scripture passages verify this.

Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but My face shall not be seen." **Exodus 33:23**

No man has seen אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) at any time. **John 1:18**

Therefore we must recognize that whenever Scripture talks about the "face of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)" it is always referring to His presence. Since it represents His presence, to the Hebrew mind it also meant that His very nature, His character, and His authority were also "present". For them, even the mention of His Name represented His actual "presence" with them. It was as if He was standing right in front of them.

With these things in mind you are invited to review what His Word says about His "face", His presence.

Moreover He said, I am the Aluahym (God) of your father, the Aluahym (God) of Abraham, the Aluahym (God) of Yitshaq (Isaac), and the Aluahym (God) of Ya'aqob

(Jacob). And Mosheh (Moses) hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah). **Exodus 3:6**

And אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) spoke to Mosheh (Moses) face to face (meaning presence to presence - a direct encounter), as a man speaks to his friend. **Exodus 33:11**

And אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) said to Mosheh (Moses), I will do this thing also that you have spoken: for you have found favor in My sight, and I know you by Name. 18 And he said, I implore You, show me Your magnificence. 19 And He said, I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the Name of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) before you; and will show favor to whom I will show favor, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion. 20 But He said, "You can not see My face (literally): for there shall be no human being that can see Me, and live." 21 And אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand upon a rock: 22 and it shall come to pass, while My magnificence passes by, that I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by: 23 and I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back parts: but My face (literally) shall not be seen." **Exodus 33:17**

And he was there with אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) forty (40) days and forty (40) nights. He neither ate bread, nor drank water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten (10) Commandments. 29 And it came to pass, when Mosheh (Moses) came down from Mount Sinai with the two (2) tables of testimony in Mosheh's (Moses') hand, when he came down from the mount, that Mosheh (Moses) did not know that the skin of his face shone (to send out rays/Glowed) while he talked with Him. 30 And when Aharon (Aaron) and all the children of Yisrael saw Mosheh (Moses), behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come near him. **Exodus 34:28**

And whatever man there is of the house of Yisrael, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, who eats any manner of blood; I will even set My presence against that being that eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people. 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that makes an atonement for the being. **Leviticus 17:10**

And I will set My presence against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he has given of his seed to Molech, to defile My sanctuary, and to profane My set apart Name. 4 And if the people of the land in any manner hide their eyes from the man, when he gives of his seed unto Molech, and do not kill him 5 then I will set My presence against that man, and against his family, and will cut him off, and all that go a whoring after him, to commit whoredom with Molech, from among their people. 6 And the being that turns after such as have mediums, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set My presence against that being and will cut him off from among his people. 7 Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be set apart: for I am אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), your Aluahym. 8 And you shall keep My statutes, and do them. I am אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), who sanctifies you. **Leviticus 20:3**

But if you will not listen to Me, and will not do all these Commandments; 15 and if you shall despise My statutes, or if your vital essence abhors My judgments, so that you will not do all My Commandments, but that you break My covenant, 16 I also

will do this to you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning fever, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. 17 And I will set My presence against you, and you shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and you shall flee when none pursues you. **Leviticus 26:14**

And **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) spoke to Mosheh (Moses), saying, 23 Speak to Aharon (Aaron) and to his sons, saying, "In this manner you shall Barach (Bless) the children of Yisrael, saying to them, 24 '**יְהוָה** (Yahuah) Barak (Bless) you and keep you. 25 **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) make His presence enlighten you, and show favor to you. 26 **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) lift up His presence over you, and give you total well-being.' 27 And they shall put My name upon the children of Yisrael; and I will Barach (Bless) them."

Numbers 6:22

And Mosheh (Moses) said to **יְהוָה** (Yahuah), "Then the Mitsrites (Egyptians) shall hear it, (for You brought up this people in Your might from among them;) 14 and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that You, **יְהוָה** (Yahuah), are among this people, that You, **יְהוָה** (Yahuah), are seen "face to face" (a euphemism), and that Your cloud stands over them, and that You go before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night." **Numbers 14:13**

And Mosheh (Moses) called all Yisrael, and said unto them, Hear, Yisrael, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that you may learn them, and keep, and do them. 2 **יְהוָה** (Yahuah), our Aluahym, made a covenant with us in Horeb. 3 **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) made this covenant not with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day. 4 **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) talked with you "face to face" (a euphemism) in the mount, out of the midst of the fire, 5 (I stood between **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) and you at that time, to show you The Word of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah): for you were afraid by reason of the fire, and did not go up into the mount;) saying, 6 "I am **יְהוָה** (Yahuah), your Aluahym, who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim (Egypt), from the house of bondage. 7 You shall have no other Aluahym (gods) before me (literally - in My presence). **Deuteronomy 5:1**

And **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) said to Mosheh (Moses), "Behold, you shall sleep with your fathers; and this people will rise up, and go whoring after the Aluahym (gods) of the strangers of the land, where they go to be among them, and will forsake Me, and break My covenant which I have made with them. 17 Then My anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My presence (face) from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Have not these evils come upon us because our Aluahym is not among us? 18 And I will surely hide My presence (face) in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they have turned unto other Aluahym (gods). **Deuteronomy 31:16**

And when **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) saw it He despised them, because of the provoking of His sons, and of His daughters. 20 And He said, I will hide my presence from them. I will see what their end shall be, for they are a very perverse generation, children in whom is no Amunah (Faith). **Deuteronomy 32:19**

And there arose not a prophet since in Yisrael like Mosheh (Moses), whom **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) knew "face to face" (a euphemism). **Deuteronomy 34:10**

And it came to pass, when **OWYAZL** (Yahusha/Joshua) was by Yeriho (Jericho), that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and **OWYAZL** (Yahusha/Joshua) went to Him, and said to Him, "Are You for us, or for our adversaries?" 14 And He said, No; but as captain of the Host of **AYAZL** (Yahuah) am I now come. And **OWYAZL** (Yahusha/Joshua) fell on his face to the earth, and worshipped, and said to Him, What says My Sovereign to His servant? 15 And the captain of **AYAZL** (Yahuah)'s Host of host said unto **OWYAZL** (Yahusha/Joshua), "Loose your shoe from off your foot; for the place on which you stand is Kadosh" And **OWYAZL** (Yahusha/Joshua) did so. Joshua is virtually the same name as that given to the Mashiach (Messiah), **OWYAZL** (Yahusha). **Joshua 5:13-15**

And when Gideon perceived that He was the Malach (Angel) of **AYAZL** (Yahuah), Gideon said, "Alas, **AYAZL** (Yahuah) Aluahym, for I have seen The Malach (Angel) of **AYAZL** (Yahuah) face to face." 23 And **AYAZL** (Yahuah) said unto him, "Shalum (Peace) to you; fear not: you shall not die." 24 Then Gideon built an altar there to **AYAZL** (Yahuah), and called it **AYAZL** (Yahuah) Shalum. **Judges 6:22**

Now therefore, let my blood not fall to the earth before the presence of **AYAZL** (Yahuah): for the king of Yisrael has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains. **1 Samuel 26:20**

And the king answered and said unto the man of **AYAZL** (Yahuah), "Intreat now the presence of **AYAZL** (Yahuah), your Aluahym, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me again." **1 Kings 13:6**

Give thanks to **AYAZL** (Yahuah). Call upon His Name. Make known His deeds among the people. 9 Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works. 10 Esteem in His set apart Name. Let the heart of them rejoice who seeks **AYAZL** (Yahuah). 11 Seek **AYAZL** (Yahuah) and His strength; seek His presence continually. 12 Remember His marvellous works that He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth; 13 you seed of Yisrael His servant, you children of Ya'aqob (Jacob), His chosen ones. 14 He is **AYAZL** (Yahuah), our Aluahym. His judgments are in all the earth." **1 Chronicles 16:8-14**

Acquaint yourself with Him now, and be at Shalum (Peace): thereby good shall come to you 22 Receive, I pray, the Torah (law) from His mouth, and lay up His words in your heart. 23 If you return to The Almighty, you shall be built up. You shall put away iniquity far from your tabernacles. 24 Then shall you lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks. 25 Yes, The Almighty shall be your defence, and you shall have plenty of silver. 26 For then shall you have your delight in the Almighty, and shall lift up your face unto **AYAZL** (Yahuah). 27 You shall make your prayer to Him, and He shall hear you, and you shall pay your vows. 28 You shall also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto you: and the light shall shine upon your ways. **Job 22:21**

He shall pray to **AYAZL** (Yahuah), and He will be favorable to him: and he shall see His presence (face) with joy: for He will render unto man His just action. **Job 33:28**

I will declare Your Name to my brothers: in the midst of the congregation will I praise You. 23 You who fear **AYAZL** (Yahuah), praise Him; all you the seed of Ya'acob (Jacob), honor Him; and fear Him, all of you, the seed of Yisrael. 24 For He has not

despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither has He hidden his presence (face) from him; but when he cried unto Him, He heard. 25 My praise shall be of You in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before those who fear Him.

Psalms 22:22

Who shall ascend into the hill of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), or who shall stand in His Kadosh (Holy) place? 4 He that has clean hands, and a pure heart; who has not lifted up his being unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive the Barachah (Blessing) from אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), and justice from the Aluahym of his Salvation. 6 This is the generation of them that seek Him, that seek Your presence (face). **Psalms 24:3**

Hear, אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), when I cry with my voice. Have compassion also on me, and answer me. 8 When You said, "Seek my presence (face), my heart said to You, "Your presence (face) אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), will I seek." 9 Hide not Your presence (face) far from me; put not your servant away in anger: You have been my help; leave me not nor forsake me, Aluahym of my Salvation. **Psalms 27:7**

Make Your presence (Face) to shine upon Your servant: Save me for Your compassion's sake. 17 Let me not be ashamed, אַיָּהּ (Yahuah); for I have called upon You. **Psalms 31:16**

The eyes of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) are upon the Righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry. 16 The presence of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. 17 The Righteous cry, and אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is near to those who are of a broken heart; and Saves the crushed in ruach (spirit). **Psalms 34:15**

אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) show favor to us, and Barach (Bless) us; and cause His presence (fae) to shine upon us; Selah. 2 that Your way may be known upon earth, Your Saving health among all nations. **Psalms 67:1**

Hear me, אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), for Your kindness is good. Turn to me according to the multitude of Your compassions. 17 And hide not Your presence (Face) from Your servant, for I am in trouble. Hear me speedily. **Psalms 69:16**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Yisrael, You who leads Yoseph like a flock; You who dwells between the cherubim, shine forth. 2 Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh stir up Your strength, and come and save us. 3 Turn us again, אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), and cause Your presence (face) to shine, and we shall be delivered. 4 אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) of Assemblies, how long will You be angry against the prayer of Your people? 5 You feed them with the bread of tears; and give them tears to drink in great measure. 6 You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves. 7 restore us אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) of Hosts, and cause Your presence (face) to shine; and we shall be delivered. **Psalms 80:1**

O give thanks to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah); call upon His Name: make known His deeds among the people. 2 Sing to Him; sing psalms to Him: talk of all His wondrous works. 3 make your boasts in His set apart (Kadosh) Name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek אַיָּהּ (Yahuah). 4 Seek אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), and His strength. Seek His presence (face) always. **Psalms 105:1**

Make Your presence (face) to shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes. **Psalms 119:135**

Behold, אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah)'s hand is not shortened so that it cannot save; nor is His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your Aluahym, and your Sins have hid His presence (face) from you so that He will not hear. 3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perverseness. 4 None calls for justice, nor any pleads for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity. **Isaiah 59:1**

And there is none that calls upon Your Name, that stirs up himself to take hold of You: for You have hid Your presence (face) from us, and have consumed us, because of our iniquities. **Isaiah 64:7**

וַיַּשָּׂא (Yahusha) answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 14:6**

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. **John 6:44**

The presence of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) is an awesome thing to encounter. If He grants you access into His presence it is typically for the purpose of Barachah (Blessing) you. You have a role to play in which experience you have. It's all based on whether or not you choose willingly to believe in Him and his Commandments and his Sabbath's that you are allowed entrance into his Presence.

אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah)'s Order of Worship

Worship is important because it's the "key" to Kodeshah (Holiness) and allows us to enter אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah)'s presence and is the secret to true joy and happiness. What else could be more important? Without being Kadosh (Holy), we cannot worship. Without being worshippers, we'll not be able to enter His presence; without His presence, we'll have no joy; and, without joy, **Nehemiah 8:10** tells us, we'll have no strength ("the joy of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) is our strength." אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) you make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. **Psalms 16:11**

I'm convinced that without these things, we won't be able to withstand the trials that אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) allows in our lives. Worship truly is the most important thing a Chosen believer can learn to do.

Worship is the reason we were created in the first (1st) place. **Revelation 4:11** tells us that אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) created us "for His pleasure." He yearns for our fellowship and our love. Therefore, our true relationship with Him is shown forth in our worship.

Surrender is Key

So, worship flows from love. We worship what we love. The word used in Scripture for the verb "to love" is the Greek word agapao, which means "to totally give ourselves over to something" - to surrender all to it. אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) desires that we give back to Him the life that He granted us in the first (1st) place. In other words, total relinquishment is a choice that we make out of our own free will and out of our love for Him.

Love for אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), then, is not just an emotional feeling, but a complete

surrender of ourselves, heart, mind and soul. We have “put off” our Sin and self, then we have “put on” Mashiach (Messiah). On the other hand, when we don’t know how to love אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), how to completely surrender our lives to Him, we’ll not be able to truly worship Him. Love comes before worship. In summary, we can only worship אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) to the degree that we love Him and to the degree to which we are surrendered, cleansed and Kadosh (holy).

The Temple Revisited

Speaking of being surrendered, cleansed and Kadosh (holy), let’s turn back, for just a moment, to the cleansing ceremony that אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) ordained for the priests of Solomon’s Temple.

When I first (1st) began to explore the intricacies of this fascinating temple - the Kadosh (Holy) of Kadeshah (Holies), the Kadosh (Holy) Place, and the Inner and Outer Courts – I saw many parallels between the temple’s blueprint and the interior architecture of man (i.e., spirit, heart, soul and body). I was fascinated by these similarities. Were they just a coincidence or rather אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah)’s clues to something much deeper.

With over 52 chapters in the Tanakh (Old Testament) mentioning this temple and its ceremonies, I figured there must be something very important here. As we proceed with this comparison, you judge for yourself. See if it validates to you the finger prints of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) and the divine connection between the architecture of man and Solomon’s temple.

I’m convinced there are important principles that we can learn from studying Solomon’s Temple and the ceremonies אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) ordained for worship. אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) tells us that everything in Scripture, from the smallest detail to the greatest, is there for our learning. (**Romans 15:4**) In other words, He has given us many visual word pictures in Scripture to help us understand His ways a little more clearly. Solomon’s Temple is definitely one of these.

The Priest’s Worship Service

So how did the priests in this temple worship אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah)? What was their order of service like?

After the Levites opened the Outer Court gate for the people, they began to sing and praise אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah). Then, the priests entered the Inner Court and immediately went to the Lavers of Bronze where they washed their hands and feet. After that they approached the Brazen Altar, where they sacrificed their animals in order to purge the Sins of the people. Next, they immersed themselves bodily in the Molten Sea. And, finally, they took a censer full of hot coals from the Brazen Altar, went back into the Kadosh (Holy) Place where they changed their clothes, took some incense and sprinkled it over the coals at the Golden Incense Altar where אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) promised to “meet with them.” **Exodus 25:22**

Approaching the Golden Altar of Incense, they took off their shoes, prostrated (Bowed down) themselves and worshiped אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) in the “beauty of Kodeshah (Holiness).”

“Give unto אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) the Esteem (glory) due unto His Name; bring an offering,

and come before Him; worship **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) in the beauty (slendour) of Kodeshah (Holiness).” **1 Chronicles 16:29**

“Give unto **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) the Esteem (glory) due unto His Name; worship **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) in the beauty (slendour) of Kodeshah (Holiness).” **Psalms 29:2**

“Oh, worship **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) in the beauty (slendour) of Kodeshah (Holiness); fear before Him, all the earth.” (**Psalms 96:9**)

Upon leaving the Kadosh (Holy) Place, the priests then shared of the fullness of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) (or the anointing) that they had received at the Golden Altar by addressing all the people who had gathered in the courtyard. One (1) of the passages they recited was **Numbers 6:24-26**

“**יְהוָה** (Yahuah) Barak (Bless) you, and guard (keep) you; **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) make His face shine upon you, and show favor (be gracious) unto you; **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) lift up His face (countenance) upon you, and give you Shalum (Peace).” Thus they shall put my Name on the Children of Yisrael and I myself shall Barach (Bless) them. They repeated this entire ceremony twice (2) a day, once in the morning and once at night. Now, let’s explore each of these areas and each of these ceremonies in a little more detail.

The Outer Court

All of Yisrael had access to the Outer Courts and, thus, could freely come in and out. Whereas, only the priests could enter into the Kadosh (holy) sanctuary.

The first (1st) thing that occurred in the Outer Court was that the Shofar was sounded and the Levites opened the gates for the people to enter. **Psalms 118:19-23** describes this scene: “Open to me the gates of righteousness...” These are the gates that lead to the presence of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah). Other Levite priests also began to sing with the people.

“O come, let us sing unto **יְהוָה** (Yahuah): let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our Salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.” (**Psalms 95:1-2; Psalms 100:2 & 4; 118:19**)

The Levites were commissioned not only to guard all the temple gates, but also to sing a new song each day. These songs were as important to the service as were the priestly duties themselves. Three (3) times during their song, they would pause while the priests sounded their shofars and all the people in the courtyard would fall down and prostrate themselves before **יְהוָה** (Yahuah). They did this both at the beginning and at the end of the service.

The Inner Court

The official priests - only those who were direct descendants of Aaron - would then enter the Inner Courtyard, wash their hands and feet at the Lavers of Bronze and await the time for the slaughtering of the sacrifices.

When the time arrived, the priests moved to the Brazen Altar where they sacrificed their offerings in order to symbolically remove the Sins of the people in order that they could be reconciled to **יְהוָה** (Yahuah). Finally, the priests bathed in the Molten Sea by complete bodily immersion as a symbol that **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) had, indeed, washed away their Sins. Thus, the Inner Court was known as the cleansing and

atonement area.

The Kadosh (Holy) Place

Fire, incense, tapestry and gold all led the priest higher and higher up to the Kadosh (Holy) Place and the Incense Altar where he worshiped **יְהוָה** (Yahuah). Following the offering of the sacrifices in the Inner Court, one (1) of the priests gathered some hot coals in a brass carrier from the Brazen Altar and carried them into the Kadosh (Holy) Place, where he promptly changed his clothes. Once he had “put off” his dirty clothes and “put on” his clean ones, he picked up the hot coals and placed them on the Incense Altar. Another priest stood by, holding the incense. A third (3rd) priest took the incense in the palms of his hands and after the first two (2) left, scattered the incense over the hot coals. The fire and the smoke from the incense rose up toward the ceiling, spread out and filled the entire sanctuary **1 Kings 8:10-11**. The last priest then prostrated himself on the ground. While all this was going on, the other priests came to the Kadosh (Holy) Place to witness the offering of incense and they too prostrated themselves.

Upon leaving the temple sanctuary, the head priest stood upon the steps facing the congregation in the Outer Court. The rest of the priests joined him there and they all extended their hands towards Shamyim (heavens) and called upon the Name of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah). The head priest then Baruch (blessed) the people and recited Scriptures. At this reading, the rest of the priests and all the people again fell on their faces and worshiped **יְהוָה** (Yahuah).

How Does All of This Apply to Us?

Again, the question: Does this Hebrew Tanahk (Old Testament), Old Covenant temple service have anything at all to do with us, Brit Hadashah (New Testament), New Covenant believers? In other words, can we apply what we have learned here to our own daily devotional times? Yes, it seems we can.

I do not mean to imply that there’s some sort of ritual or ceremony that we must do in order to work our way towards **יְהוָה** (Yahuah). That’s not what I am saying at all. However, I do believe that by this service, **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) has given us a “set of guidelines” and that by following these suggestions not only will our devotional times be acceptable to Him, but also they will become an incredible Barachah (Blessing) to us. The most important thing we can do is allow the Ruach HaKodesh the freedom to direct us. Because, of course, only He knows the “perfect” way for us to worship.

Again, **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) made the rules; we must simply carry them out. However, in order to carry them out, we must first (1st) understand what they are.

Let’s briefly explore what the Word of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) has to say about worshiping and see if there is any connection to Solomon’s Temple and its priests. A couple of obvious Scriptural connections are: **1 Corinthians 3:16** and **2 Corinthians 6:16**, which both tell us that “we are the temple of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah)” and that the “Ruach (Spirit) of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) dwells in us,” just as He did in Solomon’s Temple. Paul is making an analogy or a word picture here by saying that our body is a temple and the Ruach HaKodesh dwells in us. Remember that in the Tanahk (Old Testament) the Ruach haKodesh dwelt in the Kadosh (Holy) of Kodesh (Holies) of Solomon’s

Temple.

Scripture tells us that now אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)'s Ruach (Spirit) dwells in "temples not made with hands" - i.e., us. **Acts 17:24**

1 Peter 2:9 also tells us that: "[We] are...a royal priesthood...that should show forth the praises of Him who has called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light." And verse 5 of that same chapter says, "...[We] also, ...a Kadosh (holy) priesthood, [should] offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) by **OWYָּהּ** (Yahusha) HaMashiach (The Messiah)." And, **Revelation 1:6** which says, "**OWYָּהּ** (Yahusha) HaMashiach (The Messiah) has made us kings and priests unto אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)..." And, **Revelation 5:10** which says, "He has made us kings and priests that we should reign upon the earth." And, finally, **Hebrews 10:19-24** and **Revelation 5:8** talk about Believers having "boldness to enter the Kadosh place and worship."

Psalms 27:4 validates all of the above: "One (1) thing have I desired of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), and to inquire in His temple."

Thus, there seems to be a valid Scriptural comparison between the true worshipers of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) who "worship אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) in Ruach (spirit) and truth," (**John 4:23**), and the priests of Solomon's Temple who worshiped אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) "in the beauty of Kodeshah (Holiness)" at the Incense Altar. Again, the latter was under the Tanakh (Old Covenant) without Mashiach (Messiah), and the former, under the New Covenant with Mashiach (Messiah). But, the comparison is there and Scripture seems to suggest that it is important.

Out of the same mouth comes praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. **James 3:10**

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), I will be joyful in אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) my Savior. **Habakkuk 3:17-18**

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my Aluahym. **Psalms 42:11**

It is written: 'As surely as I live,' says **OWYָּהּ** (Yahusha), 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge אַיָּהּ (Yahuah).' **Romans 14:11**

אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is Ruach (spirit), and his worshipers must worship in the Ruach (Spirit) and in truth. **John 4:24**

You, אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), are my Aluahym (God), earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. **Psalms 63:1**

How great you are, Sovereign אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)! There is no one like you, and there is no Aluahym (God) but you, as we have heard with our own ears. **2 Samuel 7:22**

There is no one Kadosh (holy) like אַיָּהּ (Yahuah); there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our Aluahym (God). **1 Samuel 2:2**

Sing to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), sing in praise of his Name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him — his Name is אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah). A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is Aluahym (God) in his Kadosh (Holy) dwelling. **Psalms 68:4-5**

Let them shout for joy and rejoice, who favor my vindication; And let them say continually, "אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) be magnified, Who delights in the prosperity of His servant." **Psalms 35:27**

Shout joyfully to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), all the earth; Sing out the splendour of His Name; Make His praise esteemed. **Psalms 66:1-2**

Shout for joy to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; **Psalms 98:4**

For giving grateful praise. Shout for joy to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), all the earth. **Psalms 100:1**

Thus all Yisrael brought up the ark of the covenant of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) with shouting, and with sound of the horn, with Shofars, with loud-sounding cymbals, with harps and lyres. **1 Chronicles 15:28**

Moreover, they made an oath to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) with a loud voice, with shouting, with Shofars and with horns. **2 Chronicles 15:14**

O' clap your hands, all peoples; Shout to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) with the voice of joy. **Psalms 47:1**

They sang, praising and giving thanks to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), saying, "For He is good, for His lovingkindness is upon Yisrael forever." And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) because the foundation of the house of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) was laid. **Ezra 3:11**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in Shofar, O daughter of Yerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with Salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey **Zechariah 9:9**

Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy. **Psalms 33:3**

Sing for joy to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) our strength; Shout joyfully to the Aluahym (God) of Yaacob (Jacob). **Psalms 81:1**

O come, let us sing for joy to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our Salvation **Psalms 95:1**

But let all who take refuge in You be glad, Let them ever sing for joy; And may You shelter them, That those who love Your Name may exult in You. **Psalms 5:11**

אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), you are my Alahym (God); I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago. **Isaiah 25:1**

So David and all the house of Yisrael were bringing up the ark of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) with shouting and the sound of the Shofar. **2 Samuel 6:15**

Praise אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), my Soul; all my inmost being, praise his Kadosh (holy) Name. **Psalms 103:1**

My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long. **Psalm 71:8**

Give praise to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), proclaim his Name; make known among the nations what he has done. **Psalm 105:1**

I say to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), “You are my Master; apart from you I have no good thing.” **Psalm 16:2**

I spread out my hands to you; I thirst for you like a parched land. **Psalm 143:6**

I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. **Psalm 66:17**

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. **Jeremiah 29:12**

אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) intended that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. **Acts 17:27**

Draw near to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **James 4:8**

For I know the plans I have for you, declares אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. **Jeremiah 29:13**

But from there you will seek אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) your Aluahym and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. 30 When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) your Aluahym and obey his voice. 31 For אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) your Aluahym is a merciful Aluahym. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them. **Deuteronomy 4:29-31**

I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. **Proverbs 8:17**

אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. **Lamentations 3:25**

And those who know your Name put their trust in you, for you, O אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), have not forsaken those who seek you. **Psalm 9:10**

Baruch (Blessed) are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! **Psalm 119:2-3**

Seek אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) and his strength; seek his presence continually! **Psalm 105:4**

The more we seek him, the more we find him waiting for us. May the presence of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) be crystalized in our consciousness. אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)'s Name signifies His presence, so let us awake and rise up in awareness to the esteem of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) through his only begotten son, **OWYָּהּ** (Yahusha) HaMashiach and begin to praise, honor and esteem his Kadosh (Set Apart Name). HalluYahuah, Barach his Kadosh (Set Apart) Name today and forevermore! HalluYAH! Shalum