

## Freedom Comes in Stages

1) Matthew 1: 17 NKJV <sup>17</sup> So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon *are* fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ *are* fourteen generations.

- a. What is the significance of 14 generations?
- b. What about Abraham, David, Babylon, and Christ?

### 2) **Acceptance of the Yoke of the Commandments, By Rabbi Maurice Lamm**

Because the Jews constitute a covenant-community rather than a faith-community, the decision to convert is a decision not only to believe in the Jewish idea of God, but to act on that belief. When one "enters into the covenant"--the convert's personal Sinai [the mountain where the Jewish people accepted the covenant]--one accepts the divine mandate requiring distinctive behavior. This is called "acceptance of the yoke of the commandments."

- a. How would the yoke of the law concept here relate to a non-Jewish person?

### 3) Galatians 5: 1 - 11

5 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. <sup>2</sup> Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. <sup>3</sup> And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. <sup>4</sup> You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt to* be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. <sup>5</sup> For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. <sup>7</sup> You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? <sup>8</sup> This persuasion does not *come* from Him who calls you. <sup>9</sup> A little leaven leavens the whole lump. <sup>10</sup> I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is. <sup>11</sup> And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased.

- a. What is the yoke of bondage? Why?

- b. What does it mean being a debtor to fulfill the whole law?
- c. What is the significance of the offence of the Cross?

4) Isaiah 10: 27 KJV And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

- a. What breaks the yoke of bondage?
- b. What is the anointing?

5) Matthew 11: 27 – 30 KJV

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

- a. Where do we find rest?
- b. What is the rest that Jesus is speaking about?
- c. What is Jesus' yoke?

6) Deuteronomy 22:10 You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together

a. If only two of the same species are to be yoked together, what does that tell us when Jesus says to take His yoke upon us?

7) John 17: 20 – 23

<sup>20</sup> "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup> that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. <sup>22</sup> And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: <sup>23</sup> I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

- a. How does Jesus giving us His glory relate to His yoke?