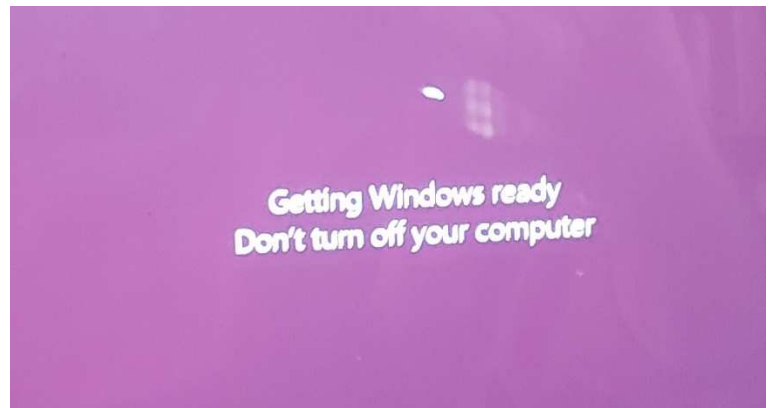
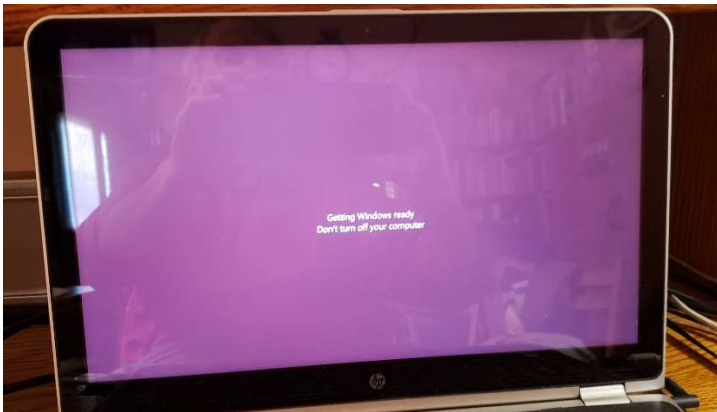


Letter to the Messianic Jews 6.1-3
First Principles, Part 5: Eternity
November 7, 2020



Dawn and I are DEEPLY appreciative.



At about 8:00 or earlier last week, Shabbat morning, [Oct. 31, 2020] I powered up my computer to review and rehearse my message. It was running really slow, so I rebooted. Then it went into this. So, I waited. And waited. About 8:30 I texted Brett, who said, just wait. If you turn it off “You can brick your computer.” Have to reinstall Windows. So, I waited. Nothing to do except pray and praise. No notes to review. No emails. About 9:00 I phone Rukhel, Cantor of the day, to tell her that she may have to do announcements. I may preach by phone. Then waited. Meanwhile, Brett told me that he was in the attic above the Youth Room and library, since the furnace fan wasn’t blowing. What else can go wrong?

About 9.30, [over an HOUR of spinning] with Brett’s advice, I took the gamble and turned it off by holding power button and forcing power down. Then a half minute later I restarted.

About 9:40 I had a computer. After an hour of shutdown and stress, and praise. Opened Zoom meeting. Quick review of message.

Does anyone remember Car Talk?



Its subjects were automobiles and automotive repair, discussed often in a humorous way. It was hosted by brothers [Tom and Ray Magliozzi](#), known also as "Click and Clack, the [Tappet Brothers](#)". Off air now. One of brothers died. Lives on a bit in emails ...

Why do chicken coops have two doors?
Because if they had four, they'd be chicken sedans!
Peter Tardiff CarTalk.com

When asked by a young patrol officer, "Do you know you were speeding?" The 83-year-old woman talked herself out of a ticket by stating, "Yes, but I had to get there before I forgot where I was going." George Piscitello CarTalk.com [<https://www.cartalk.com/content/lame-jokes-8>]

Not from Car Talk ...

The Dead Can Vote in New York



[<https://thejewishvoice.com/2020/11/proof-the-dead-can-vote-in-new-york/>]



A writer for the Jewish Voice's grandmother who died in 2011, received an express voting card and polling location in Brooklyn, NY.

Nevertheless, concerning the election...

Mishlei/Prov 8.14-15 Counsel and sound wisdom are mine. I have understanding and power. By me kings reign and princes decree justice.



<https://www.templeinstitute.org/new-location.htm>

MJ 6.1-3 Therefore, leaving behind the initial lessons about the Messiah, let us go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of (Note six foundations) [Six principles]

1turning from works that lead to death,

2trusting God, and

MJ 6.1-3 and 3instruction about washings, 4s'mikhah, 5the resurrection of the dead and 6eternal punishment. And, God willing, this is what we will do.

The first of the first principles is repentance.

[Do you, do I, have the sense of life without Messiah, however noble it may appear, is wrought in the context of death: ego, lust, materialism.]

MJ 6.1 2trusting God

This is MUCH MORE than mental assent to truth. Faith is also a decision to receive believe and trust the revelation. Live by it!

Immersion: radical commitment to learn Messiah and His holy ways.

4s'mikhah מִיְחָוָה noun

Receiving blessing and empowerment to serve in JOY

Is there a pattern of power?

1. Repentance from dead works.
2. Faith in G-d thru resurrected Messiah.
3. Instruction in obedience expressed in immersion.
4. Laying on of hands for joy and service.

Other early sources of initiation into the faith of Messiah:

1. The *Didache* first century
2. Justin Martyr's *First Apology* 150 CE second century
3. *Apostolic Constitutions* 200s CE Third century

[D. Thomas Lancaster, *Elementary Principles, Ch 7*

Similar to Grow Conf: Love G-d, Healing in Discipleships/Home groups, training, engagement.]

Lost people reborn	Cup of Sanctification	Know G-d	Yokhanan/ John Lion	Main service	Repentance
Reborn people healed	Cup of judgment	Find Freedom Emotionally Jewishly	Luke Man	Home groups	Faith/ Healing
Healed people trained	Cup of Redemption	Discover Develop your calling	Matthew Eagle	Training	Immersion/ Teaching
Trained people mobilized	Cup of fulfilment	Make a Difference	Mark Ox: plow or sacrifice	Dream team	Hands-on: joy and service

10 other scriptures where this pattern appears.

- Know G-d: the main weekend service
- Find freedom: intimacy and community of the small groups
- Discover purpose: discipleship and training
- Make a difference: Dream team

We're not done with Chris Hodges and the Grow Conference.

"Not yet begun to fight." John Paul Jones on the *Bonhomme Richard*, 1779, against the superior British ships.

We will win souls, and win moral battles!

So, what is?

the resurrection of the dead and eternal punishment.

First of all, what it is not.

[This takes the discussion into another dimension, somewhat implied in the first four, but needing to be articulated. Judgment and eternal punishment and hell and heaven are not popular topics, maybe as an overreaction to the morbid fascination with such in the Medieval and even Reformation days.]

Stereotypes:

1. Heaven is a place in the sky, or another dimension, where Kefa/Peter sits at the pearly gates and grants admission.
2. Everyone has a mansion.
3. There will be an eternal worship service.
4. People will be unrecognizable.
5. People will have no gender identity.
6. Peter sits and grants admission to the pearly gates.

1. New Jerusalem is NOT heaven. The gates of heaven are not pearly gates. ^{Rev. 21.21} And the twelve gates were twelve pearls — each of the gates was from a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

[New Jerusalem is a city, a cubical city descending from G-d, near to the current Jerusalem. We don't know the details, but it's not heaven as commonly conceived.]

2. ^{Yn 14.1} “Do not let your heart be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father's house there are many dwelling places.

In King James' era, mansion = dwelling.

["A mansion just over the hilltop" Me – I want my residence to be in the heart of downtown New Jerusalem, where the Throne is and the traffic is!]

3. ^{Rev 20.6} Blessed and holy is anyone who has a part in the first resurrection; over him the second death has no power. On the contrary, they will be cohanim of God and of the Messiah, and they will rule with him for the thousand years.

[We won't be only worshiping, but serving and ruling the universe! Quasars, pulsars, galaxies, black holes. You will easily go where no one has gone before.]

- 4 & 5. So he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me! And send Lazarus so he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, because I am suffering torment in this flame *[So, in eternity there is recognizable identity, and gender. Not say "Parent Abe."]*

•^{Mtt. 22.30} For in the Resurrection, neither men nor women will marry; rather, they will be like angels in heaven.

6. ^{Mtt. 16.18-19} you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My community; and the gates of Sheol will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

[No marriage, no physical intimacy.]

Keys (according to Adam Clarke) at ordination, s'mikhah, the rabbi was given a key to where the Torah scrolls were stored, the Aron. So, really means the Word, which Kefa /Peter powerfully handles on the great Shavuot Acts 2 brought 3000 people into the faith of the Messiah.]

Much of the time, in the B'sorot/Gospels 'heaven' is a circumlocution for 'G-d.'

[Circumlocution = word in place of another word. In place of saying the Name.]

Kingdom of heaven = Kingdom of G-d. Jews were used to circumlocution. NOT using the Sacred Name. Yeshua followed this. Never said it.

Mtt 6.20 Store up for yourselves wealth in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and burglars do not break in or steal. (=wealth in G-d.)

[No heavenly ATM where you can draw on your tithes and offerings. Relational.]

Phil 3.20 For our citizenship is in heaven, and from there we eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Yeshua the Messiah.

Similar to Roman citizenship.

[Not about going to Rome, or going to heaven.]

Mtt 19.12 Some...have renounced marriage for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven.

For the sake of G-d.

For land's sake.

For Pete's sake

[The phrase essentially uses Pete a mild substitute for G-d ... in this expression of annoyance or frustration. It's similar to the less-common, "[for the love of Mike](#)." For Land's sake.]

So, what really is?

♣the resurrection of the dead and ♠eternal punishment.

Going to heaven ≠ entering the kingdom of heaven.

[We enter the kingdom of heaven when we received Yeshua in repentance, faith, immersion/learning, ordination to service.]

There is a temporary place for the not yet resurrected deceased.

Lk 16.19-23 "Once there was a rich man who used to dress in the most expensive clothing and spent his days in magnificent luxury. At his gate had been laid a beggar named El'azar who was covered with sores...In time the beggar died and was carried away by the angels to Avraham's side;

Lk 16.19-23,25-26 "the rich man also died and was buried. "In Sh'ol, where he was in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Avraham far away...now he is comforted here, and you are tormented. Besides all this, between us and you a great chasm is firmly set.

[So, there is a place after death, before the resurrection.]

Jewish burial. Hevra kadishah חֲבֵרַת קְדִישָׁא organization of Jewish men and women who see to it that the bodies of deceased Jews are prepared for burial according to Jewish tradition and are protected from desecration, willful or not, until burial. Two of the main requirements are the showing of proper respect for a corpse, and the ritual cleansing of the body and subsequent dressing for burial. It is usually referred to as a burial society in English.m*[In a terrorist event, ALL body parts and fluids must be found and buried.]*



My בטחון *bitakhon* vest, means security, but worn by the members of the Hevra Kadisha when gathering up body parts after a terrorist bombing.

[I thought it was cool, as an Israeli security outfit, until one Israeli lady told me she was a bit traumatized by it, told me the use after a Pigua פיגוע suicide bombing. Other times too, but that was the most dramatic.]

Acts 9.36-37 In Joppa, there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translates as gazelle). She was full of mitzvot and tzedakah [charity], which she continually did. In those days, she became ill and died. **When they had washed her for burial**, they placed her in an upstairs room.

Yn 19.39-40 Nicodemus, who had first visited Yeshua at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Yeshua and **wrapped it in linen** with the spices, as is the Jewish burial custom.

The Hevra Kadisha members begin by immersing themselves in a mikvah. Then they gather up and wash and dress the deceased, reciting Psalms. Bodies are buried in 24 hours, unless time is needed for family to gather.

Burial is in a cloth or pine box with no nails. Nothing to hinder “dust returning to dust.” **Those who washed the body then have another immersion.**

1 Cor. 15.29 **Were it otherwise [no resurrection], what would the people accomplish who are immersed on behalf of the dead?**

[Honoring the deceased in front of them and hoping/preparing for the resurrection of the dead.]

If the dead are not actually raised, why are people immersed for them?

Cf Mormon custom of being immersed for the salvation of deceased relatives, and ancestral search.

[Honoring the deceased in front of them and hoping/preparing for the resurrection of the dead.]

Mourners stay at the gravesite until the body is lowered, then throw in the shovels full of dirt, then say Kaddish.

Acts 8.2 **Some godly men buried Stephen and mourned him deeply**

1 Cor 15.51-53 **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruptibility, and this mortal must put on immortality.**

[This body is significant. Although will return to dust. Orthodox do not cremate. Personally, I think that cremation just expedites the return to dust process. G-d does not need an intact body to resurrect us. So, someone dies at sea, and body eaten by sea life. G-d can find us. So, take care of your body. Eat well and healthy.]

So, what really is?

♣the resurrection of the dead and ♣eternal punishment.

Our hope of eternal life is not heaven. It is resurrection!

Messiah was first resurrected.

1 Cor 15.23-26 **But each in its own order: Messiah the firstfruits; then, at His coming, those who belong to Messiah; then the end, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.**

Acts 3.31-33 **[David] was speaking in advance about the resurrection of the Messiah, that it was he who was not abandoned in Sh’ol and whose flesh did not see decay. God raised up this Yeshua! And we are all witnesses of it! “Moreover, he has been exalted to the right hand of God; has received from the Father what he promised, namely, the Ruakh HaKodesh; and has poured out this gift, which you are both seeing and hearing.**

[So, ultimately, He went into heaven ... G-d's presence, but only for a time. Key issue is the resurrection. And, we are walking in resurrection power NOW, if we choose to receive it.]

Rev. 5.9-10 "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals; because you were slaughtered; at the cost of blood you ransomed for God persons from every tribe, language, people and nation. **You made them into a kingdom for God to rule, cohanim to serve him; and they will rule over the earth.**"
[What about eternal judgment?]

Yn 5.22-23 The Father does not judge anyone but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, so that all may honor the Son as they honor the Father.

[We have this image of the gentle Yeshua and stern Father.]

Two resurrections

Yn 5.25-27 Yes, indeed! I tell you that there is coming a time — in fact, it's already here — when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and **those who listen will come to life.** For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has given the Son life to have in himself. Also he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

Yn 5.28-29 "Do not be amazed at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out! Those who have done good will come to a resurrection of life, and those who have done evil will come to a resurrection of judgment.

Daniel 12.2-3 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake—some to everlasting life, and others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavenly expanse. And those who turn many to righteousness will be like the stars forever and ever.

[The duration of resurrection to life is equivalent to the duration of the resurrection of the punishment of the lost.]

Resurrection of the righteous

(not in ourselves righteous, but receiving righteousness by the Blood of the Lamb.)

Ro 6:5 For if we have become joined together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also will be joined together in His resurrection—

1 Cor. 15-49-50 And just as we have borne the image of the one made from dust, so also shall we bear the image of the One from heaven. Now I say this, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, and what decays cannot inherit what does not decay.

So, is there justice in the universe?

Rev 20.11-14 I saw a great white throne and the One sitting on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, both great and small, standing in front of the throne. Books were opened; and another book was opened, the Book of Life; and the dead were judged from what was written in the books, according to what they had done. The sea gave up the dead in it; and Death and Sh'ol gave up the dead in them; and they were judged, each according to what he had done. Then Death and Sh'ol were hurled into the lake of fire. This is the second death — the lake of fire.

Rev. 1.12-16 I turned around to see who was speaking to me; and when I had turned, I saw seven gold menorahs; and among the menorahs was someone like a Son of Man, wearing a robe down to his feet and a gold band around his chest. His head and hair were as white as snow-white wool, his eyes like a fiery flame, his feet like burnished brass refined in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, out of his mouth went a sharp double-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

Rev. 1.17-19 **When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. But He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid! I am the First and the Last, and the One who lives. I was dead, but look—I am alive forever and ever! Moreover, I hold the keys of death and Sheol.**

**Justice is achieved in the Person of the Kingdom of G-d in the King of the Universe.
Yeshua IS justice, and will bring justice.**

Yeshayahu/Is 9.6 **For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; dominion will rest on his shoulders, and he will be given the name**

פְּלֵא יוֹעֵץ, אֵל גִּבּוֹר, אָבִי-עַד, שֶׁר-שְׁלוֹם.

Pele-Yo‘etz El Gibbor, Avi-‘Ad, Sar-Shalom

(Wonder of a Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace)

[We have become disconnected from the eternal Father. Lost.]

Justice is the re-establishment of the righteous rule of the Father of eternity.

T'hillim/Ps 10.16-18 **Adoni is king forever and ever!...to give justice to the fatherless and oppressed, so that no one on earth will strike terror again.**

T'hillim/Ps 146.9-10 **Adoni protects outsiders, upholds the fatherless and the widow, but thwarts the way of the wicked. Adoni will reign forever, your God, O Zion, from generation to generation.**

Halleluyah!

Rejection is the deepest, most underlying form of pain. RTF founders. Fatherlessness.



“After being bounced around in the foster care system as a child and thrown into detention centers and group homes, I finally landed in one of New York's most notorious all girl lock-downs. I would be there for three long years.

“It was full of a few hundred girls just like me - unwanted, forgotten girls who many times came with a long history of abuse and trauma that resulted in multiple behavioral, emotional, and psychological issues.

“Over 90 percent of girls in facilities like this will age out and face a life of poverty, addiction, unplanned pregnancies, mental

health issues, and the belief that there is nothing more for them.

“This was the case for me as I found myself pregnant out of rape, homeless, and on the verge of a mental breakdown.

“Through a series of miracles, God plucked me off of the streets of New York and put me in a tiny Christian maternity home all the way down in Lindale, Texas.

“A few months later, I would give birth to a precious baby boy that I would place for adoption just 9 weeks later.

“He deserved so much more than I could have given him, and so I gave him everything that I had never had. It remains the most difficult thing I've ever done, but it also remains the most beautiful.

“We don't have to go overseas to find orphans. We are a nation FULL of orphans. We just call them wards of the state.

“You know me. My name is Rebecca Goulart.”

“Adonai’s hand has been so evident in my life and I’m so thankful to Him! I was conceived out of wedlock, but thankful for my young birth mother carrying me when there was more of a stigma years ago!

“She moved from Kentucky to Kansas City and rented a room from my Grandma on my Dad’s side. My praying Grandma on my Mom’s side had her over for Sunday dinners. Mom could not have children and the only grandchild died with polio before I was born. My family loved and supported my birth mother through the pregnancy and birth. She knew they would be better able to care for me and I would have a loving home. They brought me home right from the hospital and adopted me. My birth mother later married and had five more daughters and loved and served the Lord!

“I was totally comfortable with my adoptive family. Some people aren’t, but I was. I was curious as a teenager, wondering who my biological mother was, but I never wanted to hurt my family. I did figure out that I already knew her as a friend of the family. But she never interfered. She could see I had a good life.

“I’m a substitute teacher with precious special needs children. I’ve also participated in many areas of the pro-life movement. I know I was born for such a time as this. I was told this when I was arrested as a peaceful protestor for Operation Rescue in Wichita.

“I am so thankful I was not aborted, or my four children and six grandchildren would not be here!

“You know me. My name is Ann Sneary.”



“This is my father ... I think. I got this picture a few months ago. He died when I was 7, but I didn’t know it until recently. I had a name but no picture ... not even in my mind. That’s because I never met my father.

“Mom loved me, but sometimes the best human love doesn’t conquer all. Maybe if Mom had been loved by her husband, my two sisters wouldn’t have died as babies. I never met them either. I’m sure that’s why Mom was mentally ill. That’s why my older brother and I were taken away. He lived with his Dad and stepmother.

“I was 7. I didn’t understand when Mom and Grandma told me I had to live somewhere else. They understood all too well. It was heartbreaking for all of us. I spent one night in an orphanage, then I went into foster care. I was in one home for a year, then the second home until I graduated from high school. That’s rare. Most foster kids are bounced from one home to another, or group homes.

“Later in life I met one of my former social workers. He said, “You should be very proud of yourself. Foster kids don’t graduate from high school. Foster kids don’t go to college. Foster kids don’t graduate from college. And they sure don’t have a career.” G-d had guided and blessed me to have all that, plus a good marriage, and so much more.

“You know me. My name is Lori Wilson.”

“I was adopted when I was just a few days old. My parents already had another adopted daughter, so I had an older sister. We went to an alive evangelical, spirit-filled church. I was saved when I was 6 years old. My adoptive parents sent me to summer camp. That was a giant influence in my life. I carried my Bible to school and I was on fire. I had that good influence to prepare me for the onslaught that was coming.

“The onslaught began early, when my adoptive mother died. I was 9 years old. My father never remarried, but I did have a good female influence in my life. My Aunt Helen used to help us a lot. She taught me how to sew and cook. She was super-talented in sewing and knitting and all that. I joined the church when I was 12 years old.

“My father died when I was 21. I’ve been married and divorced. Two of my six children have died. Later in life, when I was searching for G-d, I realized G-d never left me. He gently guided me back to Him.

“I’ve been very blessed. Recently I’ve found my biological family. Nothing but love has come from them. They remarked how I take after the traits of the family. My niece said I reminded her so much of her mom.

“I have worked toward healing. G-d will transform and heal you. It takes time but he WILL complete the work.

“You know me. My name is Louise Ballard.”

So, what really is?

the resurrection of the dead and eternal punishment.

It is the establishment of the reign of the eternal Father.

Rev. 21.2-7 I also saw the holy city—the New Jerusalem—coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I also heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the dwelling of God is among men, and He shall tabernacle among them. They shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them and be their God. He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Nor shall there be mourning or crying or pain any longer, for the former things have passed away.” And the One seated upon the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new!” Then He said, “Write, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will freely give from the spring of the water of life. The one who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But for the cowardly and faithless and detestable and murderers and sexually immoral and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars—their lot is in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

