

MAY THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH ALWAYS PLEASE YOU, O יהוה!

Hoshĕa/Hosea 13 - 14

25th of the 12th month 2020/2021

Shalom all,

Tehillah/Psalm 19:14 “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing before You, O יהוה, my rock and my redeemer.”

Our words carry immense power and influence, in directing our lives and the manner in which we walk!

Qolasim/Colossians 3:17 “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Master יהושע, giving thanks to Elohim the Father through Him.”

Whatever we do in word and deed!!!

Often, people’s words and deeds do not line up, as they may certainly honour the Master with their lips, yet their hearts may be far from Him, as clearly seen in their wicked and lawless deeds.

Dawid cries out that he earnestly wants his speech and heart to line up with one another and sought earnestly be pleasing to יהוה.

The Torah of Elohim is to be guarded upon our hearts, and as true set-apart ones, our speech ought to line up with that which is upon our hearts, as we guard our mouths from speaking rashly and in falsehood!

While many people may say the right words, and sound very true and sincere, it may often just be vain words, as their lives are riddled with compromise, and by their deeds of unrighteousness, it becomes clear that the Torah of Elohim is not being guarded in their hearts.

We must remember that יהוה looks at the heart of man, and when the Torah is truly being meditated upon, and guarded within, then one’s speech and deeds will clearly shine the light of true set-apartness in Elohim!

Often, words are spoken in vain and when this happens, pride can have a way of being set up in one’s heart, causing the true fear and trembling, of working out one’s deliverance before Elohim, to subside and fall away!

Mishlĕ/Proverbs 18:21 “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those loving it eat its fruit.”

The power of our words!!!

Words that are either speaking and doing the Truth, which leads to life, or words that may sound true, yet do not do the truth, which lead to death – for the wages of sin (which is lawlessness) is death!

Let me ask you – are there times that you have found yourself speaking the Word, and even having the fruit of praise coming from your lips, only to find that you end up doing things that run contrary to the clear instructions of the Word?

When this happens, the words of our mouth, no matter how true they may sound, do not please יהוה.

In a message called, “**MAY THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH ALWAYS PLEASE YOU, O יהוה!**”, I want us to be reminded of how crucial it is for us to speak the truth from our lips, and live accordingly, as we fight the good fight of our belief, to which we have been called and have made the good confession before many witnesses:

Iyob/Job 33:3 “My words are from the uprightness of my heart, my lips shall speak knowledge clearly.”

read **Hoshĕa/Hosea 13:1-14:2**

The reason why I have selected this passage of Scripture for us, is to remind us how we are to always ensure that our words and deeds are always pleasing to our Master and Elohim!

This chapter begins with the wording... “**When Ephrayim spoke there was trembling...**”, and in **verse 2 of Chapter 14**, which ends the passage that we have just read, says, “**Take words with you, and return to יהוה ...**”.

Understanding these two phrases, and that which takes place between them, teaches us some very vital lessons is guarding our speech and ways before Elohim.

In **verse 1** the Hebrew word that is translated as ‘**trembling**’ comes from the root word רִתַּתְּ retheth – **Strong’s H7578** as is only used here in Scripture and comes from an unused root verb which means, ‘**tremble, trembling, terror**’.

With this word not being used elsewhere in Scripture, it can often be difficult to understand the literal rendering of the text, yet as we consider the context of the complete passage, we are able to understand the ‘**trembling**’ that the words of Ephrayim brought about.

In the LXX (Greek translation of the Tanak), the Greek word that is used here for ‘trembling’ is δικαίωμα dikaiōma – Strong’s G1345 which means, ‘*righteousness, a righteous deed, regulations, requirements, sentence of acquittal*’, and comes from the word δικαιώω dikaiōō – Strong’s G1344 which means, ‘*to show to be righteous, declare righteous, acquitted, vindicated or justified*’.

This Greek word δικαίωμα dikaiōma – Strong’s G1345, which is used here in the LXX of Hoshĕa, helps us further understand what is being spoken here, as we also see this word being used, in speaking of the Bride of the Lamb, in:

Ḥazon/Revelation 19:8 “**And to her it was given to be dressed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteousneses of the set-apart ones.**”

It is used numerous times, in speaking of being justified, or in relation to the ordinances of Elohim, and the root word δικαιώω dikaiōō – Strong’s G1344 is also used many times in the Renewed Writings, in expressing how one is justified, innocent, set free, declared right or righteous, as we see it being used in:

Ya’aqob/James 2:24 “**You see, then, that a man is declared right by works, and not by belief alone.**”

Why I am mentioning this, is to simply help us understand what is being spoken of Ephrayim, in **verse 1 of Hoshĕa/Hosea 13**.

When Ephrayim spoke, there was trembling – and this literally renders that, “**at the words of Ephrayim there was a trembling**”, or rather there was a justification – as the words that he spoke, and the actions that he originally wrought, were righteous!!!

We are clearly told by Sha’ul, the following, in:

Pilipiyim/Philippians 2:12 “**So that, my beloved, as you always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much rather in my absence – work out your own deliverance with fear and trembling**”

The Greek word that is used here for ‘trembling’ is τρόμος tromos – Strong’s G5156 which means, ‘*trembling, quaking with fear*’.

This word is used in the LXX in:

Tehillah/Psalm 2:11 “**Serve יהוה with fear, and rejoice with trembling.**”

The Hebrew word that is translated here as ‘trembling’ comes from the root word רעדָה readah – Strong’s H7461 which means, ‘*trembling, panic*’.

What I am simply trying to highlight here, is that we can see how Ephrayim, at one stage, did speak, and do all, according to the righteous requirements of the Torah.

When Ephrayim spoke, the nation listened and obeyed the commands.

Yehoshua, the son of Nun, was from the tribe of Ephrayim – and we certainly know that the whole of Yisra’el listened very carefully when he spoke!!!

But what happened?

Ephrayim, as we know from Scripture, is often used as a collective metaphor for the 10 tribes of Yisra'el that was scattered among the nations and was issued a certificate of divorce from Elohim – the lost sheep for which יהושע Messiah came to redeem back to Himself, and present her as a cleansed Bride, through His life, death and resurrection!

The words of Ephrayim were, at one time, heard and listened to by all, yet when things went well the nation did exactly what they were cautioned not to do – and that is – to forget יהוה.

How?

Ephrayim became guilty through Ba'al worship!

Under the leadership of Yarob'am, the House of Yisra'el profaned their worship, through the making of idols and moulded images!

Yarob'am made 2 golden calves and set them up in Běyth Ėl and Dan – the southern and northern borders of the House of Yisra'el.

Their words changed!!!

They were swayed to serving Ba'al, just like the nations they were cautioned not to imitate and follow, and in doing what the nations do, in their form of worship, they became guilty of Ba'al worship.

Christianity did exactly the same thing, as it changed the True Words and Names that are contained in Scripture!

An assumed worship, that has changed its words, is not an innocent form of worship before our Master and Elohim!

Our words carry great power, and what so many people fail to realise, is that when יהוה began to be called 'god' by those who changed their speech, credit was actually being given to another deity called 'Ba'al Gad', or rather better translated as 'Lord of luck/fortune'! By the calling on Elohim, through changed names and titles of falsehood, it renders one being guilty of profane worship – and this is exactly what Ephrayim (the lost 10 tribes) had done!

This puts the majority, if not all of us, into this category, as most of us have come from backgrounds of Westernised theology that has taught us inherited lies, which have, for so many, become a truth in their eyes that they refuse to let go of.

Hitler stated that if you tell a lie long enough it will eventually become a truth to the hearers!!!

While this process of brainwashing the masses may be true – what we must recognise is that the Word of Elohim does not change, no matter what man does in his attempt to change it! While most of us have certainly discovered this sober reality and truth, that His Word stands forever and, in the process, have been sobered up to the restoration of the true words of Scripture and the correct Names and Titles of our Master and Saviour King, we still need to be vigilant in guarding our speech in every way, so that our lives are not found to be guilty before Elohim, but rather are cleansed from all unrighteousness through the Blood of Messiah!

We are to also be on guard against being drawn in following those who continue to render a compromised speech that simply refuses to let go of the use of false names and titles. There are many Torah teaching resources out there, that may sound very real, true and correct, yet the persistent acceptance, and continued use, of names and titles that we have come to realise are wrong, renders their words displeasing to Elohim!

We are called to distinguish and separate the set-apart from the profane and the clean from the unclean, as we carefully discern and rightly divide the Truth, and as a reasonable, quick and effective means of discerning the presented words of another, we are able to discern, without having to dig in to the technicalities of what is being presented, by their appearance and speech patterns!

If there is a continued use of titles and names that are false, then discern wisely! It is time to see the true 'trembling' that the set-apart Bride ought to have, in reverent worship unto Elohim, and in doing so, ensuring that a clean lip is actually being restored! Along with being able to recognise and discern speech patterns, we also take note that if they do not wear tzitzit or do not have beards, discern wisely!

Here, in Hoshēa, we are told that Ephrayim went from bad to worse, as their sin increased, through the making of idol images of silver and gold, and whatever their craftsmen could make!

So many objects of worship are made in mass production today, and it is all done in the assumed understanding of worship, while the true understanding of Scripture is clearly lacking!

In **verse 2**, we are told that moulded images were made according to their skill, and the Hebrew word that is translated here as 'skill' comes from the root word תְּבוּנָה **tebunah** – **Strong's H8394** which means, '*understanding, discernment, reasonings, discretion, skill, intelligence*', and comes from the root word בִּין **bin** – **Strong's H995** meaning, '*to discern, act wisely, consider carefully, understand, perceive*'.

What we are able to see here, is that many make idols according to their own understanding and reasoning, while they actually lack true Scriptural discernment that is needed to guard one's life from being stained by the trickery of falsehood and twisted lies.

Mishlê/Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in יהוה with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding”.

We are to trust יהוה with all our heart, which entails trusting Him with all, of the understanding and wisdom that is contained in His Word, and not seek out our own vain and selfish reasonings.

When our hearts and minds are filled with His Word and we meditate daily on His Torah, then our speech and actions will line up with the true plumb-line of His Word.

When we are neglecting to trust in Him and we neglect to meditate day and night on His Torah, then we have to ask, “what is in our heart?”

And if His Torah is not guarded in our heart... what will come forth?

Messiah makes this very clear:

Mattithyahu/Matthew 15:9 “For out of the heart come forth wicked reasonings, murders, adulteries, whorings, thefts, false witnessings, slanders.”

The rebuke that is given here, in Hoshĕa, for the men who slaughter must kiss the calves, is a very clear message to a rebellious and backsliding people – as the message is clear to those who will not trust in יהוה, but will rather walk in their own reasoning, must go ahead and kiss their calves – see if that will help you!!!

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘kiss’ is נָשַׁק nashaq – Strong’s H5401 which means, **‘to kiss, do homage, show respect and affection for, acknowledge’** and this word can have the understanding of **‘fastening together, be in array (dressed accordingly)’**.

We are not to ‘kiss the calves’ and be fastened together to abominable images or practices of false worship!

We are to rather ‘kiss the Son’ and pay homage and proper respect to our Redeemer and King, as we are dressed in His Torah, and find our refuge in Him, as we read in:

Tehillah/Psalm 2:12 “Kiss the Son, lest He be enraged, and you perish in the way, for soon His wrath is to be kindled. Blessed are all those taking refuge in Him.”

Those who have joined themselves to false reasonings of man-made idolatry, will find themselves on the wrong side of Elohim, when He comes to thresh the winepress in His wrath!

Those who continue in lawless worship and idolatry will be like chaff blown in the wind – here today and gone tomorrow – and so shall those who put their trust in their riches rather than in Elohim!

Ya’aqob/James 1:11 “For the sun rose with burning heat, and withered the grass, and its flower fell, and its pretty appearance perished. So also the rich man shall fade away in his ways.”

Verse 4 makes a very clear statement:

there is NO SAVIOUR BESIDES יהוה OUR ELOHIM!!!

To assume another image, or picture, of who our Saviour is, and proclaim that it is someone other than יהוה our Elohim, is nothing more than false idolatrous worship!

We are not to ever know another Saviour, and sadly, this is the mistake that many have done, in assuming that another Saviour, besides יהוה our Elohim, has come and has given them free license to live lawless lives, as they turn their ear away from the Torah, while making false images and vain reasonings of who their assumed Saviour is!

יהוה makes it clear that He satisfied Yisra'el in the Wilderness, yet in their being satisfied, they forgot Him and went after their own fleshly lusts and formulated their own manner of worship, done according to the customs of the nations around them – and so they adulterated themselves!

In **Debarim/Deuteronomy 8**, יהוה warned Yisra'el about this very problem, yet they did not guard His Torah in their hearts, and so, they were no longer satisfied with His provision but sought their own, after the lusts of the flesh and the lust of the eyes!

Mishlê/Proverbs 30:8-9 “**Remove falsehood and a lying word far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me my portion of bread; 9 Lest I become satisfied and deny You, and say, “Who is יהוה?” and lest I be poor, and steal, and seize the Name of my Elohim.**”

Mishlê/Proverbs 27:7 “**One satisfied loathes the honeycomb, but to a hungry one any bitter food is sweet.**”

The Hebrew word that is translated here as ‘satisfied’ comes from the root word שָׂבַע *saba* – **Strong’s H7646** which means, ‘**to be satisfied**’, and a derivative of this word is שָׂבֵעַ *sabea* – **Strong’s H7649** which means, ‘**satisfied, full, ripe**’ which, by implication, can mean, ‘**satisfied by nourishment**’.

We know that יהוה satisfies our desires with good things and He satisfies His people with bread – which is symbolic of His Word that satisfies!

Tehillah/Psalm 132:15 “**I greatly bless her provision, I satisfy her poor with bread.**”

Tehillah/Psalm 147:14 “**Who makes peace in your borders, He satisfies you with the finest wheat**”

Tehillah/Psalm 22:26 “**The meek ones do eat and are satisfied; let those who seek Him praise יהוה. Let your heart live forever!**”

Being satisfied does not mean that we are to seek alternative nourishment – yet this is exactly what so many people do, as they get comfortable with their lives, when all is going well, and forget what יהוה has done – and in forgetting His dealings, their speech changes, as their hearts are drawn to being satisfied with what the world has to offer, rather than being content in all circumstances with His sure provision.

What satisfies you?

Mishlë/Proverbs 18:20 “A man’s stomach is satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; he is satisfied with the increase of his lips.”

What is coming forth from your mouth – righteousness and life or negativity and death?

Mishlë/Proverbs 10:11 “The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wrong.”

In **verse 9**, יהוה makes it clear that Ephrayim has destroyed himself and their only help was in יהוה!

The Hebrew root word that is translated as ‘destroyed’ is שָׁחַת *shahath* – Strong’s H7843 which means, ‘*destroy, ruin, spoil, pervert, corrupt*’.

One’s speech and actions can either lead to life or it can be on a path of destruction:

Mishlë/proverbs 6:32 “He who commits adultery with a woman lacks heart; he who does it destroys his own life.”

This is exactly what Ephrayim had done, when they adulterated themselves and became guilty through Ba’al worship.

When one lacks heart, it is better understood as not having the proper understanding, wisdom and discernment, by not meditating on and walking in the narrow way of Torah obedience!

Mishlë/Proverbs 8:36 “But he who sins against me injures himself; all who hate me love death!”

I have spoken before on what true love for Elohim is, and looked closely at **Qorintiyim Aleph/1 Corinthians 13**, in a message called, ‘**WHAT IS LOVE? WHERE IS THE LOVE?**’, which can be found under the ‘**sermons 2020/2021**’ menu on our site (<https://atfotc.com>) or by simply clicking on the following link:

<https://atfotc.com/what-is-love-where-is-the-love-qorintiyim-aleph-1-corinthians-13/>

To put it simply – those who refuse to submit to walking in the Torah of Elohim and claim that they have no need of “The Law”, are, by their own confession, ‘lawless’ and, simply put, they hate Elohim and love the broad path that leads to destruction and death!

The vain words of their mouths, which promote lawlessness as a way of life, reveal that they do not know the only True Saviour, and therefore, they have no clue as to what His Word teaches us, nor do they understand His Appointed Times that are given to us as a clear means of preparing His Bride for His soon return.

In the process, their hearts are not filled with His Word, and get weighed down by the world's troubles:

Luqas/Luke 21:34 “**And take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down by gluttony, and drunkenness, and worries of this life, and that day come on you suddenly.**”

Those who take refuge in יהוה, and find their Help in Him, are satisfied with the good and are not troubled by the cares of the world, nor the deceitfulness of riches.

Our **HELP** is in the Name of יהוה!!!

The Hebrew root word for ‘help’ is עֲזָרָה ezer – Strong’s H5828 which means, ‘**a help, helper, one who helps**’ and we see this word being used in:

Tehillah/Psalm 121:1-2 “**A song of degrees. I lift up my eyes to the hills; Where does my help come from? 2 My help comes from יהוה, Maker of the heavens and earth.**”

This is the same word that is used to describe Hāwwah, as a ‘helper’ for Aḏām!

Our Husband is our perfect help!

Tehillah/Psalm 146:5 “**Blessed is he who has the Ėl of Ya’aqob for his help, whose expectancy is in יהוה his Elohim**”

Hoshĕa/Hosea 13:9 “**You have destroyed yourself, O Yisra’ĕl, but your help is in Me.**”

If it were not for יהוה – our Help!!!

Our help is in His Name!

And all who call upon the Name of יהוה shall be delivered and helped out of their distress!

We give thanks, and we ought to do so on a daily basis, to יהוה, for delivering us from wicked men and all kinds of disasters that storm around us, and give Him thanks for always giving us a way out of all tough situations when there seems to be no way of escape.

Those who do not find their help in יהוה, He rebukes with the clear challenge to go and find their help in their rulers and sovereigns!

“Let them save you” – this is what יהוה was basically saying to a people who had adulterated themselves and gone after the ways of the world and had neglected to walk in His clear commands for set-apart living.

In **verse 11**, He tells us that He gave Ephrayim a sovereign in His displeasure and in His wrath, He took him away!

This is a clear reference to Yarob'am, who had initiated the practices of formalised false worship, and every other wicked king that led the House of Yisra'el.

In fact, there was not one good king that ever ruled the House of Yisra'el!

Under a wicked rule – sin is hidden – and this was the problem of Ephrayim – they never looked to the True Righteous King and Saviour – יהוה our Elohim, and so, herein lies the call to repent and confess their sins and turn back to their true King, and the Only One who can save!

This was a clear call to grow up and become mature in the truth – and the body is able to do this, through those who יהושע Messiah has appointed to equip the body.

This is therefore, a call to submit to the true right-ruling of His Word and the call to grow up in the knowledge of Him, and no longer be stuck on the milk of the Word – for יהושע Messiah is the One True Elohim that ransoms from She'ol and redeems from death, yet He makes it clear here that repentance is hidden from His eyes – in other words people refuse to repent.

Yohanan Aleph/1 John 1:9 “**If we confess our sins, He is trustworthy and righteous to forgive us the sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**”

Verses 15 and 16 makes it clear what the result of not repenting is: all shall be taken away, no matter what you think you might have gained in this world – He will take it away!!!

In the opening 2 verses of **Chapter 14**, the call that is given is very clear:

TAKE WORDS WITH YOU AND RETURN

The Hebrew root word that is translated as ‘return’ is שׁוּב shub – Strong’s H7725 which means, ‘**to turn back, return, repent, restore**’.

When we truly **repent** and **turn back** to יהוה we will ‘obey’ which is the same as to ‘**hear and do**’, as we intelligibly hear His clear voice – which is always in accordance to His Torah.


A pure and true sign of true repentance is seen in the hearing and doing of His Torah! Those who say they repent yet forsake their need to hear and do His Torah have not truly turned back to יהוה!

And their words are not pleasing to Him!


In the ancient pictographic letters, the root word שׁוּב shub – Strong’s H7725 looks like this:




Shin - ש:

This is the letter 'shin' which in the ancient script is pictured as, , which is 'two front teeth' and carries the meaning of 'sharp or press, chew or devour'; which is what the teeth do, and also speaks of the sharpened word that comes forth from the mouth, as the teeth 'chew' or 'meditate' on the Truth, making what comes forth pure and sharp! It also carries the understanding of **consuming** or **destroying** – as teeth do to food.

Waw/Vav – ו:

This is the Hebrew letter 'waw' or 'vav' which in the ancient script is pictured as , which is a peg or 'tent peg', which was used for securing or tying down of the tent or other items. The possibility of it having a Y-shape is to show that it prevents the rope from slipping off. The root meaning of this letter is 'to add, secure or hook'.

Beyt – ב:

The ancient script has this letter as , which pictures a tent floor plan and means, 'house' or 'tent'. It represents family and the importance of those who are inside the tent as opposed to the tent structure itself.

When we understand the combination of these pictures, as rendering a **returning** or **recalling to mind**, we are able to recognise that the **teeth**, which speaks of a 'pressing', and the picture of the **peg** that **secures**, and the **house** which speaks of **dwelling**, we are able to understand this representing the following:

THE WORD THAT SECURES THE HOUSE!

When we acknowledge the call to return to the true House of Elohim, we can also then recognise from this pictographic lettering, in terms of this word rendering 'a return', the following:

THE SECURE DWELLING PLACE THAT IS TO BE RETURNED TO

This word, in the ancient form, can also represents for us the following:

RETURNING TO THE SECURE HOUSE WHERE WE ARE FED, AS WE MEDITATE ON THE WORD OF THE HOUSE

True repentance can only be done when one returns to obeying the Word that secures us as His Set-Apart Dwelling Place.

So many people today, may claim to be a part of the House of Elohim, yet they continue in crookedness and simply reveal that they are being foolish and are building on sand and have not had their feet firmly set upon the solid Rock of Deliverance, for they have not truly returned to Elohim!

Returning to Elohim involves an acknowledgment that one has been wrong, and this is sadly where so many continue to stumble in crookedness, so to speak, as they refuse to accept that the falsehood and futility of the traditions, that they have been religiously following, are indeed wrong and need to be repented of!

This call, to take words with you is a call to make sure that the words of our mouths always please יהוה – and by that, I mean that we not only speak what is right, but we do what is right – so that our mouths and hearts are lined up together in Truth!

We have all come out from a scattered state, due to the wickedness of our fathers who had gone before us and had inherited lies and traditions of falsehood.

Today, we are all able to boldly give thanks, that יהוה has called us out of darkness into His marvellous light, as we too have heard the call to return to Him with words and repent of all idolatrous worship and the seizing of His Name.

While we celebrate this great truth, we must be on constant guard of the words that proceed from our mouths and making sure that the fountain of life that ought to be flowing from our lips, is evident not only in our speech but also in our deeds!

As we certainly consider the abominable worship that is being entertained, by the masses now, let us be sober, awake and watchful, lest there be any foul speech and crooked ways being found in our lives!

What vain words have you found yourself speaking in times past?

Have you made commitments with your lips and the corresponding actions have been non-existent, which render the words you spoke as displeasing to יהוה?

Render the bull of your lips!

The Hebrew word that is used here, in **Hoshĕa/Hosea 14:2**, for 'bull' is פָּר **par** – **Strong's H6499** which means, '**bull, young bull, steer, heifer**', and in a metaphoric sense, it speaks of us bringing our all and our best, offering up all we have, as we make our confession before Him who saves us and are equipped to proclaim His praise!

Bringing the '**Bull of our lips**' to יְהוָה costs us! It costs us our all!


It will cost us relationships, and it will cost us corrupted and twisted customs and handed down traditions, as well as inherited comforts of the flesh, yet it will bring about the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by the disciplining of the Word!

As we consider the pictographic rendering of the root word for 'bull' we are able to see how vital it is that we come before our Saviour with the confession of our crookednesses.


In the ancient pictographic script, the Hebrew word פָּר **par** – **Strong's H6499** which means, '**bull, young bull, steer, heifer**' looks like this:



Pey – פ:

This letter in the ancient script is pictured as , which is an '**open mouth**' and carries the meaning of '**speak and blow**', from the functions of the mouth, and can have the meaning of '**scatter**' by blowing. It can also mean sword or beard, as in things with edges, as well as a region in depicting a place with edges or boundaries. It also can represent that which has been spoken forth from the words of one's mouth, as being established!

Resh - ר:

The Ancient picture for this letter is , the head of a man. This letter has the meanings of '**head**' or '**man**' as well as '**chief, top, beginning or first**'.

In recognising how we are to render the '**bull of our lips**', we can see from this word for 'bull', in the ancient Hebrew alphabet, in regards to the '**bull of our lips**', the clear need for us to:

TAKE WORDS WITH US TO OUR HEAD AND SAVIOUR

Take words and confess our crookednesses before Him and let our words be followed up with the necessary actions that submit to the One who we confess as being our Head and Master!

Yohanan Aleph/1 John 1:9 “**If we confess our sins, He is trustworthy and righteous to forgive us the sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**”

One of the biggest stumbling blocks for many, in their ongoing struggle to walk wholeheartedly in the Truth and guard the Torah, is in their inability to properly **RETURN** and render the bull of their lips.

By that I mean, that they are unable to acknowledge that their upbringing has been in error.

When a proper rendering of the bull of one’s lips happens, then יהוה can heal us of all our backsliding and cause our lips to be filled with the fruit of praise for our Head, as we begin to speak and do His Torah, with continual thanksgiving and praise!

Hoshĕa/Hosea 14:3-4 teaches us that by the proper confession of our lips and the resulting actions of set-apartness that come from seeking יהוה and His strength always, will result in יהוה becoming our Saviour!

Hoshĕa/Hosea 14:3-4 “**Ashshur does not save us. We do not ride on horses, nor ever again do we say to the work of our hands, ‘Our mighty ones.’ For the fatherless finds compassion in You.**” 4 “**I shall heal their backsliding, I shall love them spontaneously, for My displeasure has turned away from him.**”

In declaring that Ashshur does not save us, it is an acknowledgment of the falsehood, under which we had been brought up in, and that false ways cannot save us, which, amplifies the clear call to:

COME OUT AND BE SEPARATE!

A huge part of our taking words to יהוה, involves our ability to honestly acknowledge that the world and its ways cannot save us.

So many people today, refuse to let go of fleshly ways and traditions, as they think that without them, they will not be able to survive and having this mindset will simply render any attempt at words taken to יהוה, as being fruitless, when the letting go of worldly ways becomes the biggest **stumbling block of crookedness!**

In a proper rendering of the bull of our lips, we have the firm assurance that our Master will take away our crookedness and heal our backsliding.

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘crookedness’, in **Chapter 14:2** comes from the root word עָוֹן *avon* – Strong’s H5771 which means, ‘*iniquity, guilt, punishment for iniquity, blame, perversity, depravity*’, which comes from the root verb עָוָה *avah* – Strong’s H5753 which means, ‘*to twist, bend, distort, make crooked, pervert*’.

This root word עָוֹן *avon* – Strong’s H5771, is used in:

Yehezqël/Ezekiel 18:30 “**Therefore I judge you, O house of Yisra’ël, every one according to his ways,” declares the Master יהוה. “Repent, and turn back from all your transgressions, and let not crookedness be a stumbling-block to you.”**

This was a call to repent and not let crookedness be a stumbling block, showing us that the clear call was to guard loving-commitment and truth, in order that their crookedness could be pardoned!

It is a blessing when crookedness no longer becomes a stumbling block in one’s path!

By that I mean, that it is truly a blessing to walk in the Truth and not have the stumbling blocks of twisted and perverse teachings of man, that seek only to nullify the commands of Elohim!

In another Tehillah, we see the psalmist declaring the following:

Tehillah/Psalm 130:3-4 “**O Yah, if You should watch crookednesses, O יהוה, who would stand? 4 But with You there is forgiveness, that You might be feared.”**

It is a blessing to receive the forgiveness for our perverted and crooked ways that we were stumbling in and therefore, we must recognise how important it is to guard righteousness and have no crookedness imputed/reckoned to us!

Tehillah/Psalm 103:1-5 “**Bless יהוה, O my being, and all that is within me, bless His set-apart Name! 2 Bless יהוה, O my being, and do not forget all His dealings, 3 who forgives all your crookednesses, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with kindness and compassion, 5 who satisfies your desire with the good, your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”**

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘forgives’ is סָלַח *salah* – Strong’s H5545 which means, ‘*to forgive, pardon, spare*’, which is the same root word used in **Tehillah/Psalm 25:11** for ‘pardon’!

Tehillah/Psalm 25:11 “**For Your Name’s sake, O יהוה, You shall pardon my crookedness, though it is great.”**

Sha'ul understood this blessing being declared here, in this contemplative poem, as we see in his letter to the believers in Rome, the following:

Romiyim/Romans 4:7-8 “**Blessed are those whose lawlessnesses are forgiven, and whose sins are covered, 8 blessed is the man to whom יהוה shall by no means reckon sin.**”

Lawlessnesses forgiven, sins covered and no sin reckoned – what a blessing!!!

Our Master redeemed us from lawlessness, as Sha'ul writes to Titos, in:

Titos/Titus 2:11-14 “**For the saving Gift of Elohim has appeared to all men, 12 instructing us to renounce wickedness and worldly lusts, and to live sensibly, righteously, and reverently in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed expectation and esteemed appearance of the great Elohim and our Saviour יהושע Messiah, 14 who gave Himself for us, to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for Himself a people, His own possession, ardent for good works.**”

We have been redeemed from **ALL** lawlessness and have been cleansed, so that we are now equipped and enabled to walk in the Torah, not continue in lawlessness!!!

When we truly recognise, and acknowledge, that we have stumbled in our crookednesses and have been led astray, through the twisted and corrupt teachings of lawlessness, we are then equipped to understand the mighty redeeming work of our Master and what He has done for us.

When we fully grasp the forgiveness that our Master extends to us, then we should be urgent in our return to Him, as we turn completely away from every stumbling block of crookedness, having been healed from all crookedness and backsliding!

The Hebrew word used for ‘backsliding’ is מְשׁוּבָּה meshubah – Strong’s H4878 which means, ‘**turning back, apostasy, faithless, faithlessness, waywardness, backsliding**’, and comes from the root word שׁוּב shub – Strong’s H7725 which means, ‘**to turn back, return, repent, recover**’.

And so, we see that while the word שׁוּב shub – Strong’s H7725 speaks of a repentance and a turning back to Elohim, we see the opposite, in the word מְשׁוּבָּה meshubah, which expresses a turning away from Elohim.

The word מְשׁוּבָּה meshubah – Strong’s H4878 can also be understood as, ‘**the state of rebellion against authority**’, and as a result of this rebellion against authority, there is a break in a previous relationship bond, which is a figurative extension of turning aside off of a correct path!

We clearly see this, in Yisra’el’s backsliding that caused יהוה to issue her a certificate of divorce, as we read in:

Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 3:8 “And I saw that for all the causes for which **backsliding Yisra’el had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Yehudah did not fear, but went and committed whoring too.**”

The House of Yisra’el, also referred to in Scripture ‘metaphorically’ as Ephrayim, had turned aside from the correct path of complete obedience and set-apartness, by adulterating herself with the nations – and this brought about a break in the marriage bond with יהוה.

יהוה is the Healer; and the Hebrew word that is translated here as ‘heals’, comes from the root verb רָפָא rapha – Strong’s H7495 which means, ‘**to heal, repaired, become fresh, purified, cure**’.

יהוה is our Healer, and in **Tehillah/Psalm 103** we are told to not forget His dealing with us and in **Tehillah/Psalm 103:3** Dawid tells us that as part of His dealing with us, he heals our diseases!

The Hebrew root word for ‘disease’ is תַּחֲלוּ tahalu – Strong’s H8463 which means, ‘**disease, sickness, pain**’, and as we recognise that this word is used in **Debarim/Deuteronomy 29:22** in the clear warning against those who turn their hearts away from יהוה and go after the mighty ones of the world and walk in the stubbornness of their own hearts, shall be separated for evil and see the effect of all the curses for disobedience bringing about diseases and plagues.

Praise יהוה that He has healed us from the curses of disobedience, as we lovingly remember His dealings and walk in and stay in Messiah, having been healed and cleansed by His Blood.

Diseases, mentioned in Scripture, are the consequences of failing to obey the Covenant, and we have the assurance of healing from the One who heals, if we guard to do all He commands!

He heals us and loves us spontaneously!!!

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘spontaneously’ is נָדַבְתָּ nedabaha – Strong’s H5071 which means, ‘**voluntariness, freewill offering, volunteer freely, willingly**’ and comes from the word נָדַב nadab – Strong’s H5068 meaning, ‘**to incite, impel, make offerings willingly, volunteers**’.

What this passage highlights here for us, is that יהוה willingly loves us....!

And this is such a powerful statement, that teaches us how amazing His love is for us and that His loving-commitment to His covenants of promise, give us the sure hope that His love never fails!

When we return to Him, He receives us with spontaneous love and joy, forgiving and healing us... now that is something to be excited about and ought to stir anyone, who has backslidden, to return to the One who heals, forgives and loves us, despite our crookedness and sin, that caused us to stumble before Him!

In **Hoshĕa/Hosea 14:5-7**, the imagery that is used, highlights the full restoration of provision, fruitfulness, security and shalom.

The Hebrew word for 'dew' is טַל tal – Strong's H2919 which means, '*night mist, dew*', and the image here of 'dew on the grass' should easily cause one to be reminded of the words we find in:

Deḥarim/Deuteronomy 32:2 "Let my instruction fall as rain, My speech drop down as dew, As fine rain on the tender plants, And as showers on the grass."

This is a part of the song that Mosheh taught the children of Yisra'el.

The Hebrew root word translated as 'speech' is אִמְרָה imrah – Strong's H565 and means, '*utterance, speech, command*', and this word is predominantly used in Scripture in reference to the Word of יְהוָה:

Tehillah/Psalm 12:6 "The Words of יְהוָה are clean Words, silver tried in a furnace of earth, refined seven times."

Tehillah/Psalm 18:30 "The Ėl – His way is perfect; the Word of יְהוָה is proven; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him."

Tehillah/Psalm 119:140 "Your word is tried, exceedingly; and Your servant has loved it."

As we listen to and follow the clear 'instructions' of יְהוָה as given in His Torah, we make ourselves ready for the soon return of our Husband and Kinsman Redeemer:

Tehillah/Psalm 73:24 "You lead me by Your counsel, and afterward receive me unto esteem."

With the picture of 'dew on the grass', in relation to the Word of יְהוָה, we are able to be reminded how it was in the Wilderness, where the morning dew was accompanied with the 'manna' and remained when the dew had vanished!

His 'manna' (Word) came down, as 'dew', and was available for all!

Figuratively, the favour/delight of יְהוָה, His speech and the blessing of the unity of the brethren, are likened, or compared, to the fall of dew, as outlined by Shelomoh, in this clear parable.

Tehillah/Psalm 133:3 "Like the dew of Ḥermon, that comes down on the mountains of Tsiyon. For there יְהוָה commanded the blessing, life forever!"

יהוה's watching over us is like a cloud of dew that refreshes in the heat of the harvest:

Yeshayahu/Isaiah 18:4 "For thus יהוה said to me, "I am still, and I watch in My dwelling place like dazzling heat in sunshine, like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest."

We also see, in Scripture, how unfaithfulness is likened to 'dew' that goes away early:

Hoshĕa/Hosea 6:4 "Ephrayim, what would I do with you? Yehudah, what would I do with you? For your trustworthiness is like a morning cloud, and like the early dew it goes away."

Hoshĕa/Hosea 13:3 "Therefore they shall be like a morning cloud, and like dew that goes away early, like chaff blown off from a threshing-floor, and like smoke from a window."

יהוה's Word has come down, like dew on the grass, for this is His delight!

The question is, whether we are obedient enough to allow it to nourish us or are we neglecting it and rebelling and in danger of finding ourselves facing His raging wrath, when He comes like a lion and ready to consume His opponents!

In **Hoshĕa/Hosea 14:8** the sobering rhetorical question is set forth, after highlighting the clear benefits of returning to the One True Healer and Lover of our beings, which states:

WHAT MORE HAS EPHRAYIM TO DO WITH IDOLS?

The answer is very clear:

NOTHING!!!

Ephrayim is to have **nothing** more to do with idols!!!

Those who cannot see this, have not returned, as they should as they are still stumbling in their crookedness that causes a terrible backsliding rather than the returning to obedience that is called for!

When we return to יהוה, then the former ways of idolatry and falsehood must be removed far from us!

We are to have nothing more to do with abominable idolatries and make sure that we have properly returned to יהוה – for our fruit comes from Him and, as we stay in Him, we shall bare much fruit of righteousness!!!

In this clear call, to return to יהוה, this book of **Hoshĕa/Hosea** ends with the clear truth, that the ways of יהוה are straight and the righteous walk in them, while transgressors stumble in them!

This is a call for the true Bride of Messiah to be watchful and awake, as wise maidens who have their lamps ready, trimmed, oiled and burning bright!

Does your life represent one that has returned to יהוה?

If so, then great... make sure that you never turn away again!

Be a trustworthy servant, in calling others to return, by being a good example of one who has returned, being the fragrance of Messiah wherever you are, as you hear, guard and do His Word, with exceeding joy and complete shalom, as your life reflects the true brilliance of set-apartness amidst a thickened darkness that covers the earth!

In an encouraging call to watch what proceeds from our lips, may we certainly live our lives as a daily living sacrifice, offering the bull of our lips in praise to our Mighty Redeemer, Rock, Saviour and King – יהוה – our Elohim, ensuring that our actions line up with the sacrifice of our lips that speak His Truth, so that we continually seek to please Him and say:

“MAY THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH ALWAYS PLEASE YOU, O יהוה!”

The Hebrew word translated as ‘pleasing’ in **Tehillah/Psalm 19:14**, that is started this message with, comes from the root word רָצוֹן ratson – Strong’s H7522 which means, **‘goodwill, favour, acceptance, desired, well-pleased’**, and comes from the primitive root verb רָצָה ratsah – Strong’s H7521 which means, **‘to be pleased with, accept favourably’**.

The word רָצוֹן ratson – Strong’s H7522 is also used in:

Tehillah/Psalm 40:8 “I have delighted to do Your pleasure, O my Elohim, and Your Torah is within my heart.”

Without the Torah being in our hearts, in order to do it, we can never delight in doing that which pleases our Master and Elohim!

When we are pleasing our Master, we are equipped to go out and face the battles without fear of the enemies that surround us!

Romiyim/Romans 12:1-2 “I call upon you, therefore, brothers, through the compassion of Elohim, to present your bodies a living offering – set-apart, well-pleasing to Elohim – your reasonable worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you prove what is that good and well-pleasing and perfect desire of Elohim.”

The Greek word that is used here for 'well-pleasing' is εὐάρεστος euarestos – Strong's G2101 which means, 'acceptable, pleasing, well-pleasing'.

Romiyim/Romans 14:17-18 "For the reign of Elohim is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Set-apart Spirit. 18 For he who is serving Messiah in these matters is well-pleasing to Elohim and approved by men."

Eph'siyim/Ephesians 5:8-10 "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Master. Walk as children of light 9 for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, and righteousness, and truth – 10 proving what is well-pleasing to the Master."

Ib'rim/Hebrews 13:20-21 "And the Elohim of peace who brought up our Master יהושע from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 make you perfect in every good work to do His desire, working in you what is pleasing in His sight, through יהושע Messiah, to whom be esteem forever and ever. Amēn."

The reason for highlighting these verses is to simply show a few passages of Scripture that make it very clear how the righteous know what is pleasing to the Master; as we take note that when we walk in righteousness and guard to do all He has commanded us to, we then find that pleasing Him becomes a very joyous and pleasing thing to do!

May the meditation of our hearts and the words of our mouths always be pleasing to our Master and Elohim, יהושע Messiah, as we continually guard to do all in His Name, whether in word or in deed!!!

יהוה bless you and guard you; יהוה make His face shine upon you and show favour to you; יהוה lift up His face upon you and give you Shalom!