

Circumcision — Letter from Caleb David

Dear Arthur,

You are very close and dear to my heart. Never will I forget your poured-out life in order to raise us up, the little children in Steinenberg. You are the first friend I could share the depths of my heart with and all the things deep inside of me. You have the wonderful gift to open up someone's heart and to pull out the splinters that are stuck so deep inside and are hurting so bad. Even though we are now separated from each other through many miles of ocean, we are still united in our hearts and are giving our strength for one and the same purpose. Even though it was not our Father's will for me to come and be with you again right now, I'm still longing for the day when we can see each other again. May our Father's will be done. Nothing can take the wonderful memories of our precious time in Steinenberg away. Your life is still speaking to me, even in your absence, and the Holy Spirit is faithful to remind me of your example. I'm always eager to hear news from and about you. You have given me things my natural father could never have given to me.

Now I want to tell you about another thing in my life which is deeply moving me. Ever since we talked about us being Israel, something has been stirring my heart. My heart pines away for Jerusalem, the city of our Elohim. I want to be a part of His heritage, His seed. I want to be a part of the children of Israel, the people of YHWH. When I'm reading or hearing stories about our forefathers, a longing fires up in my heart to be with them. Some time ago we were not dancing a whole lot and one day I realized that I had forgotten some dances I had known earlier. I felt bad because I saw that dancing is a part of our heritage, our life. I knew that without having true life, we would never be able to make one single Jew jealous. That made me zealous to exercise my will and to dance, so that we wouldn't forget our heritage. It would be a shame. I know that we are descendants of Abraham, if we are in His seed, Yahshua the Messiah. I remember a teaching from James Howell in Steinenberg, when I first understood about the true descendants of Abraham, that is, those who are of the promise. Jacob, he desired the heritage, the blessing of his father with all of his heart, so he received it despite different traditions or customs. Esau didn't receive the blessing, even though he was a natural descendant of Isaac and had the right of the firstborn. He didn't care so much about it in his heart. It really didn't mean that much to him. John the Baptist showed old Israel that they were no longer YHWH's people (Mt 3:9). They were cut off from Him and first had to repent and be baptized, in order to be YHWH's people.

Yahshua made it clear to the Pharisees who were Abraham's children — only those who did the deeds of Abraham (Jn 8:39). In Acts 15:14, James talks about how YHWH is taking for His name a people from among the Gentiles. Also, other prophets state that there will be a people of those who were once not called His people.

I'm excited that we are Israel — spiritual Israel. The spiritual is greater than the natural. That is really something. I know that I always got stirred up in my heart about the Jew's persecution through Hitler; even then, before I was a believer, something went out from me to this people. Now I am no longer separate from Messiah (Eph 2:12) and a stranger to the covenant of promise, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, but in Messiah (verse 15), I am now a part of the one new man (verse 18), and in Him, we have access in one Spirit to our Father (verse 19). We are of YHWH's household, Israel. It means much to me to be a part of spiritual Israel. I want to have a part in making the natural Jews jealous. That's why I want to be circumcised. For a long time I have wanted to be circumcised. I want to be reminded even in my flesh that I am a part of YHWH's people. While Elbert was still in Island Pond, I wrote him already a couple of letters concerning that. I think it started when my name was changed. From that time on, I truly took identity with our forefathers. So I eagerly wanted to be circumcised. Several brothers wanted to be circumcised too, as we were talking together more about it. Then Elbert wrote a letter, talking about Abraham, and how it took him 24 years to come from his calling to the place where YHWH could circumcise him. He was justified by faith 24 years before he was circumcised and he first had to come into self judgment before he could receive the seal in the flesh. Elbert also wrote that a man has to come into self judgment before he can be circumcised. So I saw that I still needed to wait, because I didn't want

to strive and I didn't know if I had come into self judgment yet. Then, when Elbert came here, he talked sometimes about circumcision and taught about Abraham. The desire to get circumcised got kindled up again in me. Now I know that the outward sign of circumcision in the foreskin is the reflection of the inward circumcision of the heart. Our heart needs to be circumcised. All the many layers of skin must be cut off in order for YHWH's voice to be able to move us. Our heart must be tender and very sensitive to YHWH's voice. The inward circumcision comes through the cutting of the *received* word of YHWH. Only in the church can we become circumcised in heart, by the Holy Spirit. The first cutting away of this foreskin happened in our baptisms, which made our hearts for the first time sensitive to YHWH's voice. When we heard the gospel for the first time, it pierced our heart (Heb 4:12) and we saw our need for salvation. We saw how hard our heart was. That resulted in baptism where the first layer of hard skin was cut off from around our heart. This circumcision has to go on and on until we can react to the slightest hint of our Sovereign. He wants to lead us by intuition. I know that I have entered into the process of coming into self judgment. I want to judge myself and desire for the Holy Spirit to change my life in order that I would be a useful vessel for my Sovereign, that He could use me for the building up of the church here in Sus, the building up of the 12 tribes. I know that self-judgment and circumcision of my heart has to continue on all my life long. Certainly circumcision will not justify me, but I want to be in all aspects just as my ancestor Abraham. Eph 2:12 — In Messiah I have now a part in the covenant of promise to Israel, even the covenant with Abraham. Nobody is justified by circumcision, which is performed in the flesh, but I want to enter into the covenant YHWH made with Abraham (Gen 17:7, 9 11), and wear on the outside, as a sign in my flesh, what the Holy Spirit is doing in my heart. The covenant with Abraham was never superseded. The new covenant is not abolishing the covenant with Abraham, but is bringing it about. The covenant with Moses couldn't bring it about. I am very thankful what the Father is doing in our lives. He has taken us from the gentiles and is making a nation out of us. He has taken us out of the world and now He is taking the world out of us, circumcising our heart. He is restoring all things back to their origin (Acts 3:27). When Adam was created, he was created without a foreskin. He had perfect fellowship with the Father. After the Fall, the foreskin grew around the heart of man and around his penis. Man's heart was no longer sensitive to the voice of His creator. Now the Holy Spirit is cutting this skin off from around our hearts. This has to be so that life can be passed on to us. YHWH can circumcise nobody if he hasn't made a covenant with him. We can only be circumcised if we are in the New Covenant. You have to hold a man down when you start cutting around his penis. I am thankful that I wasn't circumcised at my birth, because I was not born into Israel. Now I am born into Israel and have received a name. I have a new identity. I am thankful that now I can enter the covenant YHWH has made with Abraham. Our children get circumcised on the 8th day, because they are born into Israel and their parents make sure to tell them as they grow up about the meaning of this covenant with the token in the flesh. They also make sure that the hearts of the children become circumcised by the application of discipline and reproof. Abraham was chosen to command his household; so are we. First, I was a stranger to the common wealth of Israel, but then my heart was pierced by the gospel. Then I believed and my heart is now becoming sensitive. To cut all of my flesh away will probably take all my lifetime. Then the whole operation will be finished. I believe with all of my heart that I have the life of Jacob in me. Once we had a teaching, about how the 10 tribes of Israel got lost in their captivity. They never returned back to their land. They got dispersed among all the nations and forgot all about their identity. Only a remnant of the tribe of Judah and Benjamin returned from the captivity. Rom 9:29 — Unless YHWH had preserved a remnant — a posterity — we would have all become like Sodom and Gomorrah, uncircumcised. In the last days, YHWH will extract the life of Jacob out of the world and will redeem it into Israel. The real spiritual Israel has to come about in this age, to make natural Israel jealous. We can't make them jealous by going to church on Sunday and afterwards eating a pork roast. Therefore, YHWH is setting us apart, making a distinct people out of us, a distinct people in every way. The distinction starts in the way we dress and wear our hair and what we eat. I believe that I am of Jacob's life, because when I hear

words of life, or hear about the new Jerusalem, it truly stirs something up deep inside of me. However, in the daily life in the routine of work, I forget sometimes who I am and what I'm doing. I hope that the sign I would like to wear in my body will also help to remind me of the reality and truth. I want to know always who I am, and never lack vision. The way is narrow, and without vision, the people perish.

I love you very much and think often about you.

Your friend,

Caleb David

P. S. Greet your wonderful wife from me. Tell her that I love her and appreciate her wonderful heart. I always remember her gentle and friendly quiet spirit.

P. P. S. I don't want to go to a gentile hospital to get circumcised. I would like to be circumcised in the temple by a priest. Could you please ask Gladheart if he could get all the necessary instruments for us? Elbert felt that Gladheart would be ready to do an adult circumcision. I know that that would be a great sacrifice for you to send Gladheart over here for a while. I wanted to write to you and see how you feel about that, and what we could work out. Please communicate with us about it. Arthur, I'm very excited about what will come about. I have prayed a lot for it, but I only want our Father's will to be done.