

The Black Box

A Felled Tree Sprouting

For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its tender shoots will not cease. Though its root may grow old in the earth, and its stump may die in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud and bring forth branches like a plant. (Job 14:7-9)

That is one of those obscure places in the Bible concerning who we are. This is Job's despondent prayer:

Oh, that You would hide me in the grave, that You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, that You would appoint me a set time, and remember me! If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes. (Job 14:13-14)

"...until Your wrath is past" means "when I have paid for my sins." You can see the Three Eternal Destinies of Man hidden there. The word *grave* there is *Sheol* (#7585). A lot of translations just say *grave*, which does not give you the right understanding of what is being spoken of. *Sheol* is a place of wrath where the soul goes for a time of suffering to pay for sins. If our sins are paid for, we don't have to go there. If they are not confessed, we have to. The blood of our Master covers our past sins, but our present and future sins aren't covered unless we confess them.

It is like it says in Jn 8:51, "If we truly obey His word we will not see death." Paul had confidence that if he were absent from the Body, and then he wouldn't go to Sheol (2 Cor 5:8). Sheol is otherwise called *hell*, but that is a terrible word. Paul knew if his life were absent from the Body, he would be immediately present with our Master. If he didn't have that confidence, he would have to go to death. It is so important that we would be able to judge ourselves right. We have to judge our attitudes that hurt others. Our lack of love is actually hate.

If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And

this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. (1 Jn 4:20-21)

If we do not love, we hate.

What Happened to the First Church?

The following paragraphs have to do with an old walnut tree on the edge of our volleyball court that was almost completely dead, with just a few buds. Next to it was a healthy young tree growing from the same root system. Somehow, in the weeks we have lived at the Morning Star Ranch most of us had not noticed what a remarkable sight this was. We ended up pushing the tree over and saving the strong sapling growing from it, cutting it off and carefully replanting and watering it, speaking much of the significance and condition of each tree.

What we have to do is come to understand what happened to the First Church. Why was it a felled tree? What happened? We can see where we came from through the example of that walnut tree. Our Father made that happen so we could all see who we are and why we are on the face of the earth. That felled tree would have just dried up and rotted away, and the other one would have grown up on its own, eventually, but we had to sever it from the dead tree so that it would grow unhindered. There was a yoneq (#3127) growing up from the root system. And that is exactly who we are, a felled tree sprouting. I want people to express what they saw.

ha-êmeq – Achsah shared something with me. She asked, “What is going on over there?”

I told her, “Yoneq rammed into that tree and it almost knocked him out.”

“You know,” she said, “I knew it would be Yoneq who’d have trouble with that tree. He got poked in the eye walking by it last week.”

It almost killed you this time. It would have killed you, that system.

Yes, it was very deceptive. So, we uprooted it.

Julie – On the surface of the tree, you could see how obvious it was, the damage that had eaten it alive and killed it. It had become a home to all these lowly creatures. But the root system was keeping the new shoot alive.

It became a home for all kinds of unclean spirits.

And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!" (Rev 18:2)

Soreph Gamaliel – I was struck by how many times I looked at the tree and never gave it a second thought. Why didn't I notice that the tree was dead? We were talking after it fell and I saw that it was like Super Bowl Sunday when we finally saw that Christianity was dead, totally dead, and we had to sever ourselves from it. If we hadn't, we'd be sitting in front of our televisions right now ourselves watching some ball game. I'd been by that tree so many times, thinking it was a late bloomer or something.

ha-êmeq was like John who saw the church in great amazement (Rev 17:6). She wanted to know what we were doing.

ha-êmeq – I knew that you loved trees and wouldn't just destroy a tree.

How many men did it take to push that tree over?

Jeremiah – Four or five at most.

I could shake it myself.

Adam – The root was dead and it was eaten away inside, but it still looked like a tree, just like Christianity looks alive but it is really dead. There is still a façade, but the words we are hearing help us see through it.

Simchah – I saw the dead tree and I thought, "What happened?" Then I saw the young tree and I was comforted. There was something fresh, new, and alive. It gave me hope.

We are going to put this on the cover of the Intertribal News.

Mevaser – People think they have our Father all figured out. Somehow we have to bring in that thing about the chain saw.

Othniel was up there on the mountain wondering, "What's going on down there?"

Mevaser – Our Father involved us in all these things purposefully today. So many people on the Earth think that they have our Father all figured out. We can be that way also. When I heard the chain saw I wondered why someone would be running a chain saw on the Sabbath. Then I thought there must be a good reason. But it would be so easy to think something was off and that our Father wouldn't do things this way.

Yoceph Daniel – I was thankful because I couldn't stand that big ugly tree. It looked like it had been painted white and shot with a shotgun. People

said it was going to sprout, and I didn't know, so today I was thankful that what bothered me bothered others.

Othniel could have totally judged us already.

Othniel – You know how fast it happens. You just go through a thousand thoughts about what, why, how come. Almost immediately, I saw something coming, and it was the spirit of indignation. I am so thankful that we have something to judge our thoughts.

I was starting to wonder what was going on here when I heard the chain saw. What was happening? I was worried about people getting hurt and just why we would be doing this on the Sabbath. I was starting to judge the situation, which I didn't even know anything about, and my judgment was unrighteous. Then, it was like passing from death into life when I came around the corner and saw all these brothers, men I love and respect, holding the tree and digging out the earth for the roots. It was almost bizarre. It went way beyond my concern about using the chainsaw on the Sabbath. Then I saw it. The whole thing opened right up. I saw the dead tree, Christianity, and the new sprout. And I couldn't do anything but confess my sins. A thought can be sin, if you entertain it.

We are to take every thought captive (2 Cor 10:4-6).

Othniel – I was thankful to pass from death into life. It is like a sign of the Passover. One more thing I saw was the unity and the power of working together. There was enough of a concern that people asked me if we should cut the roots off. I thought they shouldn't, since they were so supple and covered with root hairs. The little tree needed them. Immediately, they were making the pattern for the roots to go into the ground, keeping all the roots. Before I could even figure out how to do it, they had done it.

It was one of those supernatural occurrences that show us exactly who we are. It was the severing of the new shoot from Christianity.

Abigail – What I learned was that from now on I can tell people about that little shoot. I can tell people what that new shoot represents, how it comes from the root of the faith of Abraham. It represents doing the deeds of Abraham and doing our Father's word. We have something to pass onto our children about this.

We have to take care of that new shoot, to nurture and water it.

First Day Festivals

This is the Sabbath. I know that the Sabbath can't take the place of the First Day Festivals. Our activities at them will be like the things we are doing today: teachings, things for the children, time to share what we've heard after each teaching all together. All the clans around here will come to the farm on First Day – one-half of each clan. We will have to get together and decide what we can do. We will have to take what we hear to the communities. All the people who didn't go to that particular teaching will hear when we gather and share after each teaching. That is why it is good that only half the people come to each of the First Day Festivals – so the other half can share with them what they have heard.

We are learning as our Father speaks to us. Today was a wonderful volleyball game. There was peace, but volleyball is not going to be the center of our Sabbath. The most important thing up there was not the game, but that we learned the lesson of that tree that our Father had for us.

Today, instead of the teaching I was going to bring, I want to share with you something ha-êmeq and I were talking about on our way here.

ha-êmeq – You were talking about the subject of the Washington event, and the various movements in history, and how none of them actually got off the ground. You said the First Church got off the ground.

We are going to do something about what we are saying. Today is only the initiation of it. From here the Body has to carry it out. I am going to share it with all the brothers back east, too, and they are going to help us bring it about. We talk about these things in order to bring them about. We are a brand new culture.

The Black Box

What's a black box?

Adam – On an airplane the black box records all the information on the gauges, how the plane is doing, as well as what the pilots are saying in the

cockpit. Through it, they can find out what went wrong with the plane that made it crash.

The First Church got off the ground, but crashed before reaching their destination. What caused the crash of the First Church? Did it get off the ground? We all agree it did, but it crashed before it reached its destination. What caused the crash? If you can find the black box, you can find out, right?

Adam, you are going to have to get with your abba to help us on this and write an article about it. What caused the crash? I wrote about twenty words on it, but now it has to be developed, expanded, and embellished. We have to find the black box because everybody is dead. You can't ask them anymore. They are gone. So, you usually go to the site of the crash and inspect it, trying to figure out what happened.

What am I am talking about, the black box?

Yoceph – They have investigators that go and look to see if they can figure out what happened by the remains. They try to find the black box.

They do an inspection, but sometimes they can't find the black box. How big is it?

Yowceph Rodriguez – I don't know, but I think it is indestructible.

That is good. The black box is indestructible. We have to look at the remains. You can see Christianity today. You can see the destruction. We see the remains: Christianity today. It's like that trunk, full of holes and garbage and places where creatures hide. It might have a little remnant of life and you might think, "Yes, Jesus said, the gates of hell won't prevail against the church."

You are going to write articles and we are going to have open forums about this. In order to write them, we need to look in the black box to find the causes of the crash. What were the last words recorded in that black box? So, we find it and look into it and all we can see is arguments, divisions, strife, and the love of money. James tells it all.

When was James written? Not in 45 AD, as some scholars think. The edah was still vibrant and alive then, fifteen or so years after our Master died. Do you know why

they say that James was written then? To justify, as they do with Corinthians, the way the churches of today are. How are we going to know how the First Church fell?

Elliot – It was written down.

Where?

Elliot – In the Bible.

In the black box. That is why it is black. We'll make a sign that says "The Holy Black Box."

Yowceph Rodriguez – The black box tells it all.

These Christian footnotes say, "The problems James addresses are pride, greed, discrimination, and conformity to an unchristian world" and Bibles say all this was going on in AD 45!

What they are saying is that, "Yes, the First Church got off the ground, but it crashed on takeoff," which is what it would mean if James was written in AD 45. But it didn't crash on takeoff; it got off the ground. It was going somewhere, but they left their first love.

Jms 2:19 — "The demons believe, and they tremble." The problem is, Christians don't tremble (Isa 66:2). All of these things are in the black box — the epistles, the gospels, and the commands. All the things they are not doing: giving up all their possessions, sharing what they have with one another.

Amtsah has an amazing, convicting story. She was talking to her friend about how the church should be, and her friend told her, "What you are talking about is the Twelve Tribes." She started talking about it to her mother. Then she went to her pastor, thinking, "I know he will agree with me, that we are supposed to give up all of our possessions and live together," but he hemmed and hawed and said things aren't that way anymore, and then *he*, her pastor, gave her a paper of ours, too! Said, "Here's a paper from the Twelve Tribes," and this one had our address on it. After that, Gamaliel and Miriam went and picked her up.

I didn't know anyone read our papers. They just put them in the drawer. We never know. Even if only one person reads one paper out of one hundred thousand that we print and is saved, that is worth it, isn't it? It's worth the whole sixteen thousand dollars.

So in the black box we see things like Jms 1:1; 2:14; and Acts 26:7. Jms 1:1 and Acts 26:7 and Eph 2:12 talk about the Twelve Tribes of Israel and the Commonwealth of Israel. How can you tell it got off the ground?

Jesse – They had twelve tribes.

And they were serving him night and day.

Jesse – They did the first part of Isa 49:6.

That is right. They didn't do the big, heavy part of being a light to the nations for fifty years. They let it crash, instead. We are on the runway. You have seen these pictures of all these old planes on the runway, trying to make it off of the ground.

Mevaser – We are going to fly or die. We're committed.

Let's make that into a poster. We are already there on the runway with the Twelve Tribes almost established. Hundreds are there in Benyamin, and seventy are here in Yoceph. We can't crash while trying to get off the ground. At least we are not sitting there smoking our water pipes.

Mevaser – The black box was preserved so that we could understand why they crashed so that we won't crash.

Paul wrote it all down so we could understand exactly what happened to the church as a result of strife, splits, division, how they left their first love, and the desire to be rich – the love of money. You ought to read 1 Tim 6:10 and the following verses some day. It is incredible. Did they desire to be rich? I am sure they did. But Acts 26:7 is the proof it got off the ground. People will say that was about the Jewish people. Or they will say that Eph 2:12 was about Israel in the Old Testament, as if the Ephesians were

around when natural Israel was twelve tribes. The First Church got off the ground in Acts 26:7, but the question is, “When did it crash?”

Benjamin – People came out of “The Call” event and said, “We got off the ground.”

Have you ever seen the last words of James and considered who he was? He was there and all the bishops were out playing handball or something. Maybe when James was a little boy looking at his father reading the letter of Revelation to the Church in Sardis, something went into his heart. Because of that, when he was older he wrote that letter to the Twelve Tribes. I love the Book of James. It is not an epistle of straw to me.

Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins. (Jms 5:18-19)

That is talking about a *believer* going to death, not an unbeliever. We call the life that James was talking about — the way of truth — a lost culture. Then we talk about the restoration of that lost culture. That *yoneq* up there is the restoration of the lost culture of that tree. It is a felled tree, but it is sprouting from the root system, even as the First Church did from Old Israel, and we are from both of them.

The felled tree sprouting is the restoration of the lost culture of Acts 2:44. “All who believed were together, and had all things in common.” You have to be included in the restoration of Mk 9:11-12 or Mt 17:11-12 in order to be saved. It is right there, but no one has ever told them about it, even though it is plain as day, telling us what will happen in the last days.

“The Opening of the Black Box” — we can have a scene with all these big dignitaries coming to see what it will reveal about why the First Church crashed. They will start listening to a few recordings of some of the essential or main points of why they crashed.

Keli – One of the reasons they look for the black box is that they fear the acts of terrorism, but the black box reveals that it was destroyed from

within, for the gates of hell can't prevail against the church that is on the rock, so the destruction had to come from the inside.

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. (Acts 20:28-30)

You see there, that is prophecy. Did it happen? Yes, it did. Then look at Eph 6:24 also, in relation to Rev 2:4-5. What did Paul exhort them to do? Not to lose that fervent love for our Master. That was some thirty years before Revelations was written. Revelations said they had lost their first love, which was the very thing he had exhorted them not to do. Their sins were piled up as high as heaven. The Master wasn't high priest over that house anymore (Heb 3:6). What happened?

Yedidiah – They lost their outspokenness.

Jesse – The Nicolaitans came in.

1 Cor 14:26 – That is in the black box, too, isn't it? They lost their outspokenness and the Nicolaitans took over.

Yedidiah – They had a form of godliness, but denied the power of it.

ha-êmeq – They act religious, but reject the power (2 Tim 3:5).

The First Church never reached its destination. It crashed. What was its destination? Isa 49:5-6; Mt 24:14; 21:43. Acts 13:47 — We are raising up the Twelve Tribes in order for the light to go to the ends of the earth (Isa 49:6). Mt 21:43; 24:14 – They didn't produce the fruit of the Kingdom. Anyone preaching the gospel apart from a witness where people are laying down their lives and loving one another daily is false. They can have no confidence in their preaching, unless, of course, it comes to them from the evil one.

And Jn 13:34-35 is also in the black box, that we are to love one another as He has loved us. One of the big ones is Jn 14:15,21. If He is revealing Himself to us, the gates of the underground won't prevail against us.

Mt 16:16-18 – The gates of hell won't prevail against you if you continue to have revelation from the Father as to who our Master is. We have to have that when we are baptized. It has to come from our Father, or even our baptism is just by decree. Our Master said to Peter, "Flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven." But when revelation died, decree came in. The Father was not revealing those decrees to people. What they believed was in their minds only, and so decrees, the Inquisition, Crusades, and all kinds of other things came in. They came up with Easter because they didn't want to have anything to do with the Jews. And we can talk about Constantine and what happened then.

The black box is found after much deliberation and debate. They say, "It never crashed and we are still flying high," but finally, the black box is found, after much research, decrees, and doctrine. But whoever has the Son has the life (1 Jn 5:12-13). And those who have passed out of death and into life (Jn 5:24) know they have because they love their brothers (1 Jn 3:14; 2:4; Rev 3:4-5).

Did Messiah mean what He was saying in Mt 16:18 and Jn 14:21? The Jesus Movement never got off the ground. The reason was that it was just a patch on an old garment.

Mevaser – It wasn't new wine. It wasn't revelation from our Father.

All the new patch can do is rip the old cloth. We need to have open forums on the difference between *reform* and *restore*. *Reform* is patching up an old garment. *Restoration* is going back to the original. Then we can talk about the new wine and the old wineskin. What was the cause that the Jesus Movement never got off the ground? It was not the restoration of all things (Mt 24:14).

I looked up *black box* in the dictionary and this is what it said:

a) The black box is a crashworthy device in aircraft for recording cockpit conversations and flight data;

b) It is a usually complicated electronic device that functions and is packaged as a unit and whose internal mechanism is hidden from or mysterious to the user.

Soreph Gamaliel – Those are two different definitions. The first is the black box found in commercial airplanes, telling you what happened that made it crash. The second is a general term for anything people don't understand that does or is supposed to do something important.

Mevaser – If they take a serious look at the Word, they will see that it does not justify them, as they suppose. The Black Box was somehow preserved and it has some kind of credibility to Christians. We have to help them understand what it says so they can see what really happened and where they really stand.

We have to help them understand. We don't want to condemn them. We were Christians ourselves. It wasn't the time for them to know.

Jeremiah – We are going to help them understand that it did crash. We can bring up the fruit of different things today and show them the wreckage.

The Inquisition is part of that wreckage, the inquisitions and crusades.

Othniel – The system of rote worship is part of that wreckage, too: "Repeat after me..."

And for centuries they didn't even translate it for the common people.

Yedidiah – The clergy-laity system is proof of that wreckage, too (1 Cor 14).

And so is Heb 3:6. Waiting for me to start our Erev Shabbat gatherings is part of it, too. Sometimes we sit there and no one even stands up and says, "Welcome to our house." Let me just say this. Our Father knows my heart in saying it, but the Holy Spirit is rude. He doesn't mind interrupting. It says that when a person is talking, someone else can stand up and start talking. You don't have to just wait until the man is through, after three hours. The Holy Spirit wants to add what is being said. He wants to clarify what is being said. If you have something to interject, stand up and say it, and the person who is

speaking will be quiet, and then when you are done, he can add more to what the Holy Spirit is speaking.

Jesse – I am thankful that we heard this today. If we can do a play, or have pictures, anyone who is sincere will not be able to refute that the First Church crashed. We can also say the black box never lies. They can reason away what James says, like Martin Luther did. They were losing their first love. And once you find the black box you know why the plane went down. He said, “If you don’t repent quickly, I’m going to come and cut you off.”

Jeremiah – It is not church buildings that crashed, for the system went on. The black box is taking in the last words and last actions of the plane and then it blacks out. It stopped recording after the Book of Revelations.

Let’s say the book of James. James was written after the Book of Revelations. We know they had time to repent after the letter of Revelations was written, for it says, “He who hears, let him repent.” James was the last straw. That is a good one, isn’t it, in light of what Martin Luther said about it being an “epistle of straw”? So, we could say, “Martin Luther was right, the book of James was the last straw.” Faith without works is dead.

Ben – What I thought of when Yoneq first started speaking about this is where it says in Rev 2:5, “Remember the height from which you have fallen. Repent and do the things you did at first.”

That’s right! They got to thirty thousand feet. “Remember the height from which you have fallen...”

Keli – That was on its way down.

I hope everyone puts these things down and it doesn’t get dusty. This is the next “It Takes a Community” paper. I want to pray that we will carry this out. Write your own articles and give it to whomever. We won’t assign it all to one person. Maybe Mevaser can run with it.

Mevaser – It is so important that we would understand these things, what is written in these papers. We have to be able to help people understand what happened, and where they stand. They have to be snapped out of the illusion, the opium spell. Inside they are unsatisfied; their guilt is still upon

them. Our Father has given us such a wealth of understanding. Our Father really wants all of us to understand these things, so no matter who they talk to when they come in our midst, they will hear it. We will break it down for them.

Yoceph Daniel – People have to know what it means to get off the ground. They have seen these revolutions come and go. Maybe at the event we could have some old hippies and what they were going through. We want to help people understand why they didn't get off the ground.

Let the Holy Spirit embellish it. We have only said a few words compared to what we will do with it. I don't know when we will ever have the chance to practice these plays. We can do nothing without grace.

Also remember that these things were written down for our instruction upon whom the ends of the ages will come. What was written down for them who were falling was preserved for us.

Julie – The black box was made to survive any explosion.

Can you imagine what happened to people? The man who tried to make one translation was burned at the stake by the Church of England. It is good we have many translations. He teaches us which is the right one for what we are reading in the Bible.