

Who are the children of Elohim - part 1

by C.J. Koster

We firmly believe in the born again experience. But instead of being a means to an end, it is just the other way round for many, if not for most. A well-known American evangelist - using Acts 19:27-28 as a simile, where the Greeks were extolling their "great" female deity - once lamented and said, *"Great is the American religion that begins, and ends, with a born again experience."* Others call it, *"Saved and stuck."* Sadly, some denominations even boast about their teaching of *"Once saved always saved."* Let me quickly add: This lack of Scriptural growth, this complacency, this inertia, is not confined to the born again groups. No, this easy-going Spiritual "life", or rather Spiritual "death," is prevalent amongst all denominations and groups, without exception.

Those who say they are now born again (as well as the staunch church members of the non-evangelical churches) then call themselves *"children of Elohim,"* and speak of so-and-so and say, *"He, too, is a child of Elohim."*

Before we continue this study I wish to point out that those who only know the Old King James Version might be a little confused, at first. The reason I am saying this is because in the Messianic Scriptures of the KJV the words *"children"* and *"sons"* are very often the wrong way round. Readers of modern translations won't have this problem. An example of this is Yoch. 1:12 which reads, *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of Elohim ..."* Note well: it is *"children,"* and not *"sons"* like the KJV renders it.

In this same Yoch. 1:12 we should also notice the words *"to become."* Most believers mistakenly interpret this as if it reads *"to be."* No, it is *"to become,"* so whatever you have been taught, or else would like to believe, it is *"to become."* If one has come to belief you haven't *"arrived"* yet, no, this is only the beginning of what ought to be a life of being *"a taught one,"* being taught by the Only Teacher, Yahushua (Yehoshua), as He teaches us His Father's Words, Teachings, Commandments.

Once you are born again, you are instructed by Kepha to do the following, *"as new-born babes, desire the unadulterated milk of the Word, in order that you grow by it ... drawing near to Him ... being built up, a spiritual offering acceptable to Elohim, through Yahushua (Yehoshua) Messiah"* (1 Kepha 2:2-5).

As you grow spiritually, you progress from milk to *"solid food for the mature,"* going *"on to perfection."* Read this from Hebr. 5:12 up to Hebr. 6:6. This is the same message contained in the Parable of the Sower - to grow and bring *"fruit to perfection,"* to *"bear fruit with endurance."* (LUK. 8:11-15).

Who then, are the Children of Elohim? If my father was a child of Elohim, am I then one too because of that? Definitely not, for Elohim has no grandchildren! Search the Scriptures and see it for yourself. In Rom. 9:8 we read, *"those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of Elohim..."*

In Yoch. 8:41-47 our Messiah had a discussion with some Yehudim, unbelieving Yehudim. Previously, in vv. 33-39, they were trying to rely on having Abraham as their father. Now, in

vv. 41-47 they were attempting to rely on having Elohim as their Father. Yahushua (Yehoshua), however, was confuting them, was proving them wrong, and said, *"You are of your father the devil."* (verse 44). Then He says in verse 47, *"He who is of Elohim hears the Words of Elohim, therefore you do not hear because you are not of Elohim."* So here we find the first fact pertaining to our question, *"Who are the children of Elohim?"* Here we find that they are those who at least *"hear the Words of Elohim."*

In Luke 8:21 Messiah says that His brothers are those who hear the Words of Elohim and do it. He is our elder Brother, so if we are His brothers, then we too are children of Elohim, provided we hear the Word of Elohim and do it. He is our elder Brother, so if we are His brothers, then we too are children of Elohim, provided we hear the Word of Elohim and do it.

In Rom. 8:14 we read that the sons of Elohim are those who *"are led by the Spirit of Elohim."* Remember that Sha'ul said in Rom. 8:1 *"that the law is Spiritual."* He further elaborated on this and said in Rom. 8:1 that those who are IN Messiah are those *"who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit,"* and in verse 7 he says that *"the mind of the flesh is enmity towards Elohim, for it does not subject itself to the Law of Elohim,"* or *"does not obey the Law of [Elohim]"* as the NIV renders it. In this passage *"flesh"* is used as a synonym for *"sin"* or *"carnality."*

What Sha'ul was saying here in Rom. 6, 7 and 8 is that you are either Spiritual, or else you are carnal (fleshly). Those who are Spiritual are no longer servants of sin and have become servants of righteousness resulting in apartness (Rom. 6:16-22), while those who are carnal are servants of lawlessness (Rom. 6:17 & 19-20). The Spiritual-minded believer subject himself to the Law of Elohim, while the carnal-minded person does not subject himself to the Law of Elohim. It is as simple as that!

To confirm what he said in Rom. 8:1 about being *"IN Messiah Yahushua (Yehoshua),"* as well as describing in Rom. 6:1-23 the difference between the unregenerate sinner and the born again believer after Immersion, Sha'ul continues in the same vein in Galatians 3:26-27, *For you are all sons of Elohim through belief in Messiah Yahushua (Yehoshua). For as many of you as were immersed into Messiah, have put on Messiah."* Whether we are IN Messiah or whether we have put on Messiah, are just two different aspects of the same fact, of the same Spiritual condition.

As we study all Scripture, we clearly see what the attributes are of the children (or sons) of Elohim. We see who they are, and also what is expected of them. Another characteristic of them is the following, as we read Matt. 5:9, *"Blessed are the peacemakers because they shall be called sons of Elohim."* Living in a world filled with violence, fighting and hatred, it is most difficult to make peace between nations and groups, but we simply have to do whatever we can - even if only to make peace between individuals and between brothers. Above all, make peace with Elohim: See to it that you are truly reconciled with Elohim. We read in Philip. 2:12-15, *"work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is Elohim working in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure. Do all matters without grumblings and disputings, in order that you be blameless and faultless, children of Elohim without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding on to the Word of life ..."*

To *"be a child of Elohim"* is the same as to *"be of Elohim"* or to *"belong to Elohim."* In the same way the children of the devil is also described as being *"of the devil."* With this in mind let us study the epistles of Yochanan, and see if our lives conform to the Word of life. Let the

Word speak to those who profess to be "*the children of Elohim*," and to those who wish to become "*the children of Elohim*." If the Word reproves us, let us repent of our sins or shortcomings or faults, and ask Yahushua (Yehoshua) forgiveness.

We read in 1 Yoch. 3:6-10, *Everyone staying in Him does not sin. Everyone sinning has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one lead you astray. The one doing righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous. The one doing sin is of the devil, because the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of Elohim was manifested: to destroy the works of the devil. Everyone having been born of Elohim does not sin, because His seed stays in him, and he is powerless to sin, because he has been born of Elohim. In this the children of Elohim and the children of the devil are manifest: Everyone not doing righteousness is not of Elohim, neither the one not loving his brother.*" To summarise what Yochanan was saying this: The children of Elohim are those who do not sin, those who do righteousness; while the children of the devil are those who are sinning, those who do not do righteousness.

What is righteousness? It is the opposite of sin. It is to do what is right in the eyes of Elohim - to keep His Commandments, to keep His Teaching. This is how we find it clearly defined in 5 Mosh. 6:25, Ps. 119:172 and Yesh. 51:7. Of course, Yahushua, (Yehoshua) is the embodiment of righteousness. (Yirm. 23:6).

Let us heed the warning Yochanan gave us, "*let no one lead you astray.*" Let no minister or pastor lower the standards, and compromise, just for the sake of getting more members. The Almighty will not compromise with sin, with the devil!

To become a child of Elohim, or to be a child of Elohim, everyone of us has to overcome the deep-rooted problem of sin, the Adamic nature all of us have inherited. We also have to overcome the deception which the Great Mother Harlot and her Daughters wrought by making the inhabitants of the earth drunk with the wine of Her fornications, getting them to drink from her cup filled with abominations and filthiness. (Rev. chs. 17-19).

Let all those who earnestly seek, let all those who truly strive to be one of the children of Elohim, let all those who "*have overcome with El*" (=Yisrael), be encouraged by what we read in Rev. 21:7, "*The one who overcomes shall inherit all this, and I shall be his Elohim and he shall be My son.*"

In part 2 of this article we are going even deeper into this question, *Who are the children of Elohim?*"

Who are the Children of Elohim? part 2

by C.J. Koster

Someone, who professes to be a child of Elohim, might come to you and say, for example, *"I know that I am His child, because He fills my heart with food and gladness."* If Elohim gives us all the food we need, if He is *indeed "filling our hearts with food and gladness"*, is that to be taken as proof that we are His children? No! Elohim does this in order to bear witness to unsaved people who *still "walk in their own ways"* .(Acts 14:16-17)!

In these two verses we read that He does good to them, that He gives them *"rain from heaven and fruitbearing seasons."* When He gives rain from heaven and fruitbearing seasons to a group of people, can that be used as proof that they are His children? No! Read Acts 14:16-17 again.

In Mt. 5:45 we further read what Yahushua said about this, namely, *"Because He makes His sun rise on the wicked and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous."* So that which Barnabah and Shaul spoke in Acts 14:16-17 merely confirms what our Master said in Mt. 5:45.

If you still need another confirmation, a third one, please hear it from the lips of Yahushua, as He speaks in Lk. 6:35, *"the Most High ... He is kind to the thankless and wicked ones."* The Greek word for "kind" is *chrestos* which has often been rendered as *"good"* in the traditional English versions. So the Most High is good to the unthankful and wicked ones!

Can you see the false security the devil offers to people, just like he offered false security to Chawwah (Eve) in the garden of Eden!

A late sister, having previously been indoctrinated with the false security of *"once saved always saved"*, was once reproved by me for buying delicacies (which she had no need of) at a fete on the Sabbath day. The next day she said to me, *"I prayed about it and a voice said to me, 'Don't worry, you are My child'."* She had no remorse, she did not ask forgiveness, she was not convicted by the Set-apart Spirit. Why do I say that? Simply because she kept on trampling underfoot the Sabbath Commandment. So who was behind the voice that spoke to her? It was the devil! What he did with Chawwah, offering her false security, Satan has been doing ever since - not only daily, but minute by minute he tempts us and offers false security to us.

With the increasing popularity of the "prosperity gospel" one often hears, *"Since I have become a child of [Elohim], I have become so prosperous, just look at my new three storey mansion and my swimming pool."* These misguided people need to read Mt. 4:8-9, Mt. 6:19-21, Mt. 19:21-24, Lk. 6:20-25, Ya'aqob 5:1-5, I Yoch. 2:15-17 and many other passages in the Messianic Scriptures.

When we turn to the pre-Messianic Scriptures we find even further and much stronger evidence against this false security Satan offers - material *"blessings"* and prosperity, deceiving them into thinking that these are proofs of being a *"child of Elohim."*

Yirmeyahu cries out to Elohim in Yirm. 12:1-2, *"Why has the way of the wrong prospered? All the workers of treachery are at ease? You have planted them and they have taken root, they*

grow and they bear fruit. "YOU ARE NEAR IN THEIR MOUTH BUT FAR FROM THEIR KIDNEYS." (Capitals mine). Instead of the word "wrong" the KJV uses "wicked", while Dr Rotherham's, The Emphasized Bible renders it as "lawless", and therefore reads, "Why does the way of the lawless prosper?" If we add this to what Messiah said about the lawless, the danel, in Mt. 13, then we too could cry out, "Oh Elohim, why do the lawless 'believers' prosper?"

In Ps 73:2-17 we read a similar passage. Here, too, the Hebrew word *rasha*, has been rendered by us as "wrong" or "wrongdoer", while the KJV has "wicked" and The Emphasized Bible, has "lawless." Let us read what the Psalmist says in this passage, "But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped, for I was envious of the boasters, when I saw the peace of the wrongdoers (the wicked, the lawless). For death has no pangs for them, and their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men, and they are not plagued like other men. So pride is their necklace . . . See, these are the wrong (the wicked, the lawless), and always at ease, they have amassed wealth! Indeed, in vain have I cleansed my hands, and washed my hands in innocence. For I am plagued all day long, and my reproof is every morning."

The Psalmist was perplexed by this prosperity of the wicked, the lawless. But then he found the answer, in Ps 73:16-19, "Yet, when I tried to understand this, it was labour to my eyes - until I went into the Set-apart place of El, then I perceived their end. Indeed, You set them in slippery places, You make them fall to ruins. How suddenly they are ruined! completely swept away through destructions." We also find the answer in Ps 92:6-7, "A senseless man does not know, and a fool does not understand this. When the wrong (the wicked, the lawless) spring up like grass, and all the workers of wickedness blossom, it is for them to be destroyed forever."

As we study "all Scripture" which is "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for setting straight, for instructions in righteousness." (2 Tim. 3:16), our thinking is indeed straightened out. As we consider "all Scripture", as we take cognisance of every word in the Book of the Books, the complete picture emerges. And we also get absolute clarity of what it means to be a child of Elohim, and what it entails.

Let us scrutinise the passage contained in 2 Cor. 6:14 up to 2 Cor. 7:1, in which Shaul compiles a few applicable pre-Messianic Scripture texts. The most important of this passage is the call contained in 2 Cor. 6:17-18, "Therefore 'Come out from among them and be separate, says Yahuweh, and do not touch what is unclean, and I shall receive you. And I shall be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters of Me, says Yahuweh the Almighty'."

To be a son (or daughter) of Elohim we simply have to :

- 1) Come out from among them (v.1T)
- 2) Be separate, instead of being unclean like "them" (v.17).
- 3) Be righteous, instead of being lawless like "them" (v.14),
- 4) Be walking in the light, instead of being in darkness like "them" (v.14),
- 5) Be of Messiah, instead of being of Beliya'al (v.15),
- 6) Be a (true) believer, instead of being an unbeliever (v.15),

7) Be a Dwelling Place for Elohim (Elohim dwelling in us), having come out of "them" who serve idols (v.16),

8) Perfecting apartness in the fear of Elohim, having come out of "them" who are defiled of flesh and spirit (2 Cor. 7:1).

BEING "SONS AND DAUGHTERS" OF THE HEAVENLY "FATHER" IS THE SAME AS WHAT HE MEANT WHEN HE SAID, "AND I SHALL BE THEIR ELOHIM, AND THEY SAID BE MY PEOPLE." (v.16).

Do not be deceived by those who think they can pull down Elohim to their Gentile way of life, unclean, defiled of flesh and spirit, being in darkness, being lawless, serving idols. They only make fools of themselves, and they try to fool others too - "mockers", walking "according to their own wicked lusts" (Yehudah v.18). To be a child of the Father, to be part of Elohim's People, you and I simply have to abide by His standard: Apartness (Qodesh)! You and I simply have to "come out from among them and be separate." Who are the "them"? 1 Yoch 5:19 says. "all the world lies in the wicked one." Read Gal 1:4 as well, "this present wicked world."

If someone says, "He has miraculously healed me, now I acknowledge Him, the Elohim of Yisrael, as the only Elohim," is such a confession, as well as the miraculous healing, proof of him being a child of Elohim? Let us take an example from Scripture: In 2 Sover. 5 we read of Na'aman, commander of the army of the sovereign of Syria, who was miraculously healed of his leprosy. In v.15 he then confesses the Elohim of Yisrael to be the only Elohim. In spite of this he then already asks forgiveness for having have to worship (on his return home) in the house of Rimmon (probably a sun-deity), because he would have to accompany his Syrian sovereign into the house of Rimmon. Elisha did not approve of this apologetical request for forgiveness asked by Na'aman, neither did he disapprove - he merely let him go in peace.

Na'aman was wonderfully healed and acknowledged the Elohim of Yisrael as the only Elohim, but Na'aman went back to Rimmon - worship, in spite of it all. Nevertheless, he could never have thought to have become a child of Elohim or part of the people of Elohim. What Na'aman did was typical of what the Gentile nations afterwards did with the Messianic Belief - they compromised and kept on with their Sunday keeping, 25th December-keeping etc.

Another example is that of Nebukadnetstsar, sovereign of Babel (Babylon). In Dan. 4 we read how he was humbled by Elohim, and became mentally deranged and ate grass like oxen do, because of his sins, his crookedness, his maltreatment of the poor and his pride. He had to do this until he broke off his sins by righteousness (Dan.. 4:27); until he acknowledged that the Most High is ruler in the reign of men (Dan.. 4:32).

He witnessed of his mental healing and said, "and my understanding returned to me. And I blessed the Most High . . . Now I, Nebukadnetstsar, am praising and exalting and esteeming the Sovereign of the heavens, for all His works are truth, and His ways right." (Dan. 4:34 & 37).

Unbelievable! The sovereign of Babel (Babylon) was now blessing the Most High, praising and exalting and esteeming Him, confessing that all His works are truth, and His ways right! Did Nebukadnetstsar even become known as "a child of Elohim"? Nowhere do we read of it! Did he relinquish his position as sovereign of Babylon and his nationality of being a

Babylonian, and become an Yisraelite, the same way as Ruth became one? Not according to Scripture - never!

A third example is that of Nineweh, in the days of Yonah. Nineweh, that great city of Ashshur (Assyria), built by Nimrod (1 Mosheh 10:11), which become the capital of Assyria, some time after this. Their evils came up before Yahuweh and He decided to overthrow the great city. However, at the preaching of Yonah, they repented with fasting and in sackcloth and ashes, and turned from their evil way. Therefore Elohim relented from executing His wrath - because He shows favour, He is compassionate, patient and of great kindness (4:2).

So He pardoned that great city, because they repented and turned from their evil way. Because He pardoned them (4:11) did the citizens of this great city of Assyria then become children of Elohim - did they become part of Elohim's people? No!

To summarise these three examples: It certainly pleased Elohim that Na'aman acknowledged the Elohim of Yisrael as the only Elohim, after He had healed Na'aman. But that did not make him a child of Elohim or part of the people of Elohim. It certainly pleased Elohim that Nebukadnetzar *"broke off his sins by righteousness."* It certainly pleased Elohim that the Assyrians in Nineweh repented of their sin and turned from their evil way, but that did not make them part of the Covenant People.

If Na'aman, Nebukadnetzar and Nineweh would have thought, and boasted, that they became the People of the Covenant, Yisrael, we would immediately react and say, *"They are deceiving themselves!"* Has this same deception not prevailed among the Churches - Christians in general - who think that they are now the Chosen People, that they have replaced Yisrael, that they are the sons and daughters of Elohim, while they stubbornly continue with *"lawlessness"* (2 Cor. 6:14) and continue to reject *"apartness"*?

Remember: He who rejects apartness (qodesh) rejects Elohim (1 Thess 4:7-8)! Remember: Without apartness (qodesh) no one shall see Elohim (Heb. 12:14)!

This vital message contained in 2 Cor. 6:14 up to 2 Cor. 7:1, is confirmed by what we read in the Torah, namely 5 Mosh. 14:1-2. Remember, in Scripture we very often find parallel words or phrases, and here we find it too, the *"children of Yahuweh your Elohim"* are *"a set-apart people to Yahuweh"* and He has *"chosen you to be a people for Himself."* He then says of them, *"a treasured possession above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth."* Let everyone who professes to be child of Elohim measure himself/ herself by the standard of these parallel phrases, these definitions of the true children of Elohim.

To complete this message we ought to look at the only solution, the only expectancy of all esteem, the One we need to reach out to: Yahushua! Whoever wishes to be a son (a child) of Elohim, has to see that the old man of sin (the Adamic nature) is put to death, and let Messiah then live IN you. If Messiah lives IN you, being a new creature, then THE SON OF ELOHIM LIVES IN YOU, then you truly are a son (or child) of Elohim!

Is it possible to be certain that the Son of Elohim lives IN us? Yes! Simply follow the instructions given to us in the Messianic Scriptures - all of it, but some guidelines are contained therein in order to help us :

1) In Rom. 6, 7 and 8 we clearly see how we have to put to death the old man of sin, the Adamic nature, the old man who is a servant of sin, a servant of uncleanness and of lawlessness (6:19). This old man is then replaced by a new man, one who is a servant of righteousness, a servant of Elohim, resulting in apartness or *qodesh* (6:16-22). This new man, of course, is Messiah, the Son of Elohim (Gal 2:20 and many other texts).

2) In Yoch 14:23-24 we see that the requisite for Him (and His Father) to live in us, is for us to truly love Him by guarding (keeping) His Words, His Commandments, His Teachings.

Let us strive to become true sons (or children) of Elohim by earnestly seeking and searching and obeying the Son of Elohim! It is as simple as that, BUT IT SIMPLY MEANS THAT THE OLD CARNAL MAN, THAT THE OLD MAN OF SIN, THE OLD MAN OF LAWLESSNESS, FIRST NEEDS TO DIE, NEEDS TO BE IMPALED!