

# THE RIGHTEOUS ARE LIVING MEMORIALS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



(Psalm 92: 15)

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; they shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon, planted in the house of the Lord, they shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and verdure. [They are living memorial] to show that the Lord is upright and faithful to His promises; He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him (Psalm 92: 12-15).

When are we considered righteous before God? David acknowledges that he was brought forth in [a state of] iniquity; his mother was sinful who conceived him [and he too is sinful] (Psalm 51:5). Likewise, all humankind fell into this state of

iniquity. There is none who is righteous, none, the Bible says, we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23) We are considered righteous before God, when God's righteousness is imputed to us at the time we believe in Him with personal trust and confident reliance on YAHSHUA the Messiah (Rom. 3:22). Righteousness is not a natural part of the natural man, since we were born in sin, and we carry the root of disobedience and rebellion. The Word of God says that the mind of the flesh is death... because the mind of the flesh [with its carnal thoughts and purposes] is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God's Law; indeed, it cannot. So then those who are living the life of the flesh cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him (Rom. 8:6a,-8). For men to reflect God's faithfulness, he must be born again. Born of the Spirit and regenerated by Him.

God's righteousness abides only in the heart of the born again person. Self-righteousness, like that of the Pharisees, is superficial and void of God's holiness. It exists only in the outside, while the heart is filled with malice and evil thoughts, and pride. YAHSHUA said, If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free (John 8:31-32). As children of God, we must resemble Him in all we do. If anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation. The old things are passed; all is made new (II Cor. 5:17). After the person is born again, the second step he must go through is sanctification. The process of sanctification is the step that transforms, and molds the believer to be more like the Savior and Master, YAHSHUA. Called to that, those whom He (God) foreknew, He also destined from the beginning to be molded into the image of His son, that He might become the firstborn among many brethren. Those whom He thus foreordained, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified. And those whom He justified, He also glorified (Rom. 8:29-30).

The believer should not live a life that denies others from seeing God's faithfulness in his life. If anything, he should be a memorial to God's faithfulness in his daily life in whatever circumstance. He is indebted to Him for his position in God's Son, YAHSHUA the Messiah. Holiness, first of all, is a call to all who are called God's children. Peter in his first letter emphatically taught that we should pursue holiness. It is written, You should be holy, for I am holy (1:15-16) referring to Leviticus 11:44-45 when the Lord was giving instructions to Moses and his brother, Aaron to pass on to the people of Israel. This message is passed on to us today, for the Lord we serve and love is the same as Israel's. The memories of

God's faithfulness toward Israel are written in the many pages of the Bible. It is true that we do not have a memorial written about His faithfulness toward the rest of us, but we do have a life that can reflect God's goodness and faithfulness when we are in tune with Him. O give thanks to the YAHWEH, for He is good; for His mercy and loving-kindness endure forever. Oh, that men would praise YAHWEH...for His wonderful works to the children of men! Whose is wise will observe and heed these things; and they will diligently consider the mercy and loving-kindness of the Lord (Psalm 107: 1,8b,43).

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden, nor do men light a lamp and put it under a peck measure, but on a lampstand and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, said YAHSHUA, that they may see your **good works and praise your Father Who is in heaven** (Mat. 5:14-16). Our lives are instruments of praise to the Father when we are abiding in YAHSHUA and in His Word. The results will be the bearing of fruit that will show a memorial of His faithfulness wherever we go. And that, my friend, constitutes our life to be a memorial unto YAHWEH registering His faithfulness to us, with an invitation like that of the Psalmist: Come, and hear, all who worship and fear God, and I will declare what He has done for me (Ps. 66:16).

Israel as a nation has more to be a memorial of God's faithfulness to the world than any other nation. Righteous or not this nation experienced one supernatural miracle, after another in their journey through the desert to the Promised Land. Their existence today in itself is a tremendous memorial of what YAHWEH has done for them. From the beginning of the creation of this nation, we see powerful miracles opening doors of impossibilities to the human eyes. Take the Red Sea, for example. Who would or could ever part the voluminous waters of that body of water to form walls so that millions of people could pass through in dry land? Who could transform rocks into a waterfall to satisfy the thirst of those people? Who could nourish those people bread from heaven for forty years? And who could command the waters of the Jordan to be divided for that nation to cross it to their final destination? These are just a few memorials one cannot deny the existence of Israel's God. Israel, as a nation, should stand as a memorial of God to the entire world shining YAHWEH'S existence, faithfulness, and loving-kindness. But Israel chose to follow the gods of the nations, failing to recognize even their own when He came to live among them. Hated by many nations, Israel's wick is snuffed out. Joshua, under the direction of YAHWEH, commanded the people to

gather twelve stones after their crossing the Jordan River, as a memorial forever. A memorial for all the people of the earth to know that the hand of YAHWEH is mighty and that they may reverence and fear Him forever (Joshua 4:24).

Should not the death of YAHSHUA be a memorial to all who professes Him as Lord and Savior? Should it not be a memorial to all who have and are experiencing the new birth in YAHSHUA? Isaiah 53 opens our understanding when he says, He (YAHSHUA) shall see [the fruit] of the travail of His soul and be satisfied; by His knowledge of Himself Shall My Righteous One, My Servant, justify many and make many righteous, for He shall bear their iniquities and their guilt (53:11). When He gave up His life on the cross and the soldiers confirmed His death by piercing His side, the new birth happened. Before His death, YAHSHUA told Nicodemus that, unless a man is born of water and [even] the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God. What is born of [from] the flesh is flesh; and what is born of the Spirit is spirit (John 3:5-6). The believer is the fruit of His travail. And as such we have a responsibility to the world to live our life as a memorial of YAHWEH'S faithfulness. But the church of Messiah, like Israel, failed Him. Many will never experience the joy that comes from the relationship of knowing Him. Therefore, their lives will never reflect as a memorial of YAHWEH'S faithfulness.

What should the life of a believer reflect? Paul said, and all of us, as with unveiled face, continued to behold as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another from the Lord [who is] the Spirit (II Cor. 3:18). For God who said, Let light shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts so as [to beam forth] the Light for the illumination of the knowledge of the majesty and glory of God [as it is manifest in the Person and is revealed] in the face of YAHSHUA the Messiah (II Cor. 4:6). The life of a believer should reflect beams of light that shine YAHWEH'S faithfulness as a memorial to the world and a book of remembrance will be written of them in heaven, and YAHWEH will say, they shall be Mine; in that day when I publicly recognize and openly declare them to be My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own won who serves him (Mal. 3:16-17) modified.

**THINK ABOUT IT !**