



Names

Hevron – Hebron

Kefa – Peter

Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ in the Greek means to be smudged – anointed

Moshe – Moses

Rivkah – Rebecca

Shaul – Paul

Shlomo – Solomon

Yeshua – Jesus' real name

Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15)

Yitz'chak – Isaac

Yochanan – John

Terms

Chayei Sarah – 5th Torah portion

Haftarah – reading from the prophets

Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible

Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible

Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the Torah

Chayei Sarah means, "life of Sarah." In this portion, Sarah dies at the age of 127 and Abraham asks to buy the cave of Makhpelah in Hevron to bury her there.

Stay in the light where the Holy Spirit is at work; do not deny the promise of Messiah Yeshua. Yeshua promised us another helper. John 14:15-17 NKJV, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth." The first helper is the Torah, God's commandments; the Holy Spirit is another helper. But the Holy Spirit is often taught as being our conscience and often not much more than that.

Rabbi Shaul said in 1 Corinthians 4:20 NKJV, "For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power." So the people who are saying it is only in word have it wrong. Yeshua told us that we have power through the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8 NKJV says, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."

Kefa said that we are to also receive the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38-39 says, "Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." This is an important scripture because some people teach that only Yeshua's disciples were given power. The Bible teaches that we also can experience the power of God.

Israel experienced the power of God as they left Egypt over and over. Some 2 million people experienced the light of God's presence at night (the shekinah glory) and a cloud by day for forty years. False teachers say that God has somehow stopped intervening in this world. They contradict the Bible. As we can see, God is an ever-active God.

Why are people denying God's power? Perhaps it has to do with their man-made theology,

their man-made doctrine. They are locked into their own doctrine because that is their theology or belief system.

Sometimes people who experience God's power can act inappropriately and because of this, some dismiss God's power. I once heard of people giving people prophetic messages at Starbucks coffee shops. The prophecy may have been genuine and have helped people to come to God, but what they are practicing is inappropriate and out of place. I have heard of people doing strange things while speaking in tongues. It tends to malign the gift; **no one** has to do anything weird when they speak in tongues.

Just because people may do something inappropriate with their spiritual gift, God's gifts are still good. Yeshua says in Luke 11:11-13 NKJV, "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Shaul says in 1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts." We are commanded to desire God's spiritual gifts in spite of those who misuse them.

Truths that demonstrate God's goodness are appealing; God's power and His amazing reality are overwhelmingly real and true. Years ago I wasn't interested in watching sports until I began playing them. I remember watching my parents play cards, but it was a lot more fun playing cards than just watching. Just sitting in a pew is not actually following God. Following God is more complex than that.

What do some churches do?

For whatever reason, some churches seem to make up God.

Some churches make themselves into God and say people must follow them.

Other churches will say their beliefs are true in spite of a correct understanding of the Bible in its proper context.

Some churches seem more afraid of God and His power than wanting to trust in Him.

Some think that God is detached with life and they may even treat the idea of God as just a personal preference.

Some churches see themselves as just a social venue or even just an entertainment activity.

I left a church once that taught the pastors good advice and some thought we stopped believing in God when we left. I suppose some of the people thought his good advice was biblical truth.

Some churches actually think that belonging to a building is what makes you right with God.

Perhaps you have seen other problematic attitudes. Doing what God commands us is what makes us right. Those that live in sin will not be in the future kingdom. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone."

People often consider authenticity with a building. The early believers in the Messiah often met in smaller settings. 1 Corinthians 16:19 NKJV says, "The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. Where was the church? It was in a house. Colossians 4:15 NKJV: "Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house." When the 3,000 believed in Acts 2, they had several thousand believers who could teach about God in their homes. That is where our children are supposed to learn about God. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 NKJV says, "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." It does not say we need to go to a building.

People go to a building because they are not doing what the Bible says to do in their homes. Acts 2:46 NKJV tells us that they fellowshiped in the home – "Breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart." When would they have time to fellowship? It was not like our modern day with all our conveniences. They would have fellowshiped on the day of rest, Shabbat.

We are limited in our ability to see the big picture. We need to grow up spiritually to understand better. How can we grow up if all we do is go sit in church once a week and put in our hour? It's sort of like telling a toddler not walk. He could walk if we let him, but perhaps we are too afraid of what they will do if they started walking.

I was in a church once that had people doing all kinds of activities related to their spiritual lives. I think it was almost 60 types of service in a congregation of just a few hundred. Compare that with most churches that do not encourage people to use their spiritual gifting. Many just go to church and get entertained for an hour. That is what they have committed their life to. I went to a church years ago and put in my one hour a week and thought, "There has got to be more to this."

There is a lot of worldly information out there. It subverts and sidetracks us from our spiritual growth and our spiritual direction. Information can be put together and even just made up by a person. Many people who go to church are just following a man-made doctrine. Isaiah 29:13 NKJV says, "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men."

If you are following commandments and doctrines of man, you are following man and not God. In fact, anything man-made is sort of like an idol. Do you seek God? Then follow God and His commandments. He knows what is best for us and has our best interests at heart. How much of what I shared about churches is true? It is too bad isn't it.

Have you ever gotten lost and had to go through great pain to get to where you wanted to go? You surely do not want to stay lost. Yeshua said in Luke 19:10 NKJV, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Wrong doctrine results in a wrong direction.

Find truth and live right; get headed in the right direction. The Bible says about God's commandments, "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people;'" Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV. We need wisdom and understanding, especially the wisdom of an all-knowing God.

Torah Study

Chayei Sarah means, "life of Sarah." In this portion, Sarah dies at the age of 127 and Abraham asks to buy the cave of Makhpelah in Hebron to bury her there. Abraham pays Efron 400 silver shekels for the cave. It is evident that he finds this cave important; perhaps its past connections were meaningful to him. It was supposedly where Adam and Eve were buried.

Abraham says he is a sojourner and a foreigner. He is an alien living among them. He asks to purchase a burial site in Genesis 23:4 NKJV, "I am a foreigner and a visitor among you." This is something that believers in the true God have been able to turn around and attach special meaning to. As we have talked about in the past, Abraham crossed over from the East where he was a pagan. The word Hebrew was given to him by the people in Canaan. Being Hebrew essentially means "crossed over" from the pagan East. We are commanded to confess this around the time of the Passover. We say that we are pagan Arameans on the day of first fruits which is right after Passover (Deuteronomy 26:5-10). I remember my dad saying this when I was little; we are what!?

We do this out of humility and we recognize our roots. God has made us His people; we have so much to be thankful for. Like I have said in past teachings, the story of Abraham was important in Jewish culture. Gentiles often do not understand this. They focus on one section of the Gospels where the leaders of Yeshua's times identify with Abraham and then these misguided teachers say how messed up the Jews were. They focus on a few people who were thinking wrong and do not see the obvious connections in the New Testament portion about this important topic. After talking about Abraham, in the book of Hebrews 11:13-16 NKJV says:

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."

The Jews properly came up with the understanding that we are no longer pagan foreigners, but we are now strangers or foreigners to this pagan world; we look forward to a new heaven and earth where we all do what is right. 2 Peter 3:13 NKJV says, "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." It will be a wonderful and amazing time! Isaiah 64:3, 4 NKJV, "No one has ever heard, no ear perceived, no eye seen, any God but you. You work for him who waits for you. ... If we keep

your ancient ways, we will be saved." God's work is beyond our ability to comprehend! If people want to be saved, it says we must keep God's ancient ways. So the people who say that the Bible is old fashioned are wrong.

*The people who say we do not have
to follow God's commandments are wrong.*

Kefa writes to those who live outside of Jewish society and says, "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God;" 1 Peter 2:11-12 NKJV. "Sojourners" most certainly would have resonated with them. They were strangers even as Abraham was a stranger; and instead of living a life as a pagan evildoer by not keeping God's commandments, they were to keep God's commandments (good works refers to keeping God's commandments). As a people who are on a pilgrimage like Abraham, they were to seek the future kingdom that God has prepared for them. If they take the right path and keep God's commandments, their walk culminates in the future kingdom of God.

Take some time to think this through. We are grateful that we are no longer pagans who have crossed over from the East. We are now those who will cross over someday into a different world just as our father Abraham. Therefore, we are children of Abraham by faith. Probably other scriptures come to mind as well. You can begin plugging them into this understanding the Jews had. The Gentiles were no longer strangers and foreigners. Have fun with this instead of making up random studies on numbers and letters as some do. Perhaps some of their studies are good applications. Yeshua said they were mostly just diversions that were off track (John 5:39).

*Some were so off track with reading into the scriptures
that they did not know the Messiah was here!*

Continuing on with the portion; Abraham then sends his servant to find a wife for Yitz'chak in Nachor's city in Aram-Naharayim (Mesopotamia). He does this because he does not want Yitz'chak to marry an unbeliever from the land of Canaan. Abraham says that God would send His angel before his servant. When his servant gets to the city it is evening and it was time for the women to draw water. Abraham's servant prays and asks God for a sign that the woman whom he asks water from will say yes and also offer to water his camels. Before he could finish asking God, Rivkah the daughter of Nachor came.

This is not just a funny story at the well, but a recording of God orchestrating events to make His will known. Abraham's servant then asks for a drink of water and she complies and also offers to water his camels. He asked if they had room to stay and she said that they did. When he arrives at the home of Lavan, Rivkah's brother greets Abraham's servant in the name of yud-hey-vav-hey, (God's real name, Yě-hō-váh¹ – יהוה).

¹ The name for God is Yě-hō-váh as seen in over 2,363 manuscripts to date. Only once as Yehoveh; **never as Yahweh**. The name Yahweh was just made up by a Gentile theologian.

Yě-hō-váh, "This is My name forever" Exodus 3:15 NKJV

Before Abraham's servant eats, he explains why he is there and the events that God had orchestrated to bring them together. He lets them know why he is there and asks them if he needs to look elsewhere for a wife for Yitz'chak. They recognize that God has brought them together and he was able to return right away with Rivkah even though they asked him to stay. Rivkah and Yitz'chak end up seeing each other in a field when Rivkah was almost back. Yitz'chak then takes Rivkah as his wife. Abraham has another wife named Keturah after Sarah and she has six sons before Abraham dies at the age of 175, Yitz'chak inherits Abrahams possessions. The descendants of Yishmael are given at the end of this portion; he dies at the age of 137.

This portion records the deaths of both Abraham and Sarah. The Jewish writings say that the cave of Makhpelah that Abraham bought for his family's burial is where Adam and Eve were buried. In this portion, the highlight of this portion is when God orchestrates the events to bring Rivkah back as Yitz'chak's wife. Abraham sends his servant trusting God that his servant will bring back a wife for Yitz'chak. Then God works out the details.

We see events like these happening to the prophets in the Tanakh and they also occurred frequently to Yeshua. Yeshua's disciples experienced miraculous events as they followed Yeshua wherever He went. In the case of Abraham's servant and also for Rivkah's family, it was apparent to them that the LORD - Yě-hō-váh, יהוה, orchestrated the events to bring back Rivkah as Yitz'chak's wife. After Yeshua ascended to heaven, his talmidim recalled many of the events they witnessed and saw how God had orchestrated the events to show them that Yeshua is indeed the Messiah. It should also be evidence to us that God is in control. I have witnessed events that were set up by God and they are very exciting.

Woe to him who strives with his Maker! ... Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Isaiah 45:9 NKJV.

The Haftarah for Chayei Sarah is 1 Kings 1:1-31. This reading takes place just before the death of King David. King David is sick and one of his sons began to claim that he was king. Bat-Sheva asks King David if he hadn't told her that Shlomo would be king. Natan also comes in and asks King David about Adoniyah's claim to the throne. King David then orders Shlomo to be anointed king.

In the Torah portion we see Abraham sticking to what God told him to do about Yitz'chak being the heir of promise. Although men may think that they are the ones who are in power and they are the ones that know how to procure power, it was God who ultimately chose the line of people who would bless the earth and who would be the Messiah, namely Yeshua our Messiah. Abraham gave his life to serve the true God and God gave him a blessed life; his life was not without trials, but he stood strong and through Abraham, the entire world has been blessed tremendously. We also can be a people who give our lives to God and bless this world. Never minimize your contribution as a follower of the creator God and our Messiah Yeshua.

God Will Accomplish His Will – Trust in God

Take hold of what God has given us; keeping darkness at bay.

Shaul says to the Philippians that they have obeyed God and to make sure they continue to work out their salvation **with fear and trembling**. There is a sense of urgency in what Shaul has to say. We either do what is right in our own eyes or keep God's commandments. In order to do what is right, we first must cooperate with God and then He can work in us through the Holy Spirit. Think about it this way. Say you are working construction and you are helping to put up a house. The other person says hold this while I secure this section of framing, but instead we decide to do things our own way and the wall just falls onto the ground. Doing things our own way is making up our own commandments; our ideas are not necessarily God's commandments.

God tells us that His commandments are good and are a blessing and help for us. We should memorize this scripture; Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'" Just like doing your job right accomplishes something, keeping the commandments in the Old Testament portion are an amazing blessing for us. Philippians 2:12-13 NKJV says, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." What did they obey? God's commandments. As I have said before, there was no New Testament portion at the time. How important is keeping God's commandments? I'd say "fear and trembling" makes the point a big, "Yes, they are important!"

Then the Holy Spirit that we are to receive when we believe in Yeshua helps us with the smaller details. Yeshua said we are to ask for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:11-13). God's commandments are not supposed to change; after all, they are great and important commandments that help us live life. Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV says, "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."

Why do you suppose that we are not to add commandments? If we do that, we begin micromanaging life, and adding commands can make life more of a burden. Instead of 613 commandments in Yeshua's time, they ended up with thousands of commandments and it became too difficult to follow God. It is not all the extra man-made commandments that help us follow God; in this Messianic era it is the working of the Holy Spirit that helps us; that is what is supposed to help us with the details since the Messiah came.

*Do not follow man-made
commandments that micromanage life.*

We actually only end up with a couple hundred commands from the Old Testament because some of them only were for the Jewish priests and their service at the Temple. We also have about 1,050 commands in the New Testament that have been properly applied from the Old

Testament portion; we do not have thousands of commandments to follow. One of the things that adding thousands of commandments does is cause arguing about the little details, and some of these details that are argued about have nothing to do with God. What does putting on your right shoe first as some believe they must do have to do with God! I have been around people arguing about which spoon to use; what are they thinking?

That is why Shaul goes on to say to stop arguing about little meaningless details. He says in Philippians 2:14-15 NKJV, "Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world." If they are all the time fighting over ritual that are not God's commandments, they will not be lights to the world. In fact, doing all these extra traditions and rituals and calling them commandments of God is not Jewish because they contradict the Bible. I am not saying we cannot do ritual; ritual is embedded in life. It is making these things into God's commandments that is wrong. Some ritual is commanded by God. Also, people who say we cannot do ritual are also making up a man-made commandment by saying we can't do that. Oh, you can't use that spoon; really?!

Shaul then tells us in Philippians 2:16 to hold onto God's words of life. "Holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain." What are God's words of life? Deuteronomy 6:2 NKJV says, "Keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that **your days may be prolonged.**" And in Deuteronomy 10:13 NKJV, "Keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today **for your good?**" If they give us wisdom and understanding, prolong our lives, and are good; then they are words of life. Do not listen to the people who are lying to you. The Bible actually says, "All liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone;" Revelation 21:8 NKJV. Now, that is scary. I do not want to handle God's word deceitfully (2 Corinthians 4:2); the consequences are not good.

If we are not keeping God's commandments in the Old Testament portion and New Testament portion we will not rejoice with the Messiah in the future kingdom; so make sure that your spiritual life includes actually doing what is right and not just thinking you are okay as some teach. You cannot put up a building by just thinking about it; you actually have to do it. We need to understand the Bible within the context it was written and not apply mistaken concepts that take the scriptures out of their original context.

*The Old Testament laws give us wisdom and understanding,
prolong our lives, and are good.*

Shaul says in 2 Corinthians 4 that he does not handle God's word deceitfully. People say the Old Testament is useless. God does not seem to think so! Shaul says in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NKJV, "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them." Gospel means "Messianic message" because the word is used in Messianic scriptures in the Old Testament portion. One of the things God gave us was the message about the Holy Spirit helping us to keep God's

commandments instead of thousands of extra man-made laws; this Messianic biblical concept has been hidden to many. The god of this world is a reference to the devil because that is who is working against us; the devil is at work against God and against us and wants to deceive us. Is the Old Testament done away with? Why would something that gives us wisdom and understanding, prolongs life, and is good be done away with? I sure hope not. that the Old Testament is done away with is The reasoning that the Old Testament commandments are done away with is the reasoning of unlearned teachers.

Put on the work of the Holy Spirit every day so that we live fully in the Lord.

We know that Abraham was a prophet and that God healed and spoke to mankind in the Old Testament; God still speaks to us and we have the Holy Spirit to help us. It says in Acts 1:8 NKJV that, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Some say that God's power is done away with. That is crazy isn't it. People seem to be doing away with God; and these people who are saying these crazy things are supposed to be believers, I guess.

*People seem to want to do away with God.
He is not going anywhere. They may be going somewhere.*

Kefa made is clear, God's works and power have not been done away with. "Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call;" Acts 2:38-39 NKJV. I suppose you could say that we are the ones who are "afar off." We can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit by asking God for His gift. It is a gift. So ask for it.

It is not true what they say, is it. The power of the Holy Spirit was at work with the early believers in Yeshua and is still at work in our day in time. Yeshua said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father;" John 14:12 NKJV. That is a huge statement because Yochanan said, "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written;" John 21:25 NKJV.

Our **prayer class** (<https://www.teshuvahsa.org/prayer-class>) has a lot of information in it about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how to use the gift of the Holy Spirit in a kind and conscientious way. You can also find our prayer class on our menu on our website at: www.teshuvahsa.org.

God can reach us wherever we are. God is not limited by mankind's rules or concepts.

The rabbis actually teach that we are supposed to listen to them instead of the Bible. Denominational religion, often says the same thing. They teach their own doctrine as though it is God's word. Sure they quote scriptures. Even the devil is an angel of light. There has to be some truth in a lie or people would easily figure it out. 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 says, "And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works." If they are teaching you God's commandments are

done away with, what are their works?

We are not to follow a man-made religion; instead we follow God. Do we want to follow a person or God? If we are willing to do what is right and we want a relationship with God, it does not matter if we are on a desert island with no one else around. God can still be there with us. Shaul said in Romans 8:38-39 NKJV, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Isn't that great! As we set aside our lives to live holy separate lives, keep God's commandments, live with the help of the Holy Spirit, and believe in and trust in God and our Messiah Yeshua, nothing can separate us from Him.

We have a witness in our father Abraham. At the age of 100 and when Sarah was 90, they had their child Isaac whom God promised to them. Yě-hō-váh (Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey; the exclusive name for God) ate and talked to Abraham in Genesis 18:14 NKJV and said, "Is anything too hard for the LORD? So if we are for God and don't turn our backs on Him; He will not turn His back on us.

Deuteronomy 31:6 NKJV says, "He will neither fail you nor abandon you."

We look to God although the things of the world look big and seem to be the way things are accomplished. Be faithful; trust in God and the Holy Spirit.

It seems mankind mostly trusts in themselves and not God. Psalms 20:7 NKJV says, "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God." Perhaps, what's interesting about this verse is that most believers refuse to use the real name of God, Yě-hō-váh . We know why God's name was stopped being used and that we were supposed to use God's name again after the persecution stopped. How can you say you trust in God's name if you never use it? Even an alternate name is used for Yeshua which is Jesus' real name. God's real name is not in any of our Bibles! Wow!

Psalms 46:1-3 NKJV tells us plainly that we are to trust in God during times of trouble. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling."

How many of us have heard that this conspiracy is going on or that is happening, but what is really most important? "Do not say, 'A conspiracy,' Concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow; **Let Him be your fear**, and let Him be your dread;" Isaiah 8:12-13 NKJV. There may be conspiracies going on, but we are to most of all trust in God and fear Him.

There are a number of congregations that take the work of the Holy Spirit out of their belief system. The Holy Spirit is good and is just as much a blessings as God's commandments. Why would God all of a sudden decide that God is not involved with His creation? That is just silly; He is God. I have a two volume book on healings and miracles. If God wasn't doing anything or not much as some think, how could we possibly come up with a two volume book

on miracles and healings? Zechariah 4:6-7 NKJV says, "'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts. Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain!" I find this remarkable. We must remember that God can do anything!

Let God be your fear and not the world.

The Holy Spirit is good. We are to receive and allow the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Shaul said, "Pursue love, and **desire spiritual gifts**, but especially that you may prophesy." 1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV. If we were not supposed to be doing any of this, why does the Bible say the opposite? Yeshua talked about the Holy Spirit. "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:11-13 NKJV. God want to give us His good gifts, so seek them. Also, what could be wrong with the work of the Holy Spirit in us. Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

In this portion, God orchestrated the events that brought Isaac and Rebecca together. God picked Isaac to continue the believing line and God fulfilled and accomplished His will. God is still at work in our day and time and will fulfill what He intends. God has given us His good commandments and His good Holy Spirit. Take hold of what He has given us just like Abraham took hold of God's promises and took them to heart.

God is there in all of life's situations and we can have the powerful work of the Holy Spirit in our every day life. Mankind does things their way, but we have a big God and we can trust in Him; so do things His way. We are to desire God's good work of the Holy Spirit which leads us and helps us; the Holy Spirit helps us live in peace, kindness and gentleness; and the Holy Spirit can and will do so much more than we imagine. Through the Holy Spirit, God can orchestrate His intentions and fulfill what He wills to accomplish. Just as He accomplished what He desired for Abraham who trusted in God, He will also accomplish and orchestrate His intentions through us; so be strong and trust in God.