

The Stone That the Builders Rejected . . .
The Gospel of YHVH, El Elohe Israel

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The Stone That the Builders Rejected . . . The Gospel of YHVH, El Elohe Israel

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Introduction

The Stone That the Builders Rejected . . . (The Gospel of YHVH, El Elohe Israel)

This verse, taken from *Psalms 118:22*, has a multiplicity of meanings depending upon the filter that one uses in an attempt to understand its meaning. There are many filters as well such as world view, political views and religious views. But, before we get to those viewpoints, let me ask a series of questions.

Who wrote Psalm 118? Does it matter?

Who were the builders in question? Does it matter?

If this was a “prophetic verse,” has it been fulfilled?

Does it matter?

This verse is nearly 3000 years old. It could be just historical narrative. The writer also wrote many Psalms which are considered by some to be poetry. Poetry from a Hebraic or biblical perspective is poetry. In other words, it isn't prose. The question about this verse being “prophetic” is larger than it might seem at first glance.

Should anyone care today since the verse is nearly 3000 years old?

Should you care?

Do you care?

Obviously or not so obviously, I must care or I wouldn't be writing another book. I self-publish so my publisher must care.

Within the construct of religious views there are three that we will consider. Obviously, there are more than three religious viewpoints but the viewpoints of "the people of the book" are the ones that I want to focus on. Within that category, "people of the book," I consider those of the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant faiths or persuasions.

By faiths I mean, for example, Orthodox, Reformed, Conservative, Renewal and Karite Judaism. An orthodox rabbi friend of mine told a joke about the division that exists within Judaism. The punch line referred to the divisions as "denominations." It was, "You mean it has come to this?" Judaism reflects in many ways the denominations or divisions in Protestant theology, old mainline denominations verses the countless non-denomination denominations. The rabbi received a good laugh from his Jewish audience. They see the

parallels. Denominate means to divide. Judaism is divided perhaps more today than that at any other time.

I was born into a Roman Catholic family, grew up in a Roman Catholic community, attended a Roman Catholic elementary school and received my bachelor's degree from a Roman Catholic college (now a university). I didn't know there were other catholic faiths. What an eye-opening experience it was for me on my first trip to Israel. At the Church of the Holy Sepulture, I found out that is divided (denominated) by the Roman, Greek, Armenian, Russian, Syrian and Egyptian or Coptic Catholic churches. If I've left any out, it isn't intentional.

With that said, I would consider all the groups listed above as "people of the book".

But, what "book" would that be?

Would it be the Hebrew bible [Tanakh] in Hebrew?

What about the Hebrew bible translated into Greek?

In a sense, this is a simplified picture of what I have learned to call the Christian Bible. This doesn't even begin to attempt to understand the dozens and dozens of translations into the common

languages today. In English alone, there a bewildering number of translations.

I tend to use one English translation, “The New King James Bible or Version, NKJV”. However, I use the English to study from the Greek or Latin. From these texts, Latin or Greek, I turn to the Hebrew. I see all the translations as an approximation to the Hebrew scripture. The phrase “something is lost in the translation” is nowhere more relevant than as it relates to the story of the God of all humanity. Yes, I believe there is a singular God and that He is the God of all humanity.

I believe the name of that God from the Hebrew text in the Tanakh or “Old Testament” is pronounced “Yahweh.” One could write an entire book on that singular name. Maybe someone should . . .

*For the purposes of **this** book, I will translate the name of the God of Israel and the God of all **humanity** as Yahweh.*

27 Behold, I [am] the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh], the God of all **flesh**: is there anything too hard for me? [Jeremiah 32:27 KJV] KJV or King James Version

27 "I am the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh] the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me? [Jeremiah 32:27 NLT] NLT or New Living Translation

הנה אני יהוה אלהי כל־בשר הממני יפלא כל־דבר

Please don't be offended if my choice concerning the pronunciation of "the name" does not reflect your choice.

Choose to read this book substituting "the name" as you pronounce it or, don't pronounce it.

One of the beauties of free will is that we all get to choose.

The “Proof Text” for this book

To begin at the beginning, to me, means to begin from the Hebrew Tanakh [Torah, Neviim and the Ketuvim]. Unfortunately, since I learned the story of the Living God in English, I must start there.

In a Jewish prayer book called a “siddur,” there is prayer called the “Hallel.” The Hallel is a series of prayers (Psalms 113 to 118) in Hebrew but the essence of the hallel, for me, is Psalm 118. Hallel means “to praise.”

22 The **stone** [which] the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone [Psalm 118:22 NKJV].

[Brackets] or *italics* in a verse in a Christian bible usually mean that a word(s) have been added to enhance the meaning in the translation from Hebrew.

My personal default Hebrew text is the Westminster Leningrad Codex or WLC. Unfortunately, there is no single Hebrew text that we can use as our default source. Different Jewish “denominations” might use a different Hebrew text. Other common Hebrew texts are the BHS or Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia or the Biblia Hebraica, BH. It is what it is . . . Below is the text in Hebrew.

אבן מאסו הבונים היתה לראש פנה: 118:22

I study from an online source found at www.blueletterbible.org. They have graciously granted me use of their resources for publications. The Hebrew text above is from the WLC found on their site.

The Hebrew text was translated into the Greek by Jewish sages between the third and first centuries before the common era or B.C.E. The Septuagint or LXX (Latin for 70) is a Jewish document. It is not a Christian source as it predates the “Christ” by 100 to 300 years. The story of the Septuagint is an interesting and worthwhile investment of your time. *For the purposes of this book, it's story beyond our scope. Many excellent sources can be found.*

Here is Psalm 118 verse 22 as it has been translated into the Greek. In the Greek Septuagint, it has a different numerical designation.

118:22 λίθον ὃν ἀπεδοκίμασαν οἱ οἰκοδομοῦντες οὗτος ἐγενήθη εἰς κεφαλὴν γωνίας

This Greek verse was translated into the Latin by Jerome in the fourth century of the common era, CE.

[Vulgate 117:22] lapis quem reprobaverunt aedificantes factus est in caput anguli

We will look at the word “stone” in four languages, English, Latin, Greek and Hebrew. We will “see” what is lost in the translation.

Stone = אבן = λίθον = lapis

I have written and self-published two books, *Yahweh of Nazareth The Name Above All Names* and *Jesus In the Tanakh*. *Yahweh of Nazareth* was written with a protestant Christian audience in mind, although Roman Catholics could easily read it is well. *Jesus in the Tanakh* was written with a Jewish audience in mind (Orthodox, Conservative, Reformed etc.)

I'm not interested in promoting these books but from time to time I will use excerpts from these works.

[*You may view and download these books on my website www.anassemblyofyhvh.org without charge. The only thing I ask is that you please follow the directions on the site*]. You have free access to my copyrighted works.

Occasionally, I will excerpt entire chapters or large portions of chapters. What follows in the next chapter is one of those occasions.

We need to study in some detail the word for **stone** in Hebrew. The Chapter that I have chosen is from *Jesus in the Tanakh* and explores a text that I believe is prophetic in nature **but only** in the Hebrew language. If translators are not using the Hebrew and submitted to the Holy Spirit of the Living God, it is easy to miss His small, still voice. It is worth the time and effort to learn to hear that voice. In doing so, you fulfill the words spoken and written by John in his epistle called 1st John.

“20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. ... 27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and **you do not need that anyone teach you**; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. [1John 2:20, 27 NKJV]

The Spirit of the Living God who is Holy [The Holy Spirit or *the anointing* per John] is well able to teach you. He alone can free you from the bondage to the spirit of religion as it only prepares you for the lake of fire. It is for freedom that He will set you free, not for fire.

As *Jesus in the Tanakh* was written to an audience that is familiar with the Hebrew language, I began many sections with a Hebrew text. The corresponding English text always follows directly. This is

also true any time I quote from the Hebrew (to the best of my ability).

Let me remind you that Hebrew reads from right to left. Also, a reality that authors face is that many but not all Christian bibles are copyrighted. They all allow a fixed number of verses to be quoted without charge to the author. Some are more liberal in the number of verses that can be quoted. In the United States, the King James Version (KJV) is in the public domain (not true in England). It can be quoted without charge. I use the KJV for quotation for that reason. If you don't use the KJV, refer to your default translation of choice. Be aware that there are more than one Greek New Testaments available for study. If I quote from a KJV and you use a New International Version (NIV), they may read very differently. The reason is that they use different Greek sources (New Testaments).

Remember though, beginning in whatever English translation you choose to work from . . . you **must . . . must end up in the Hebrew text** for that verse (if it exists). *Linguistically*, not ending up in the Hebrew texts could cause you to be found at the “second death”.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. [Revelation 20:15 KJV]

יהוה איש מלחמה יהוה שמו

3 The LORD [is] a **man** of war: the LORD [is] his name. [Exodus 15:3 KJV]

It is easy to forget that Moses is many things not just “our rabbi.”

Moses is a prophet:

1 And this [is] the blessing, wherewith Moses ***the man of God*** blessed the children of Israel before his death. [Deuteronomy 33:1 KJV]

וזאת הברכה אשר ברך משה **איש האלהים** את־בני ישראל לפני מותו:

15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee ***a Prophet*** from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, ***like unto me***; unto him ye shall hearken; [Deuteronomy 18:15 KJV]

נביא מקרבך מאחיד כמני יקים לך יהוה אלהיך אליו תשמעון:

7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the **prophets**. [Amos 3:7 KJV]

כי לא יעשה אדני יהוה דבר כי אסגלה סודו אל־עבדיו הנביאים:

I am personally convinced that one of the reasons we read Moses (in synagogue) every year is **to search out prophecy** that we might have missed. It is a daunting task for those of us who do not read Hebrew but study it from the internet.

[The following is the section from Jesus in the Tanakh we need to focus on.]

Several years ago, I was invited to attend a lecture from a visiting orthodox rabbi. He came to our Chabad synagogue. His primary talk was in regards to what life was really like in modern Israel versus what the media tells us. He gave a brief commentary on Parashat Vayetzi (Genesis 28:10-32:3). This is 28:11

ויפגע במקום וילן שם כי־בא השמש ויקח מאבני המקום וישם מראשתו
וישכב במקום ההוא:

11 So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the **stones** of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. [Genesis 28:11 NKJV]

אבני stones

The rabbi noted that the word for stone in Hebrew was actually made up of two words, אב, “ab” or father and בן, “br” or son. Is it possible the word for stone prophesies the God of the bible as father and son?

With that in mind, it is possible to read from Genesis 49:22-26 from a *prophetic* perspective.

22 Joseph [is] a fruitful bough, [even] a fruitful bough by a well; [whose] branches run over the wall: 23 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot [at him], and hated him: 24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the *mighty [God] of Jacob*; (from thence [is] the *shepherd, the stone of Israel*;) 25 [Even] by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: 26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren. [Genesis 49:22-26 KJV]

ותשב באיתן קשתו ויפזו זרעי ידיו מידי אביר יעקב משם רעה אבן
ישראל:

לְרֹעֵה אֲבֵן יִשְׂרָאֵל [the] shepherd [the] stone [of] Israel. The shepherd of Israel is “HaShem,” מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד יְהוָה רֹעֵי לֹא אַחֲסֵר Psalm 23.

Is it possible that Jacob (Moses was the writer of this psalm) is prophesying that YHVH (HaShem) is both father and son? Again, this is *not* an argument for Christianity. It is an argument against Christianity in its present form. It argues *for* the Hebrew Tanakh.

If we look carefully, there is more prophetic revelation in Genesis 49:24.

אֲבִיר יַעֲקֹב, the mighty [one or God] of Jacob (Yakov). By my count, this form of “mighty” appears 6 times in the Tanakh. It has as its root אָבַר. אָבַר like אֲבֵן is made of two separate words. אָב “ab” or father and בֵּר “br” or son.

From the roots (shoreshim), I believe that Yakov was prophesying that the stone of Israel, the mighty (God) of Yakov was both father and son. Since Moses was the writer of Genesis, it is possible that he was also prophesying as well. Again, both could be prophesying.

Remember, the Lord Yahweh does nothing unless He tells His secrets to his servants the prophets (Amos 3:7).

This is *not* an argument for Christianity. It asks the question, *“Have we all missed something very important?”*

אבר with different vowel points appears 4 times in the Tanakh.

Job 39:26 המבינתך יאבר־נץ יפרש כנפו לתימן:

Psalm 55:6 ואמר מי־יתן־לי אבר כיונה אעופה ואשכנה

וקוי יהוה יחליפו כח יעלו אבר כנשרים ירוצו ולא ייגעו ילכו ולא ייעפו:

פ

Isaiah 40:31

ואמרת כה־אמר אדני יהוה הנשר הגדול גדול הכנפים ארך האבר מלא הנוצה אשר־לו הרקמה בא אל־הלבנון ויקח את־צמרת הארז

Ezekiel 17:3

Again, the question is, *“Have we all missed some prophetic revelation?”*

My intellectual argument is *for* the Hebrew Tanakh *as our sole source document*. I would prefer to work from a non-Masoretic text, i.e., one without vowel points as it existed in its original form. Mine is not an argument against the Talmud. However, I believe we must begin with “what is written,” and not “what was spoken, then written.”

My ability to “cut and paste” from www.blueletterbible.org allows me to remove the vowel points and work solely from the consonants. I do not read or speak Hebrew (mea culpa).

A short recap is in order . . .

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. However, the stone that was rejected is the prophecy that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Yahweh El Shaddai or the LORD God Almighty intended to reveal Himself as Father and Son. In part because, YHVH or Yahweh is Spirit.

So, the God of Israel, Yahweh El Shaddai must be father and son. [my *prophetic* opinion but supported by the Hebrew Tanakh].

This is a very different statement than saying Jesus of Nazareth was the son of God. Listen (read) carefully. Jesus cannot be preexistent because Jesus while being the son of God is also the **son of man**. He

was flesh and blood. Flesh and blood cannot preexist its creation by the creator. Jesus could not have been preexistent. Yahweh the son of Yahweh [YHVH ben/bar YHVH] was preexistent whether you chose to believe it or not, whether you can “see” it or not.

How did we get here? We got here by reading the Hebrew text for several verses from the Hebrew bible, Psalm 118:22 and Genesis 49:22-26. This prophecy is not revealed in the English word “stone,” the Latin word “lapis” or the Greek word “lithos.” It is only revealed from the Hebrew language by the Holy Spirit (ruach hakodesh) or the Spirit of the Living God, the God of Israel.

With that said, there are other texts we must examine in some detail. A little later, I will expand on a principle that is found in the Torah (in Moses). This principle is that truth is determined by a multiplicity of witnesses, 2 or 3 (at the least appeared sufficient). We will examine these texts in 3 or 4 languages. My primary language is English. I learned to read the bible in English and Latin. Later on, I added Greek to the English and Latin. Eventually, Hebrew entered my study. It is just how I learned. You may have had a different path. To examine any single text in English, Latin, Greek and Hebrew leaves us with 4 witnesses . . . the languages become witnesses themselves.

This is a small but very important concept and detail. As they say, “the devil is in the details.” That will become increasingly clear.

Think of the term “witness” in a legal sense. Witnesses witness at a trial in a courtroom. Imagine that the courtroom is the heaven where the God of the bible is usually personified as existing. Finally, imagine (understand) that the God behind the bench is the God of Israel (this is *necessarily* true whether you believe it or not).

From a biblical stand-point, a stone is not a rock and a rock is not a stone. They are different words in Hebrew. They are often, however, linked together in revelation within a particular story or text(s). We need to look into that now.

The question “who are the builders that rejected (refused) the stone” is a question with critical and perhaps eternal consequences. I think it might be useful to lay some more groundwork before we ask that fiery question.

The Rock of Offense *and* the Stumbling Stone

The writers of the “New testament or New Covenant” are all Jews with the exception of one, Luke or Lucius. As the story unfolds, they are often sent somewhere to someone with some kind of message.

In the English text from the Greek and Latin, they are thought of as “apostles.” Being “a sent one” is *not* a Christian concept. Moses was sent to Pharaoh. The concept of sending relates to the Hebrew verb שלח.

11 in all the signs and wonders which the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh] sent him [Moses] to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land, [Deuteronomy 34:11 NKJV]

לכל-האתות והמופתים אשר שלחו יהוה לעשות בארץ מצרים לפרעה
ולכל-עבדיו ולכל-ארצו

34:11 ἐν πᾶσι τοῖς σημείοις καὶ τέρασιν ὃν ἀπέστειλεν αὐτὸν κύριος ποιῆσαι αὐτὰ ἐν γῆ Αἰγύπτῳ Φαραῶ καὶ τοῖς θεράπουσιν αὐτοῦ καὶ πάσῃ τῇ γῆ αὐτοῦ

ἀπόστολος in Greek or, apostolus in Latin.

The fact that Moses was sent makes him an “apostle or sent one.”

שליח pl. שליחים/שלוחים is often pronounced as “schliach , pl. schlucus or schluchim. These renderings are synonymous with “apostle,” but originate in Yiddish.

Perhaps the most famous “apostle or sent one” in what is called “The New Testament or NT,” was Saul (Shaul) of Tarsus (south central Turkey).

(Shaul or שאול) Paul was born in the “diaspora or galut.” He was a Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee and the son of a Pharisee of the tribe of Benjamin. For whatever reason, he was born in and grew up in Turkey. He was more than likely fluent in Hebrew (Aramaic) and Greek.

Here is how Paul begins to describe the *then* current situation:

30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at [that] law. 32 Why? Because [they did] not [pursue it] by faith, but as though [it were] by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 just as it is written, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A **STONE** OF

STUMBLING AND A **ROCK** OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." [Rom 9:30-33 NASB]

Recall, in the NASB translation, quotes from the Tanakh or OT (Old Testament) are in all CAPITALS.

Paul is quoting from the prophet Isaiah 8:14 and 28:16.

14 And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a **stone** of stumbling and for a **rock** of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. [Isaiah 8:14 KJV]

והיה למקדש ול**אבן** נגף ול**צור** מכשול לשני בתי ישראל לפח ולמוקש
ליושב ירושלים

and,

16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a **stone**, a tried **stone**, a precious corner [stone], a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. [Isaiah 28:16 KJV]

לכן כה אמר אדני יהוה הנני יסד בציון **אבן אבן** בחן פנת יקרת
מוסד מוסד המאמין לא יחיש:

It might be tempting to think of Paul as the founder of Christianity but that religion as we know it today, comes from the Roman Catholic Church established by Constantine and Helena. It dates to the 4th century in the common era, C.E.

Paul writes these particular observations as part of a letter (epistle) to the Gentiles in Rome who had accepted Jesus of Nazareth as the physical incarnation of YHVH [יהוה] or Yahweh son of YHVH, the God of Israel as a savior. Paul did not teach Jesus as God apart from Jesus [Yeshua or ישוע] being YHVH [יהוה], the God of Israel. Paul's writings in Greek "translated" into Hebrew prove this point.

His letter to the Romans, chapters 9, 10 and 11 will make Paul's [שאול] Jewishness obvious. Paul cites several scripture verses from the Tanakh dealing with the issue of "stone and rock."

We should have a basis understanding of the concept of "stone" in Hebrew as being prophetic for the God of Israel, YHVH or Yahweh El Shaddai revealing Himself as Father, Son and Spirit (pages x through y of this book).

We need to look at "rock" in some detail. The concept of a "rock" being offensive to many most likely relates to an encounter Jesus

(Yahweh of Nazareth) has with his disciples but mostly with Simon Peter.

13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14 And they said, Some [say that thou art] John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not *revealed* [it] unto thee, but my Father and upon this which is in heaven.** 18 And I say also unto thee, that thou art **Peter**, and upon this **rock** I will build **my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 20 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. [Matthew 16:13-20 KJV]

6:18 καὶ ἐγὼ δέ σοι λέγω ὅτι σὺ εἶ **Πέτρος** καὶ ἐπὶ ταύτῃ τῇ πέτρᾳ οἰκοδομήσω μου τὴν ἐκκλησίαν καὶ πύλαι ᾗδου οὐ κατισχύσουσιν αὐτῆς

In dissecting this text, it is undeniable that the Greek reads, “Petros or Πέτρος.”

We need to remember, that Jesus did not speak to Peter in Greek. He surely spoke in Aramaic or Hebrew. Peter has just received “**revelation from heaven**” according to Jesus. Peter has been told that the revelation came from Jesus’ (Yeshua’s or Yehoshua’s or Yahweh son of Yahweh’s) father in heaven (also Yahweh). In conventional Hebraic thought, Yahweh was only Father. These Jews as a people group, most likely had no revelation of their God as anything but a father. [Individuals might have well understood prophecies such as the “stone” and other prophecies that we will eventually discuss . . . but not now.]

The **revelation** Peter receives is that he sees (understands?) for the first time that Jesus (Yahweh saves or Yahweh is salvation) is the **Christ, the Son of the Living God**. This is **revelation** to Peter, it is not common knowledge from anyone including Jesus (in that Jesus did not teach Peter this concept) and certainly not from the rabbi’s, Pharisees or Sadducees. The revelation came from the God of the Israelites or Hebrews in heaven. How is that even possible?

Consider the following verses from the Hebrew Tanakh. An in-depth discussion is found in *Jesus in the Tanakh*.

13 And David took [him] more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron: and there were yet sons and daughters born to David. 14 And these [be] the names of those that were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, 15 Ibhar also, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia, 16 And Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphalet. [2Samuel 5:13-16 KJV]

Most would read this name as “Eli-shua.” “Eli” would mean “my God.” “Shua” can mean wealth or salvation. Elishua can mean “My God saves/is salvation or my God is wealth after Strong’s #H474.

The Hebrew text can also be read as “God Yeshua,” or “God Jesus”. However, . . . the Hebrew demands that if Yeshua is God, He must also be ‘El’ or Yahweh El Shaddai. Jesus cannot be God unless He is the God of the bible. He simply cannot.

The Hebrew looks like this: וְאֵלֵּשׁוּעַ and reads literally “and Elishua,”

The first letter is a “vav” or “ו” and here it means “and.” אֵלֵּשׁוּעַ can also be read as God Yeshua or God Jesus.

So, God Jesus or God Yeshua would come through the line of David. God Yahweh who saves or is salvation (is also the God of Israel) would come through the line of David. YHVH or Yahweh would come as a human, as a savior, through the line of David. Simple but it is not easy.

A Samaritan woman at a well reveals this in her discussion with Yeshua:

25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.

26 Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you--I am he." [John 4:25-6 NIV]

4:26 λέγει αὐτῇ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐγώ εἰμι ὁ λαλῶν σοι

In Hebrew or Aramaic which he was speaking, Yahweh saves or Yahweh is salvation (Jesus) after Strong's #2424, says "ani or anochi" from the Hebrew instead of ἐγώ εἰμι . This is a common construct:

2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. [Exodus 20:2 NIV]

אנכי יהוה אלהיך אשר הוצאתיך מארץ מצרים מבית עבדים

20:2 ἐγώ εἰμι κύριος ὁ θεός σου ὅστις ἐξήγαγόν σε ἐκ γῆς Αἰγύπτου ἐξ οἴκου δουλείας

ego sum Dominus Deus tuus qui eduxi te de terra Aegypti de domo servitutis

When Jesus says “I Am,” He is saying “אֲנִי or אֲנֹכִי”. The Greek and Latin are witnesses that Jesus is saying to a woman who was part Hebrew, that He was YHVH or Yahweh, the Messiah or Christ as a savior.

Lest we get sidetracked, the **revelation** to Peter was that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God. So, from that text in Matthew, you (the reader) are receiving **revelation**. It is not from me as the author but from the Spirit of the Living God, if you choose to receive.

Revelation is from above. Knowledge is from below. Today’s knowledge was yesterday’s revelation, so to speak.

18 Where [there is] no **revelation**, the people cast off restraint (perish); But happy [is] he who keeps the law. [Proverbs 29:18 NKJV]

באין חזון יפרע עם ושמר תורה אשרהו

“Chazon or חזון” is used for prophetic vision or revelation as in a vision. These gifts are seen in the Hebrew text but the English is commonly “seer,” as in Gad the seer.

Without prophets and their vision, people perish. Prophetic vision (**revelation**) is from above . . . like Jesus told Peter. Those who deliver it are only messengers or harbingers or ambassadors (in other texts). Often, their names are not even in the story being recorded. The **revelation** is crucial but the identities of those who deliver the revelation are not.

Let’s keep looking at what is recorded in Matthew (aka Levi).

18 And I say also unto thee, that thou art **Peter**, and upon this **rock** I will build **my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

It may not be immediately clear, but Peter or Petros **is not** the rock **revealed**. The Hebrew prophets had spoken . . .

47 The LORD [YHVH or Yahweh] liveth; and blessed [be] my **rock**; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.

[2Samuel 22:47 KJV]

חַיִּיהוּה וּבְרוּךְ צוּרֵי וִירֵם אֱלֹהֵי צוּר יִשְׁעֵי

חַי־יְהוָה . . . (right to left) . . . YHVH or Yahweh lives

צוּרִי . . . literally, my rock

צוּר . . . literally rock

יִשְׁעִי . . . literally, my salvation or my savior

יָשַׁע . . . this is the Hebrew verb, to save

Taking part of the name of YHVH or Yahweh, יְהִ and adding it to the verb to save, יָשַׁע, creates the name Yehoshua (Joshua).

Yehoshua (יְהוֹשֻׁעַ) shortens to (יֵשׁוּעַ) Yeshua (Jesus) much like my name Thomas shortens to Tom (if you study the Hebrew bible carefully paying attention to people's names, this is common, often as they return from the Babylonian exile). Yehoshua or Joshua can also be written as יְהוֹשׁוּעַ

The “rock” that Jesus is speaking to Peter about comes from this verse as well as others.

46 The LORD [YHVH or Yahweh] liveth; and blessed [be] my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted. [Psalm 18:46 KJV]

חִי־יְהוָה וּבְרוּךְ צוּרֵי וִירוֹם אֱלוֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

Psalm 18 and Samuel 22 are our first two **witnesses** (truth determined by two or three . . . languages count as witnesses as they speak clearly today if you listen to that still, small voice that spoke to Elijah (Eliyahu) the prophet (ha navi).

Add the third witness:

4 Trust ye in the LORD [YHVH] forever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH [YHVH or Yahweh] [is] everlasting strength: [Isaiah 26:4 KJV]

4 Trust in the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh] forever, for the LORD [Yah], the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh] himself, is the Rock eternal. [Isaiah 26:4 NIV]

בִּטְחוּ בַיהוָה עַד־יֵעַד כִּי בֵּיתָ יְהוָה צוּר עוֹלָמִים

I find this a very unusual verse as the name of God, YHVH or Yahweh shows up *three times* in one verse.

The name of God rendered Jehovah is unusual in the King James Version . . . 4 times in a singular form and twice in a compound form. In the Hebrew bible, Yahweh God, My Lord Yahweh or Yahweh appears nearly 7000 times.

Since YHVH or Yahweh lives . . . as a savior, hidden (in plain sight), Jesus is telling his disciples that He is the fulfillment of these three verses. YHVH (son of Yahweh from “stone of Israel”) is the rock, the savior. Jesus of Christianity is not the savior of the world but Jesus of the Tanakh is . . . read online or download my book *Jesus in the Tanakh*.

Peter has never been the rock although his name Πέτρος or Petrus] suggests he is the rock in the text. He clearly is not as I believe we shall “see” . . . chazon . . . revealed.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

“That thou art Peter.” Did Yahweh of Nazareth (Jesus) speak Greek, Latin or English? No, but what about Hebrew? Probably, so what Hebrew word *sounds like* “peter”?

2 "Consecrate to Me all the **firstborn**, whatever **opens** the womb among the children of Israel, [both] of man and beast; it is Mine." [Exodus 13:2 NKJV]

קדש-לי כל-בכור פטר כל-רחם בבני ישראל באדם ובבהמה לי הוא

פטר . . . "peh-ter" is the one who opens the womb.

בכור . . . "be-kore" firstborn, firstling

Simon called Peter or 'Petros' becomes the one who **opens** the womb to receive **revelation** from above . . . he is a firstborn who opens a womb of revelation . . . Yahweh is the Christ (Messiah) who had become human as a savior. The Christ or Messiah's name can only be Yehoshua or Yeshua.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter [**פטר**], and upon this **rock** [of revelation] I **will build** my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

10 "let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus [YHVH or Yahweh saves or is

salvation] Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. 11 *"This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.'* 12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." [Acts 4:10-12 NKJV] . . . because Jesus . . . Yehoshua . . . Yeshua . . . means YHVH or Yahweh saves . . . Yahweh is salvation.

I will build my church . . . I, Yahweh who became human as a savior . . . Yehoshua . . . Yeshua . . . Yahweh saves or is salvation . . . will build my . . .

The following story illuminates (perhaps for the first time for many), what Jesus actually meant, **not** what we have become accustomed to hearing taught.

14 And the king [Solomon] turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel: (and all the congregation of Israel stood;) [1Kings 8:14 KJV]

ויסב המלך את־פניו ויברך את כל־קהל ישראל וכל־קהל ישראל עמד

8:14 καὶ ἀπέστρεψεν ὁ βασιλεὺς τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ καὶ εὐλόγησεν
ὁ βασιλεὺς πάντα Ἰσραηλ καὶ πᾶσα **ἐκκλησία** Ἰσραηλ εἰστήκει

convertitque rex faciem suam et benedixit omni **ecclesiae**
Israhel omnis enim ecclesia Israhel stabat

קהל . . . or “qahal” is an assembly of people after Strong’s
#H6951

The story line is, the people (**קהל**) are gathered at the
dedication of the temple or (**אהל מועד** ohel mow’ed).

The people gathered have nothing to do with the building
itself.

Jesus was and is still looking for people who will be like “**פטר**
peh-ter, bekore” who are as firstborns, who are willing to open
the womb (of revelation) . . . to your family . . . your city . . .
your county . . . your state . . . your nation . . .

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly,
that God hath made that same Jesus [YHVH or Yahweh
saves], whom ye have crucified, both Lord [YHVH or
Yahweh] and Christ [Messiah]. 37 Now when they heard

[this], they were pricked [cut to the heart] in their heart, and said unto Peter [פטר] and to the rest of the apostles, Men [and] brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter [פטר] said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus [Yehoshua or Yeshua or YHVH saves or is salvation] Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (spirit). 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, [even] as many as the Lord our God [YHVH eloheni] shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added [unto them] about three thousand souls. [Acts 2:36-41 KJV]

Some would see this event as the “birth” of the Christian church, orthodox, then protestant. They would be *mistaken*. This event occurs on Shavout(s) or Pentecost. This was/is a feast of YHVH or Yahweh, the God of Israel, one of the three that the Hebrew/Jewish males were commanded to appear before YHVH their God at the place where He commanded His name to be located. They have come from many parts of the diaspora . . . read the list in Acts 2. While there may been some Gentiles in the crowd, this was a Jewish event. If you read the Hebrew carefully, you will also note that this

event occurred in this same month (third month of the Jewish calendar) that Moses ascended Mount Sinai to receive the “10 Commandments”. The Spirit of YHVH or Yahweh, the God of Israel was “poured out” on a crowd in Jerusalem similar as to when Bezalel was first filled with the Holy Spirit of YHVH or Yahweh. The “anointing” goes from one man to a crowd. It eventually goes from the Jews gathered in Jerusalem to a Gentile centurion.

Why? Because the words of the prophet Jeremiah needed to come full circle.

20 The breath of our nostrils, [the] anointed [of the] LORD, [YHVH or Yahweh] was taken in their pits, of whom we said, Under his shadow we shall live among the heathen. [Lamentations 4:20 KJV]

רוח אפינו משיח יהוה נלכד בשחיתותם אשר אמרנו בצלו נחיה
בגוים

4:20 πνεῦμα προσώπου ἡμῶν χριστὸς κυρίου συνελήμφθη ἐν ταῖς διαφθοραῖς αὐτῶν οὗ εἶπαμεν ἐν τῇ σκιᾷ αὐτοῦ ζησόμεθα ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν

20 RES spiritus oris nostri christus dominus captus est in peccatis nostris cui diximus in umbra tua vivemus in gentibus [Lam 4:20 VUL]

The breath of our nostrils (spirit or 'ruach') Messiah YHVH or Yahweh . . . was taken (left).

רוח אפינו משיח יהוה נלכד בשחיתותם אשר אמרנו בצלו נחיה בגוים

. 37 Now when they heard [this], they were pricked [cut to the heart; hearts were pierced] in their heart,

16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked. [Deuteronomy 10:16 KJV]

ומלתם את ערלת לבבכם וערפכם לא תקשו עוד

To understand what was happening, the Jews needed to circumcise the foreskins of their hearts . . . they needed to be cut to the heart . . . they needed to have their hearts pieced.

11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, [Colossians 2:11 NKJV]

This is circumcision of the heart (i.e. male **and** female) performed by the Spirit of the Living God, YHVH or Yahweh, the God of Israel was the same prophesied in Deuteronomy (devarim)

Simple but not easy to understand. It is the work of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the God of Israel, YHVH or Yahweh who is holy.

Here is what we (I) hope for:

27 Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh] your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed. [Joel 2:27 NIV]

Added for context

28 "And afterward, I [YHVH or Yahweh] will pour out my Spirit [of YHVH] or Yahweh] on **all** people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit [of YHVH or Yahweh] in those days. 30 I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 31 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of

the great and dreadful day of the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh].
32 And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh] will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh] has said, even among the survivors whom the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh] calls. [Joel 2:28-32 NIV]

Why **all** people?

27 "I am the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh], the God of all mankind [flesh]. Is anything too hard for me? [Jeremiah 32:27 NIV]

YHVH or Yahweh isn't just the God of the Jews, Hebrews or Israel. He is the singular God of all humanity.

Religion has mishandled the text.

As a metaphor, "religion" has fumbled the ball.

As a metaphor, "religion" has failed to cross the goal line, the finish line.

What religion? **All** but especially the people of the book, Jews, Catholic Christians and Protestant Christians have mishandled the

text, fumbled the ball and failed to cross the finish line. All means all.

How's that for a legacy or destiny?

But . . . God . . .YHVH or Yahweh, the God of Israel . . .

4 Behold, all souls are mine [YHVH or Yahweh]; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine [YHVH or Yahweh]: the soul that sinneth, it shall die. ... 23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: [the Lord YHVH or Yahweh][and] not that he should return from his ways, and live? ... 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD [the lord YHVH or Yahweh]: wherefore turn [yourselves], and live ye. [Ezekiel 18:4, 23, 32 KJV]

Remember, YHVH or Yahweh, the God of Israel is the God of all humanity, Jeremiah 32:27.

Turn to . . . return to . . . YHVH or Yahweh the God of Israel who became human as a savior to fulfill the righteous requirements of the Law . . . there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. Yahweh, the son of Yahweh, the God of Israel gives himself as payment for our sins that the words of the prophets be fulfilled:

3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the **tenth [day] of this month** they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of [their] fathers, a lamb for an house: [Exodus 12:3 KJV] . . . 6 And ye shall keep it up until the **fourteenth day of the same month**: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. [Exodus 12:6 KJV]

13 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh], the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, [that] the waters of Jordan shall be cut off [from] the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon a heap. [Joshua 3:13 KJV]

19 And the people came up out of Jordan on the **tenth [day] of the first month**, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho. [Joshua 4:19 KJV]

3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the **tenth [day] of this month** they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of [their] fathers, a lamb for a house: [Exodus 12:3 KJV]

13 Then Jesus [YHVH or Yahweh] came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John [tried to] prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit [it to be so] now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he [Yehochanon ben Zechariah ha cohen] allowed Him. [Matthew 3:13-15 NKJV]

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God [YHVH or Yahweh El Shaddai] descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice [came] from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." [Matthew 3:16-17 NKJV]

The voice from heaven is understood from the “stone of Israel mighty one of Yakov” prophecy in Genesis 49:24 (only in Hebrew) that YHVH El Shaddai, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is both Father and Son . . .

This voice is connecting Exodus 12:3 & 6, Joshua 3:13, 4:19 and Matthew 3:16-17. Again, three witnesses (this time scripture verses) testifying to Truth. There is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. Yahweh, Lord of all the earth, the Passover Lamb must become human to have blood to shed. Yahweh ben

Yahweh is tasked with the act of salvation. As it is written,
“Salvation is of the Jews,” after John 4:22.

Can there be a better or more definitive way for YHVH, Yahweh the
God of Israel to prove He is the living God than to become a living
human being?

10 But the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh] [is] the true God, he [is]
the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall
tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.
[Jeremiah 10:10 KJV]

ויהוה אלהים אמת הוא־אלהים חיים ומלך עולם מקצפו תרעש הארץ
ולא־יכלו גוים זעמו

Dominus autem Deus verus est ipse Deus vivens et rex sempiternus
ab indignatione eius commovebitur terra et non sustinebunt gentes
comminationem eius

Greek text does not appear in the Septuagint (LXX).

13 O LORD [YHVH or Yahweh], the hope of Israel, **all** that
forsake thee shall be ashamed, [and] they that depart from me shall
be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD

[YHVH or Yahweh], the fountain of living waters. [Jeremiah 17:13
KJV]

מקוה ישראל יהוה כל-עזביך יבשו יסורי בארץ יכתבו כי עזבו מקור
מים-חיים את-יהוה

17:13 ὑπομονή Ισραηλ κύριε πάντες οἱ καταλιπόντες σε καταισχυνήτωσα
νάφεστηκότες ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς γραφήτωσαν ὅτι ἐγκατέλιπον πηγὴν ζωῆς τὸν κύ-
ριον

expectatio Israhel Domine omnes qui te derelinquunt confundentur
recedentes in terra scribentur quoniam dereliquerunt venam
aquarum viventium Dominum

Living water = מים-חיים = πηγὴν ζωῆς = aquarum viventium

3 He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. 4 And He had to pass through Samaria. 5 So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; 6 and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." ... 9 Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For

Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." ... 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." ... 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am [Ἐγὼ εἰμι = ego sum = אנכי or אני] [He.]

[John 4:3-7, 9-10, 13-14, 24-26 NASB]

Jesus (YHVH or Yahweh saves) has just told a woman at "Jacob's well" . . . given to his son, Joseph (hear Ephraim or Manasseh) that he is YHVH or Yahweh the fountain of living water מי־חַיִּים אֶת־יְהוָה who has come to save people from their sins . . . He, YHVH or Yahweh is the Messiah or Christ.

The "New Testament or Covenant" text says clearly that John is baptizing near the Jordan River. Rivers flow as opposed to lakes or ponds that are stagnant. The visual imagery of a flowing stream takes us back to Abraham and Isaac's well that produces "living

water,” literally in the Hebrew text (deeper explanation follows). Most translators describe it as spring, running, flowing, fresh and so forth. In ancient Israel, water was scarce and access to streams/rivers was limited. Cisterns or “mikveh’s” were dug to catch rain water. Ritual bathing/cleansing in a mikveh was/is performed for the imagery of being cleansed or washed from our sins. It is as if the living water that is YHVH EL Shaddai cleanses us from our sin.

13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, [and] hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. [Jer 2:13 KJV]

13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, [and] they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters. [Jer 17:13 KJV]

The God of Israel is saying that the Hebrews/Jews of antiquity traded Him for cisterns that could not hold water. They traded their God for idols.

John is baptizing in the flowing or running water to recapture the imagery of being cleansed from sin by returning to YHVH, the God of Israel. John’s baptism is strictly for the imagery of being cleansed from sin, a baptism of repentance. John is “baptizing” Jews. The

Jordan River provides the imagery of being immersed in the Living Water that is YHVH El Shaddai . . . the LORD God Almighty himself. A baptism of repentance demonstrates returning to YHVH or turning . . . for the first time to YHVH, the God of Israel . . . the God of all humanity.

In this story is an exceedingly important **biblical** principle regarding inheritance.

*[While it may seem odd, we are still pursuing why the “rock” would become a “rock of offense.” The Spirit of the Living God does not always teach in a straight line . . . **revelation** is often more ‘cursive’. It is an analogy lost on those who no longer are required to learn cursive for penmanship.]*

1 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And **Isaac** went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. 2 And the LORD [El Shaddai] appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: 3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; 4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall

all the nations of the earth be blessed; 5 **Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.** [Genesis 26:1-5 KJV]

Isaac inheritance is directly to his father, Abraham's obedience.

15 So all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth. ... 18 Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them. [Genesis 26:15, 18 NIV]

Abraham's wells are passed on to his son, Isaac. Not because of anything Isaac did . . . because Abraham obeyed [YHVH] El Shaddai's voice, kept His charge, kept his commandments, his statutes and His laws . . . a very interesting (personal) journey is to find where this verse was fulfilled in the life of Abraham, "where is it written?"

Jesus (Yehoshua or Yeshua or YHVH or Yahweh saves or is salvation) is at Jacob's (Yakov's) well that Yakov gave to his son Yosef . . . but Yosef died in Egypt after Yakov "adopted" his sons Ephraim and Manassah. The well(s) were to passed to Isaac then to

Jacob then to Joseph then to Ephraim and Manassah . . . all because Abraham's obedience . . .

7 Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? [2 Chronicles 20:7 NIV]

8 "But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend, [Isaiah 41:8 NIV]

23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's [YHVH's] friend. [James (Yakov) 2:23 NIV]

18 and Isaac turneth back, and diggeth the wells of water which they digged in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines do stop after the death of Abraham, and he calleth to them names according to the names which his father called them. 19 And Isaac's servants dig in the valley, and find there a well of living water, [Genesis 26:18-19 YLT or Young's Literal Translation]

ויחפרו עבדי־יצחק בנחל וימצאו־שם באר מים חיים

26:19 καὶ ὤρυξαν οἱ παῖδες Ἰσαακ ἐν τῇ φάραγγι Γεραρων καὶ εὗρον ἐκεῖ φρέαρ ὕδατος ζῶντος

foderunt in torrente et reppererunt aquam vivam

Jesus is at a well where He tells a Samaritan woman (the 10 northern tribes were exiled to Assyria, intermixed with other non-Hebrew or Jewish, the exiles then re-settled in Israel. Samaria was the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel or Ephraim) that He is Yahweh the fountain of living water . . . in part based on Abraham's obedience which in part relates to digging a well where he (Abraham) found "living water." It is the God of Abraham, YHVH El Shaddai who Himself is the well of living water.

The battle since Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees and his father's gods, has been for the "right, honor or privilege" of being known as the "living water," the source of life. It is Abraham who dug the first well where living water . . . מים חיים is found. It is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob's **right** to be known as "The" source but there is always a usurper. The battle has taken many forms throughout the ages. But, a new age is upon mankind. Religion is the usurper . . . Catholic Christianity, Protestant Christianity, Judaism in all its forms and Islam (Mohammedanism).

Religion desires be seen as "The Most High God."

The rebellion in the Garden of Eden was about who would be God. Would it be YHVH or Yahweh? Would it be Adam and Eve?

22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD {YHVH or Yahweh} delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh]? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. [1Samuel 15:22 NIV]

22 But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: [YHVH or Yahweh] your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. [1Samuel 15:22 NLT]

ויאמר שמואל החפץ ליהוה בעלות וזבחים כשמע בקול יהוה הנה
שמע מזבח טוב להקשיב מחלב אילים

Rebellion is a religion of self-exaltation. It is the desire to be seen as the Most High God [אל עליון], the God of Israel אל אלהי ישראל, YHVH or Yahweh the God of all flesh (humanity) after Jeremiah 32:20:

הנה אני יהוה אלהי כל-בשר הממני יפלא כל-דבר:

What is the source, the “well spring” of rebellion? Who dug the wells? Abraham and Isaac dug the wells that the Philistines covered up. The battle was, is and will always be for the Living Water.

How do “we” solve these problems? They will never be solved in English, Latin, Greek or any other language/tongue than Hebrew.

Isaac ben Abraham ben Terah was and is the child of promise as it relates to covenant. Let’s re-dig his wells. . .

I’ve chosen Young’s Literal Translation because it accurately translates the initial as “living water.”

19 And Isaac's servants dig in the valley, and find there a well of living water, 20 and shepherds of Gerar strive with shepherds of Isaac, saying, 'The water [is] ours;' and he calleth the name of the well 'Strife,'[Esek] because they have striven habitually with him; 21 and they dig another well, and they strive also for it, and he calleth its name 'Hatred.'[Sitnah] [Genesis 26:19-21 YLT]

עשק pronounced “esek” is from the Hebrew root for striving, quarreling or contention according to Strong’s Concordance.

שטנה pronounced “sitnah” comes from the root שטן. The meaning is in the direction enmity, accusation, strife contention etc.

שטן in English would read “stn.” It is most familiar to us in a different story:

1 Then he showed me Joshua יהושע the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh], and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. [Zechariah 3:1 NKJV]

ויראני את־יהושע הכהן הגדול עמד לפני מלאך יהוה והשטן עמד
על־ימינו לשטנו

3:1 και ἔδειξέν μοι Ἰησοῦν τὸν ἱερέα τὸν μέγαν ἐστῶτα πρὸ προσώπου ἄγγελου κυρίου καὶ ὁ εἰστήκει ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ τοῦ ἀντικειῖσθαι αὐτῷ

et ostendit mihi Iesum sacerdotem magnum stantem coram angelo Domini et Satan stabat a dextris eius ut adversaretur ei

Enmity, strife, contention and accusation come from the accuser, ha satan or שטן or διάβολος or et Satan.

The contention, strife and enmity is over the living water. More accurately *in human (visual) terms*, it is over who possess the living water or access to the living water.

In the story regarding the wells, Abraham leaves Ur of the Chaldees and is rewarded by entering to relationship the True and Living God, YHVH or Yahweh El Shaddai (God Almighty). YHVH eventually becomes more clearly the God of Israel. YHVH is the God of all humanity as we have seen.

YHVH, God of the Patriarchs, the God of the Hebrews enters into a “battle” with Pharaoh and his gods. YHVH wins (no surprise) but the satan waits patiently.

The satan sends out Amalek who attacks the rear guard of the columns, the weak, sick, tired or the old. Amalek is distinguished by being Esau’s grandson (Genesis 36:12). Jacob I have loved but Esau I have hated, says the Lord YHVH, God Israel? Why? Esau rejected (despised) his birthright counted it as a small thing not to be apprehended. The sins of the father . . .

All the battles that Israel fights (physically) are regarding whose god is God. Is it the god of the Philistines? Is it the god of the Babylonians? Is it the god of the Amalekites? *Yahweh of Nazareth* *The Name Above All Names* deals extensively with these battles.

YHVH or Yahweh the God of Israel is always the name above the god(s) He engages in battle with. Always means always especially in Hebrew. Behind each “demon god” is the satan, the accuser, the

usurper, the demon who would be King of kings, LORD of Lords and God of gods. Jesus was, is and will always be YHVH or Yahweh, the God of Israel. Yahweh was, is, and will always be a savior.

8 Jesus [YHVH or Yahweh saves or is salvation Strong's #G2424 and #H3091] Christ [is] the same yesterday, today, and forever. [Hebrews 13:8 NKJV]

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus [YHVH or Yahweh saves etc] every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus [YHVH or Yahweh saves etc] Christ [is] Lord [kurios or YHVH or Yahweh יהוה], to the glory of God the Father. [Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV]

2 [It is] the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings [is] to search out a matter. [Proverbs 25:2 NKJV]

Remember, you have **free access** to these books as well as *Jesus in the Tanakh* at www.anassemblyofyhvh.org. Please, just follow the download directions.

In somewhat of a recap, let's revisit the scripture regarding a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence that Shaul (Paul) quotes in his epistle to the Romans who had accepted Jesus of Nazareth as the physical incarnation of YHVH or Yahweh the son of Yahweh.

14 And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a **stone** of stumbling and for a **rock** of **offence** to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. [Isaiah 8:14 KJV]

The Hebrew word translated as “offense” above is **מכשול** or, “mikshowl.” While it is often translated as “offense,” it can also be translated as “stumbling, a means of stumbling or a stumbling block.”

A “stone of stumbling” is from the Hebrew root **נגף** or “negeph.” It can also mean “to strike, stumble or striking against.”

This verse could also read in English:

14 He will keep you safe. But to Israel and Judah he will be a stone that makes people stumble, a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare. [Isaiah 8:14 NLT]

14 He will be a sanctuary; but for the two houses of Israel, he will be a stone to stumble over and a rock to trip over, and a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. [Isaiah 8:14 CSB]

14 He will become a sanctuary, but a stone that makes a person trip, and a rock that makes one stumble - to the two houses of Israel. He will become a trap and a snare to the residents of Jerusalem. [Isaiah 8:14 NET]

As a writer, there are challenges relating to copying from copyrighted texts. These last three from the New Living Translation, Christian Study Bible and New English Translation perhaps capture what is meant from the Hebrew text for Isaiah 8:14

Tanakh The Holy Scriptures from the Jewish Publication Society renders this verse as above as does *The Stone Edition of the Torah, Prophets and Writings* and *The Interlinear NIV Hebrew English Old Testament*.

A stone that makes a person trip and a rock that makes one stumble could also be thought of as stubbing one's toe.

Why focus so much on these grammatical nuances?

13 Sanctify the LORD [YHVH or Yahweh] of hosts himself; and [let] him [be] your fear, and [let] him [be] your dread. [Isa 8:13 KJV]

13 The LORD [YHVH or Yahweh] of hosts, Him you shall hallow; [Let] Him [be] your fear, And [let] Him [be] your dread. [Isa 8:13 NKJV]

13 The LORD [YHVH or Yahweh] Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread. [Isa 8:13 NIV]

את־יהוה צבאות אתו תקדישו והוא מוראכם והוא מערצכם

It is YHVH or Yahweh יהוה, the God of Israel whom we are to sanctify or set apart in our hearts. We are to fear YHVH or Yahweh or יהוה but it is this Yahweh who is the stone . . . father and son . . . the rock . . . from the Hebrew texts. It is the son of God, Yahweh who comes in the form of a human, even a “bondservant or slave” who offers himself up as the Passover Lamb for the forgiveness of sins.

There is no pre-incarnate Jesus or Yeshua. There is a preincarnate son of Yahweh, or Yahweh ben Yahweh or Yahweh bar Yahweh who comes in the form of a man.

This is the stone that one trips over. This is the rock that is a stumbling block, to the Jew first and then the Gentile.

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not [come to] know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. [1Corinthians 1:21-25 NASB]

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. [Romans 1:16 NIV]

The gospel that Paul is preaching is that Yahweh, the God of Israel was the son of God, Yahweh son of Yahweh who became human as a savior . . . for there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood . . . the ark of Yahweh, Lord of all the earth comes out of the Jordan river on the tenth day of the first month, the same day the lamb was taken into the homes of the Hebrews in Egypt. I could go on.

The gospel or **בשורה** or “besorah” of Shaul **שאול** aka Paul of Tarsus
Has nothing to do with the Jesus of the Christian Churches,
orthodox or protestant.

It has everything to do with the Yahweh or YHVH, Lord of all the
earth, God of Israel.

Does this make you stumble? Does this make you stub your toe?
Are you offended that it was the King of Israel, the King of the Jews,
the Lawgiver that gave his life for you to satisfy the righteous
requirement of His own teaching (Torah)?

47 Jesus [YHVH saves or is salvation] saw Nathanael coming
toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in
whom is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You
know me?" Jesus [YHVH saves or Yahweh is salvation]
answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you
were under the fig tree, I saw you 49 Nathanael answered and
said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the **King
of Israel!**" [John 1:47-9 NKJV]

37 And they put up over His head the accusation written
against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE **KING OF THE JEWS.**
[Matthew 27:37 NKJV]

26 And the inscription of His accusation was written above:
THE KING OF THE JEWS. [Mark 15:26 NKJV]

38 And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of
Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.
[Luke 23:38 NKJV]

19 Now Pilate wrote a title and put [it] on the cross. And the
writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE
JEWS. [John 19:19 NKJV]

An orthodox rabbi friend of mine said in a recent synagogue service that per chance was on “Easter Sunday morning,” “the God of another religion cannot be the savior of the world. The God of Israel is the Savior of the world.”

I doubt that you will hear a more accurate or more concise rendering of the gospel than his words.

The God of Christianity is not the savior of the world unless the God of Christianity is the God of Israel . . . that is why Paul

5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, [of] the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; [son of a Pharisee] [Philippians 3:5 NKJV]

was not ashamed. Paul's Jesus was, is and will always be *Yahweh of Nazareth The Name Above All Names* and Paul's Jesus was *Jesus in the Tanakh* not Jesus in the Talmud or Jesus of Christianity.

The stone that the builders rejected that has become the chief cornerstone, that stone of stumbling and rock that makes one fall or trip is YHVH, Yahweh ben Yahweh or Yahweh bar Yahweh, the son of Yahweh.

Yahweh the God of Israel, the God of the Hebrews, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of all humanity is the Christ, the Messiah. He is "Salvatore mundi," savior of the world.

This . . . is . . . THE . . . Gospel . . . Good News.

4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough. [2Corinthians 11:4 NIV]

2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. [Proverbs 25:2 NIV]

כבד אלהים הסתר דבר וכבד מלכים חקר דבר