

## תּוֹת הַכּל

### Mail Call – The Vision of All

**M**ail call! I remember how important were those letters while I was in ROTC boot camp in the summer of 1967 at Ft. Benning, Georgia and at Ft. Bragg, NC in the summer of 1968. Arroyo... Yes! Someone remembered me! We all treasured those pieces of paper like they were gold, and, in fact, they were. Everyone who got a letter treasured it and I do not know anyone who tossed them out after reading them—every locker in the barracks had a shoe box full of the precious words from the folks back at home.

Messiah *Y'shua* wrote some very important letters and I believe they are as relevant to us as they were to those early Messianic Congregations. You wouldn't dare throw them out, would you! Oh, I see, they are from *Yochanan* and he writes mysteries, a kind of biblical enigma. But wait, "*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear (shema?) the words of this prophecy, and keep (shomer) those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand*" (Rev 1:3, emphasis mine). Interested? Good! Let us open this mail together and allow the *Ruach Elohim* (the Spirit of *Elohim*) to write His own personal message about our us in our hearts.

*The Revelation of Messiah Y'shua, which G-d gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the Word of Elohim, and of the testimony of Messiah Y'shua, and of all things that he saw. ( Rev 1:1-2, emphasis mine)*

*Y'shua* is both the Revealer and the Revelation (*apokalupsis* in Greek, which means "unveiling" or "disclosure.") This little book is a very famous tiny book in the Bible. Its existence was prophesied, its content is puzzling and paradoxical, and its relevance is unquestionable. This book, as some might suppose, is not the revelation (literally, vision) of the man of sin or of the devil, but none other than the Reader's Digest Abridged Summary of the entire Biblical Record with respect to the Son of *Elohim*. No other book carries the promise of a blessing for reading it. No other book claims to be relevant in our day. Yet this mysterious book has and continues to challenge the Redeemed Community like no other book in the *B'rit Chadasha*.

#### **About the Book**

The Book of Revelation's purpose is not really to prophesy, or detail events surrounding the end times—it is by its own account the "*Revelation of Messiah Y'shua*." It is easy to get distracted and lose sight of the intent of the book. It has a G-dly and a *goodly* purpose—to reveal the breadth of *Messiah Y'shua*. Its secondary purpose it is to show His servants things about Him that will surely come to pass. The Book has 404 verses of which some 267 of them are direct references of the *Hebrew Scriptures (TNK)*. Thus, about 66% of the "Revelation" is found in the *Tanach* (the *TNK* or Hebrew Bible). I believe it is impossible to understand the many ramifications and sayings of the Book of Revelation without having a thorough background in *Torah*, *Nevi'im* and *Ketubim*. And of course, I also advocate that we should put on a Hebrew (as opposed to a Western Greco-Roman) mindset when studying this book.

To be sure, *Yochanan* was a Galilean Jew. He grew up in and around the *Kinneret* and made his living as a fisherman when *Y'shua* called him. He spoke *Hebrew* (and probably some Aramaic) and whether he spoke Greek or not is a matter of speculation. *Yochanan* was an eyewitness to the crucifixion, and he is known as the "*disciple whom Y'shua loved*." He is depicted in art as the one from the twelve who is always leaning on the Master's heart at the Last *Pesach Seder*. He was young and he was bold! *Yochanan's* gospel has been among the most studied and debated in the last two millennia. *Yochanan* quotes *Y'shua* as saying He is "*Echad with Elohim*" (see John 8:58). His book, more than any other book, declares unequivocally that *Messiah Y'shua*, is L-rd.

This “little book” was prophesied about in the *TNK*. In Isaiah and Ezequiel we read:

“*Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. For יהוה hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered. And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he said, I cannot; for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he said, I am not learned. Wherefore יהוה said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: ...And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness. The meek also shall increase their joy in יהוה, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.*” (Isaiah 29:9-13;18-19).

“*But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee. And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a scroll of a book was therein; And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe. Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this scroll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that scroll. And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this scroll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness. And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them. For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of a hard language, but to the house of Israel*” (Ezek 2:8-3:5).

Can you see that these Scriptures are referring to none other than the Book of Revelation? Revelation is the book that is sealed, and is written within and without, and that is full of lamentations and mourning and woes. But the book is intended to be *revealed*—and Messiah *Y’shua* is the *Revealer*. We should no longer approach this book with fear and wonder and worry about whether or not it is for us. To be sure, IT IS FOR YOU AND IT IS FOR ME. Isaiah and Ezequiel did not tell us the content, but *Yeshua* told *Yochanan* to write it out so His servants would be informed. The L-rd *Yeshua* has commanded that the book be sealed until the time of the end, but here we are near the end time and it is time to open it and digest it.

“*But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased*” (Daniel 12:4, emphasis mine,).

Without question we are in this *time of the end*, and it is time to re-acquaint ourselves with *Yeshua*’s Little Book. In fact, it is time to *eat it up* (become intimately familiar with its content.) Allow it to be sweetness in our mouth, even if it to become bitter in our stomachs later.

“*And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel’s hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter*” (Rev 10:9-10 emphasis mine).

## **Revelation is a Thoroughly Jewish Book**

The Book of Revelation is a thoroughly Jewish book. We have already stated that 66% of the verses are direct references to the Hebrew Scriptures. However, Scripture and *Yeshua* Himself, tell us about this marvelous book:

“*Yochanan (John) to the seven messianic congregations which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come (asher hayah, vehove, veyavo); and from the seven Spirits which are before His throne; And from Messiah Y’shua, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the*

*dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen” (Rev. 1:4-7).*

Are you getting excited about the book? The one of whom we sing “*V’Hu Haya, V’Hu Hoveh, V’Hu Yiyeh, B’tifara*” loved us and washed our sins in His own blood and has made us *melechim* and *cohanim* unto *Elohim, Baruch Hu*. Notice that *Yochanan* states that *Y’shua* comes with the clouds (clouds are not in the uttermost part of the atmosphere, but rather close to the earth. I have been in the hills covered with clouds and we were no more than a couple of thousand feet above sea level) and that every eye WILL see Him (which doesn’t sound anything like a “secret event” to me) and specifically to the Jews. Also it says that all manner of people (all human families) will see Him and wail (which does not exclude anybody, that is, nobody is spared this event, no, not even His bride). The words spoken here are Jewish, the manner of speaking is Jewish, the sentence construction is Jewish, it was written by a Jew speaking about THE JEW. *Yochanan* even adds the Amen! (like Hallelujah, a completely Jewish term). I can almost chant it...

But now *Y’shua* speaks. He identifies Himself. Look at Him as we read. How is He dressed? What context does He use to express Himself to us? What is His terminology? Is He the Gentile god or the *Messiah* of Israel?

*“I am Alef-Tav (Greek Alpha and Omega), the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty” (Rev. 1:8)*

I want to add: “*Asher Haya, V’Hoveh, V’Yavo, Ha Kadosh, Baruch Hu. Ha Elohim El Shaddai.*” Don’t you? This is my *Messiah*—thoroughly Jewish *Y’shua*. I know Him! I sing about Him every Shabbat. I speak to Him in prayer, He speaks *Shalom* to me. “*Ha El HaGadol, HaGibor V’HaNorah, El Elyon, gomel chasadim tovim v’koneh hakol.*”

*Yochanan* continues: (Here is the CJB version of Revelation 1)

*I* <sup>1</sup>*This is the revelation which G-d gave to Yeshua the Messiah, so that he could show his servants what must happen very soon. He communicated it by sending his angel to his servant Yochanan,* <sup>2</sup>*who bore witness to the Word of G-d and to the testimony of Yeshua the Messiah, as much as he saw.* <sup>3</sup>*Blessed are the reader and hearers of the words of this prophecy, provided they obey the things written in it! For the time is near!* <sup>4</sup>*From: Yochanan To: The seven Messianic communities in the province of Asia: Grace and shalom to you from the One who is, who was and who is coming; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne;* <sup>5</sup>*and from Yeshua the Messiah, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the earth’s kings. To him, the one who loves us, who has freed us from our sins at the cost of his blood,* <sup>6</sup>*who has caused us to be a kingdom, that is, cohanim for G-d, his Father—to him be the glory and the rulership forever and ever. Amen.* <sup>7</sup>***Look! He is coming with the clouds! Every eye will see him, including those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the Land will mourn him. Yes! Amen!*** <sup>8</sup>*“I am the ‘Alef’ and the ‘Tav’,” says Adonai, God of heaven’s armies, the One who is, who was and who is coming.* <sup>9</sup>*I, Yochanan, am a brother of yours and a fellow-sharer in the suffering, kingship and perseverance that come from being united with Yeshua. I had been exiled to the island called Patmos for having proclaimed the message of G-d and borne witness to Yeshua.* <sup>10</sup>*I came to be, in the Spirit, on the Day of the Lord; and I heard behind me a loud voice, like a shofar (trumpet),* <sup>11</sup>*saying, “Write down what you see on a scroll, and send it to the seven Messianic communities—Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea!”* <sup>12</sup>*I turned around to see who was speaking to me; and when I had turned, I saw seven gold menorahs;* <sup>13</sup>*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.* <sup>14</sup>*His head and hair were as white as snow-white wool, his eyes like a fiery flame,* <sup>15</sup>*his feet like burnished brass refined in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of rushing waters.* <sup>16</sup>*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.* <sup>17</sup>*When I saw him, I fell down at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand upon me and said, “Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last,* <sup>18</sup>*the Living One. I was dead, but look!—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the*

*keys to Death and Sh'ol. <sup>19</sup>So write down what you see, both what is now, and what will happen afterwards. <sup>20</sup>Here is the secret meaning of the seven stars you saw in my right hand, and of the seven gold menorahs: the seven stars are the angels of the seven Messianic communities, and the seven menorahs are the seven Messianic communities."*

Now we see Him, *Y'shua*. What do you see first? Seven golden *menorahs* (*menorot*). Why seven? It represents perfection, and completion and it represents Him. Why *menorahs*? Because the *menorah* is the most important/complete representation of the work of Messiah *Y'shua* (7 branches are the 7 Spirits of God, the 72 adornments represent the 72 members of the *Keneset* and the 72 disciples sent by *Y'shua* in Luke 10 and the 12 bases represent the 12 elders/apostles). The *menorah* is a perfect (the number 7 is perfection) representation of *Yeshua's* ministry. It is the Biblical symbol extraordinaire! (Notice He did not choose a cross, or a dove or a fish or a crown, He chose the menorah of Israel!) It was revealed to *Moshe Rabeinu* in Exodus when *יהוה* said "See you make it according to the pattern shown to you on the mount." It is a revelation of a heavenly pattern and it is once again a thoroughly Jewish symbol. He is walking among them, completely surrounded by them. The context is totally Jewish! (Any surprise here?) He is *like* the Son of Man (see Daniel 7:13), dressed like a prophet and dressed like the *Cohen Gadol* (Not like a king and not like a Gentile). He speaks like He spoke to Daniel:

*"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." (Dan 7:9-14)*

*♪♪ "Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting. The floods have lifted up, O L-RD, they've lifted up their voice. The L-RD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. The L-rd reigneth, He is clothed with majesty the L-rd is clothed with strength" ♪♪ (Ps 93:2-4)*

*♪♪ Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus. To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him. Open our ears Lord, and help us to listen. Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus. ♪♪*