

The Voice of Spring



FREE



We who wrote this paper actually live together like an extended family, sharing all things in common, just as the first disciples did in the first century. The Bible plainly says regarding the first church, "All who believed were together and shared all things in common."¹ It goes on to describe how they were of one heart and soul, and that there was not a needy person among them, for they gave up all their possessions to meet the needs of their spiritual brothers and sisters.² Some people say this was only for back then, but we've been living this way for over 40 years. You can come and see for yourself at any of our addresses, which are printed in the back of this paper and on our web site, www.twelvetribe.org.

In each of our communities, there are one or more houses in a cluster, some in cities and some on farms. Several families and single people live together in each house, according to the size of the house. We like large houses because we like to live together. Married couples have their own rooms, plus as many adjacent rooms as needed for their children. The single men share one or more rooms, as do the single women. We all share a common kitchen and dining room, where we take our meals together "with gladness and sincerity of heart."³

In at least one house in the cluster we have a large gathering room where we gather together every morning and evening to worship our Creator in song and dance as in Psalm 150, using the prescribed musical instruments that we are learning to build and play. We are all free to speak from our hearts the things we are learning, as our heavenly Father teaches us through one another, according to the gifting and grace given to each per-

son.⁴ As a spiritual priesthood, we pray together for the pressing needs of our people and for our Father's will to be done on earth.

After our morning gathering we have breakfast together and then go to work in our various places, doing the deeds prepared for each one of us.⁵ We work together in our own cafés, farms, cottage industries, and trades, not as independent contractors or employees of outside companies. All income from our various endeavors goes into a common purse from which all of our needs are met equitably. We don't have our own independent income or debts to carry by ourselves, except for the debt of love we owe to our Savior, which we repay by loving and caring for one another.

We love and cherish our children. We teach them at home, using a curriculum we are developing ourselves, to give them the basic skills they need to read, write, and speak effectively, to live together in peace, and to fulfill their created purpose. Our children's training goes far beyond the classroom, however, as they are fully integrated into every aspect of our socially and spiritually rich tribal life. They learn to cook and sew, build and farm, care for animals, sing and dance, play musical instruments, and most importantly, extend hospitality to the constant flow of guests who are drawn to the light of our life of love.

Together we are experiencing and demonstrating the restoration of all things spoken of by the prophets of old,⁶ and by our Master Yahshua,⁷ whose life, death, and resurrection make this life possible. ✱

⁴1 Corinthians 14:26; 1 Peter 4:11; Romans 12:6 ⁵Ephesians 2:10 ⁶Isaiah 49:6; Jeremiah 30:20; 31:1,4,13,14; Malachi 4:5-6 ⁷Matthew 5:17-19; 17:10-11; 22:37-40; Luke 1:17; 24:44 (*Yahshua* is the original Hebrew name of the one called *Jesus* in most English translations of the Bible. See page 12 for more about this name.)

¹Acts 2:44 ²Acts 4:32-35 ³Acts 2:46

The Voice of Spring

Long ago, Yahshua, the Messiah, spoke with the voice of a prophet of things to come. He spoke of the darkest times yet to face humanity, and also of signs to come that overflow with the promise of hope — the hope of an age of peace. Perhaps we are embarking upon the very days in which His prophecies will begin to be fulfilled.

He spoke of wars.

Once again cannons fire and missiles fly as heavy steel death machines roll in with horrifying thunder. The gravity of it all makes the blood flow down... always followed by the soft, falling streams of tears. The great and terrible wars of mankind are built out of the same uncivilized substance that rears its ugly head in the many deep trials of our civilian relationships. All the while we say that we long for peace.



He spoke of rumors of war.

Mankind amasses weapons higher and higher in sinister, antagonistic preparation, while soldiers are equipped with the brutality needed to engage in some not-too-distant and inevitable day... when the tears will flow once again. If only we could see where the wounds we nurse, the grudges we hold, and the bitterness we cling to will surely lead! Deep inside, we all want to get along.

He spoke of nation rising against nation.

The cruelty of history takes yet another horrific lap round an inescapable track, handing down to the next generation an inheritance of convincing proofs of our slavery to fallen human nature. When will we ever learn, oh, when will we ever learn? Often we don't realize how trapped we are until we really try to be free.

He spoke of kingdom set against kingdom.

The insatiable, heartless climb to be the one on top is always accompanied by indifference and numbness to the cost of those who are crushed at the bottom. Generation upon generation deeply inculcates these fallen "virtues" into the next — to want to be noticed, to stand out, to be acknowledged as someone great. To esteem others as greater than oneself remains one of mankind's most uncultivated traits. Yet righteousness cries out, "Are we all not members of one human race?"

He spoke of famine.

It remains a taunting injustice that on such a rich and abundant planet so many face hunger, need, and want. It is upon the same abundant planet, with all its highly civilized, densely populated societies full of comfort and ease, that so many know all too well the



desperate, gnawing hunger of loneliness. Will this savage curse of injustice ever be broken?

He spoke of pestilence.

The Death Angel swoops in yet again with the sickle set to the harvest — a plague that sends feverish shock waves reverberating throughout the human race. As humanity is infected with fear of this ominous and invisible enemy, we all know that this is not the first time that angel has come near... nor will it be the last. Still, even more insidious are the social viruses that are causing the whole human race to crumble and melt down before our very eyes. Is there any true refuge for life?

He spoke of earthquakes.

All that seems immovable, everything that promises stability, the firmest strategy, the strongest security, and the highest impenetrable walls begin to crumble when the ground shakes and rumbles underfoot. Life's violent tremors far beyond your control make you long for what is solid — the true, unshakable Rock.

Knowing that this is just the beginning of the sorrowful birth pains that mark the culmination of this dark age will surely cause any mortal man to shudder.

But also upon the end-times battlefield, between light and darkness, good and evil, another player steps forward. Eagerly awaiting, those who have eyes that still look up to see beyond take special note, with hearts that ponder as they view the majestic sparkling of the stars

above. They observe the fresh grass emerging from the earth beneath with hearts that cling tightly to hope amid what seems utterly hopeless. These precious ones are brought into the secret counsel of the Conquerer. To their eyes, an ancient, unfailing, and undaunted declaration of the great promise is unveiled: one day darkness and death will be done away with! One day life will prevail. Good will triumph over evil.

So now the Voice of Spring is awakening, opening its mouth as if to echo the ancient teachings given by Yahshua — a teaching only meant for those have ears to hear, a lesson spoken only for the tenderhearted. He taught His lessons to those who would be called disciples.

Hidden throughout the earth, myriads of living creatures give birth to new life, so tender and fragile — mothers gently brooding over and caring for their defenseless young, innocent and unaware of the plagues that roam the earth. The Voice of Spring whispers its bold, unwavering message, as if to affirm His truth...

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Although the winter can be so long, and death is painful, tragic, and seemingly so final, the Voice of Spring tirelessly brings forth its enduring message of courage that hope will surely come, and to never lose heart. Resonating with the Voice of the Healer, it declares the truth...





“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted!”

Shining forth triumph in a spray of fragrant blooms, with precious petals so delicately crafted, arrayed in brilliant bursts of color, each so masterfully placed, the flowers wave their banners that seem to confidently boast, “Victory, victory, victory!” As the tender leaves emerge and unfurl, the unstoppable, tender buds burst forth from every high and low place, every crack and crevice under the warming sun. They are the Voice of the Spring that speaks the language that only the humble can hear, as if in perfect tune with this truth...

Blessed are the meek, for the meek shall inherit the earth.

To the ones who breathe in deeply the fresh, crisp air, cherishing the warming sunshine after the rain, ever-embracing the hope for true utopia to one day come upon a sickened world, tenaciously refusing to yield to despair despite the intense struggle, the Voice of the Spring cheers them on to say this truth:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

And to those who have been awakened by the heartache surrounding them, conscious that life is but a vapor, far too short to waste moments with petty bitterness and hurt feelings, they are

compelled to give more, and forgive more, in order to make every moment count. These are the ones who burn with compassion to find solutions to help in this painful struggle for meaning amid such a futile and cancerous age. They long to pour out their zeal only for the noblest of causes, and spend every last breath to have a consequential effect. To them, the Voice of Spring echoes this truth...

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Filling the skies overhead, the joyful orchestra of the winged birds somehow continually take note of what is praiseworthy, refusing to let their songs be silenced despite the darkness engulfing the earth. They take a leading role, resounding the anthem for the Voice of Spring — singing, imploring, and beseeching any listening ear to never forget this simple truth spoken from the heart of the Healer of long ago...

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

So, despite the sickness, tragedy, chaos, fear, confusion, sadness, brokenness, and dark seasons of mankind... yes, despite all these things, take note that the Voice of Spring reverberates powerfully, yet gently, timidly, yet majestically, swelling up from a Source too deep for words, a profound and unquenchable message full of hope:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

So comes the call. Despite your fears and failures, despite your brokenness and your guilt, despite your pain and scars, despite your loneliness and alienation, despite the horror, atrocities, and the sick, dark struggle that is so very real during a very troubled time on this planet, we join with the Voice of Spring and the Voice of the Savior of mankind by saying to you...

Come to us, all you who are weary and heavy laden! Come and find rest! Come to the side of the One who is victorious over death! Come and gather with those who are already gathered! Come and learn the Way of the Healer of our maladies! Come and learn from the One who holds the Power of Spring!

Responding to this call will cause His kingdom to come in reality, on earth as it is in heaven. The curse will be broken. Death will be done away with. Life will prevail. Love will prevail. Come! 🍀

From time to time, radical men and their radical thoughts have swept across the stage of history. When these men appear, they disturb the comfortable and self-satisfied among us. But there is one man who deserves our special recognition. His career was like the path of a comet — in both its briefness and intensity. Who was this man? He was everything His name describes. He still is. His name is *Healer*.

Though His years were short, His extraordinary life established a new race among the afflicted, broken-hearted, and strife-torn peoples of the earth. There has never been a light like the light that shone forth from this man. His words broke into the unexplored areas of the human heart, bringing men's motives out of their dark burrows and into plain view. Even those who followed Him found the ancient foundations of their lives quaking in devastation.

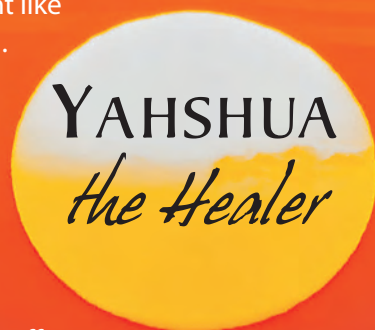
The words He spoke had an amazing effect on people. When He spoke, some people totally abandoned their homes, families, jobs, and properties to follow Him from town to town, doing whatever He told them to do. Others heard His words and turned their backs on Him, or called Him a devil, or plotted to kill Him.

What did this man talk about that caused such a stir? What was it that polarized all of humanity, causing some to adore Him and others to grind their teeth at Him? It was something so wonderful that if you heard it, you could hardly believe it.

The good news He proclaimed was this:

Deny yourself. Turn away from your self-centered life. Let your old impulses and desires die inside of you. Follow Me in the way I am going and you will find yourself caring for others and having all your needs met.

Is it any wonder that the society of His day cried out against Him? Whatever else the deafness and blindness of His hearers might have missed, it's clear that they saw this: He was the seed of a whole new order of things. The greatest enemy to this man's message was the fossilized human heart.



Yet, what this man accomplished was enduring. That's why His name is important. His name shines in all that He has accomplished. His name is *Deliverer*.

The same world that He came into has made Him the victim of a great campaign, a campaign to distort His true image. His shocking message and what it brings us all to has been intellectualized by a million hollow words. We've lost sight of Him in the dust of a stampede to enshrine Him and institutionalize Him. Although He poured out His life in the dusty, sun-bit villages of Judea, artists have insisted on presenting Him clean, combed and sleek, in spotless clothing, and with an expression that the average child would think strange and repelling.

These, among a million other impressions, have made Him unreal to so many of us. This distortion of His image has also distorted His name. If we view Him in an unreal way, we truly cannot know Him or be connected to Him. His name is *Restorer*.

The traditional groups that have a supposed devotion to His memory largely ignore the matter that was closest to His heart — the message of His kingdom, the call of deliverance from the decaying society in which we live. He was the most passionate and determined man who ever lived. The blazing quality of His life was so pure that even death has bowed down before Him. His endurance and single-mindedness have established a beachhead in this hostile world. He accomplished the mission He was given to do. He is God's Anointed Son, sent by His Father to set all creation free.

To the complex reasoning of the resisting heart, He is a tyrant, demanding total obedience. But to the yielding heart, He is a King who offers total care. To take Him seriously is to enter upon a challenging and radical new path. Of those who find themselves stirred by His word, He said, "These are My sheep. They will hear My voice." He is the perfect Shepherd.

The life He established is unending, and one day it is going to fill the whole earth, and then the whole universe. Despite what we may have been told, we now know that His name is *Salvation*. This is the name He is known by among the people He is gathering. His name is true because it says what He is. His name is *Yahshua*. Does His name stir your heart? 🍷

THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

In the days of John the Baptist and the Son of God, the preserved language of the devout

יהושע

Jews was Hebrew. So, when the angel Gabriel brought the good news to the Hebrew virgin, Miriam (or Mary in English), that she would give birth to the Savior of the world, and told her what His name would be, what language do you suppose he spoke? Hebrew, of course! And certainly Miriam and Yoceph (or Joseph in English) named the child just as the angel had commanded them — *Yahshua*.

In Matthew 1:21, your Bible probably reads, "...and you shall call His name *Jesus*, for He will save His people from their sins." But the name *Jesus* is a modern English adaptation of the Greek name, *Iesous*, which is itself a corruption of the original Hebrew name *Yahshua*. The name *Jesus* or *Iesous* has no meaning of its own, but the Hebrew name *Yahshua* literally means *YHWH's Salvation*,¹ which makes sense out of what the angel said in Matthew 1:21, "...you shall call His name *Yahshua* [*Yahweh's Salvation*], for He shall save His people from their sins."

If you look in a pre-1769 King James Bible, you will find the name *Jesus* in these two

passages:

*Which also our fathers that came after brought in with **Jesus** into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David... (Acts 7:45, 1611 KJV)*

*For if **Jesus** had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. (Hebrews 4:8, 1611 KJV)*

However, if you look in any modern translation of the Bible, including the New King James, you will find that in place of the name *Jesus* they use the name *Joshua*, for in the context it is clear that it is speaking there of Moses' successor and not the Son of God. But in the Greek manuscript the name in both of these verses is *Iesous*.

You see, *Joshua* is the popular English transliteration of the Hebrew name of Moses' successor, which meant, "He will save." This name looks forward to the name of the Son of God, for *Joshua* was the prophetic

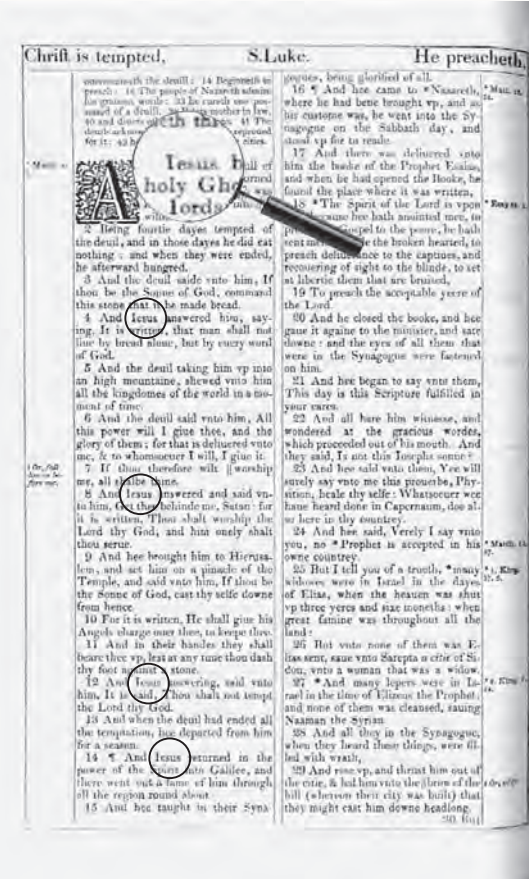
forerunner of the Messiah, bringing Israel into the Promised Land and leading them to victory over their enemies. But since the translators obviously know this fact, why do they only translate *Iesous* as *Joshua* in these two verses, and as *Jesus* everywhere else?

The NIV New Testament even has a footnote supporting this fact under Matthew 1:21: "*Jesus* is the Greek form of *Joshua*."

But the fact is, the name of God's Son was not even written or pronounced as "*Jesus*" in English until the 1600s, simply because there was no "J" sound or letter in English before then.² The modern letter "J" evolved from the letter "I" which began to be written with a "tail" when it appeared as the first letter in a word. So in old English the name now written as

Jesus was actually written and pronounced much like the original Greek *Iesous*. Eventually the hard "J" sound crept into the English language to accompany the different way of writing the initial "I" in the name.

You may also find it interesting that in Acts 26:14-15, it says that the



A page from the 1611 Authorized Version (King James Bible). Note the lack of a "J" in the Savior's name.

apostle Paul heard the name of the Son of God pronounced "in the Hebrew tongue" by the Son of God Himself, so he certainly didn't hear the Greek name *Iesous* or the English name *Jesus*, but rather the Hebrew name, the name above all names, *Yahshua*.³

² Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (Oxford University Press, 1971), pp. 1496,1507 ³ Philippians 2:9; Acts 4:12

LIKE A BEEHIVE

*The word for **community** in Hebrew is **edah**, which also means **beehive**. This word conveys the way a hive of bees live and work together with a common identity. Bees have no concern for themselves, but only for the hive. So it is with the communities of God.*

Have you ever watched a beehive? It is fascinating to see thousands of little bees working together to produce honey. As you go near the hive, you can hear an exciting buzz as they go about the many tasks necessary to keep the hive alive. The workers are responsible to collect nectar and guard the hive. The young bees keep the hive in good condition, feed the larvae, and support in other household chores. There is never a dull moment in the busy life of a bee.

This is much like the life of our communities. No matter what we do, we love to do it together. We gather together every morning and evening to thank our Father for His salvation, and to hear Him speak to us through one another. These gatherings keep fresh our genuine love and care for each other and renew our vision. As we work, we take advantage of the situations we face, guarding ourselves from the selfishness and pride that could separate us and cause our love to grow cold.

Our children are a vital part of our life. We not only educate them, but we work with them to accomplish the simple tasks necessary to maintain our "hive." Our life is vibrant and full of purpose, and the warmth that comes from the sweet fellowship of friends speaking their hearts to one another. We celebrate the Sabbath every week and keep the festivals given to Israel of old.

But there are a few things that differ in our life from that of a beehive. One is that we are not driven by instinct or controlled by something separate from our own will. We are all here because we chose to leave behind our own independent lives in order to increase the life of this hive. Our life is not closed in like a beehive, nor do we have stingers to harm uninvited guests. We welcome anyone to experience our life with us.

Please come and see what it is like among a people who express the warmth and love of their Creator.



Continued from back cover...

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THERE IS A PEOPLE who woke up this morning with one thing on their minds: to love their Creator with all their heart, soul, and strength, and to love one another just as He loved them. Being ordinary human beings, we are far from perfect in our love, yet, in hope, we persevere. Our goal? That the Kingdom of God would come on earth as it is in heaven, so that love and justice can rule on the earth. Sound impossible? It would be, were it not that Yahshua, the Messiah, came to redeem mankind, to set us free from the curse of sin, and to enable us to love. Because we have come to see His worth and our own desperate need, we have surrendered everything in order to follow Him. Our hearts and our homes are open night and day to any who are interested in our life or are weary of their sin and want to know the purpose for which they were created. ✠