“BUT IF IT DIES”

[**King James Bible**](https://biblehub.com/kjv/john/12.htm) **John 12:24**
 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it dies, it bringeth forth much fruit.”

[**Amplified Bible**](https://biblehub.com/amp/john/12.htm) **John 12:24**
 \*\*\*“I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone [just one grain, never more]. But if it dies, it produces much grain *and* yields a harvest.”

 This verse has come to many times over the last few years, and did so again tonight, Shabbat evening March 19, 2021 while listening to a teaching by my son on a phone Prayer Call, or “conference call,” for the Prayer Center. He was speaking about Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits.

 The whole Word is so filled with the symbolism in this upcoming Festival series, picturing our salvation through the Lamb of Yahuwah, His death for us, His burial, His resurrection. From **Exodus 12-14** we see that He is our Passover Lamb. He is our unleavened Bread of Life. He is the “first fruits” of our resurrection unto eternal life.

 But, in that one phrase in one sentence that Yahushua spoke, we have the symbolism of our life in training for reigning with Him in His Kingdom and forever in His Presence.

 He spoke to His disciples about His death. He referred to the week of Unleavened Bread - and the three days and three nights He would be in the heart of the earth. Let us apply His words to our lives- for He tell us what we all must do in order to be of any use to the Kingdom, and how to be even prepared to enter it.

 Let’s look at the context of this verse in **John 12:23-33**: “And יהושע answered them, saying, “The hour has come for the Son of Aḏam to be esteemed. [24](https://biblehub.com/john/12-24.htm)`Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone. **But if it dies**, **it bears much fruit**. [25](https://biblehub.com/john/12-25.htm) **He who loves his life shall lose it, and he who hates his life in this world shall preserve it for everlasting life.** [**26**](https://biblehub.com/john/12-26.htm) **If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me. And where I am, there My servant also shall be. If anyone serves Me, the Father shall value him**. [27](https://biblehub.com/john/12-27.htm) Now I Myself am troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this reason I came to this hour. [28](https://biblehub.com/john/12-28.htm) Father, esteem Your Name.’ Then a voice came from the heaven, `I have both esteemed it and shall esteem it again.’ [29](https://biblehub.com/john/12-29.htm)So the crowd who stood by and heard it were saying there had been thunder. Others said, `A messenger has spoken to Him.’ [30](https://biblehub.com/john/12-30.htm)יהושע answered and said, `This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. [31](https://biblehub.com/john/12-31.htm) Now is the judgment of this world, now the ruler of this world shall be cast out. [32](https://biblehub.com/john/12-32.htm) And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, shall draw all men unto Myself.’ [33](https://biblehub.com/john/12-33.htm)This He said, signifying by what death He was about to die.”

 My grandmother took care of me as a baby when my mom and dad were at work as local school teachers. In the spring she’d plant a garden by her little house in Westville, Oklahoma, in the Ozark Mountains. She’d set me down in the dirt and work around me. I grew up loving to be where green plants were being planted in rich brown dirt, in the sunshine under clear blue skies. Every spring all my growing up to this very week, something happens inside of me as winter passes: I must plant green plants in rich brown soil. I must water them and care for them so that they grow healthy and beautiful and edible. I put out big gardens when we lived in North Carolina. My son loved to plant in my gardens.

 Today, I have herbs and cherry tomato plants in pots on my back yard patio. In my big gardens, I planted lots of seeds in long rows. Now I buy little plants in little containers at Walmart or Lowe’s. Still there is something special about planting seeds, that from such a tiny little thing, a good harvest comes. I bought a little blade mower. I mowed grass with it for the first time today. It is so good for our spirit to be outside involved in bringing life to bear more life, helping life to prosper and grow.

 However, if a seed goes into the ground and just sits there without its hull dying and splitting open, no little plant will spring forth to burst into the sunlight and produce good food. Lots of factors are necessary for a plant to grow and bear its edible fruit, like good soil, water, sunlight, and keeping it free from weeds and bugs that would eat away at it and destroy it and its fruit.

 If it is not planted correctly, and treated correctly, the seed will just stay in the earth and rot in the darkness of the soil. However, “if it dies” – if the hull breaks open – the life within can rise to the surface, finds sunshine, air, and water, and produce the fruit contained within that tiny seed.

 Once the little life within the seed rises, photosynthesis is mandatory to give the plant the life it needs grow and produce, and to give us oxygen. Photosynthesis is a combination of sunlight, water, and CO2 gas, which we exhale. So, talking to plants really does make them grow better. Today, the goal, if Bill Gates and his evil friends get their way, the process of photosynthesis that gives life to the earth, the sun will be darkened, the water polluted and poisoned, and mankind killed off except for their desired 500 million slaves. The elite believe they’ll be in robotic bodies and live forever, as Transhumanism speaks out as once did the Nachash.

 Why is that little phrase spoken by Messiah so powerful and important?

 Without His death we would forever be locked into darkness, and eternal death. Without our dying to our carnal “self,” the destruction of the carnal nature, the rising of the new nature of Yahuwah within, the filling of the Spirit of Yahuwah, the Spirit of life, breathed into Adam and Eve by Yahushua in the Garden, there will only be rot, eternal death and eternal hell.

 He came that our old sin-nature, sin-life, and its rot and death would be removed and a whole new life inserted into our spirit that is eternal. His death for us accomplished that. His resurrection insured that.

 Unless we are like a good seed that allows the hull to be split open so that life proceeds from it, we are useless. We help no one, we disciple no one, we nurture no one – we just die within ourselves and rot.

 What good would His life have been if He did not go through with the taking of our sin so that we might take on His righteousness? That plan was created before the foundation of the world, and our names written in the Book of Life. The transformation from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of light is only possible because the Lamb of Yahuwah died for us, first being willing to die for us before He spoke the cosmos and the earth into existence in Genesis 1:1. He died to His own will to start with, and took on a human body forever. Where would be have been if the hull of that planted Seed on Wednesday late afternoon were not put into the ground? But, up from the grave, up from the ground, He arose.

Chorus of the Hymn “Up From the Grave He Arose” Chorus

“Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! (He arose)
He arose! (He arose)
Hallelujah! Christ arose!”

 **Genesis 3:15**: “[**New King James Version**](https://biblehub.com/nkjv/genesis/3.htm) “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

[**Berean Study Bible**](https://biblehub.com/bsb/genesis/3.htm)**: “**And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

 Indeed, on the stake, Messiah crushed his head, while he attacked His heel as He descended in victory to take those in Paradise to heaven with Him – Psalm 24 “Open the Gates…”
 Messiah put waring hostility between Lucifer and the woman, Miriam, who would bring forth Himself, the Seed, so that He, the Seed, would crush the head of Lucifer by His death and resurrection, redeeming what Lucifer wanted to stop and destroy forever.

 The whole of the Plan of salvation henges on that one verse, spoken by Messiah Yahushua to the Nachash, the serpent, in the Garden before Adam and Eve were expelled from it.

 In order that we might live unto eternal life, He calls us to die to the old life and rise to the new in a true new birth - lettering Him transfer us from the realm of darkness into the Kingdom of light.
 **Colossians 1:12-14**: “…giving thanks to the Father who has made us fit to share in the inheritance of the set-apart ones in the light, [13](https://biblehub.com/colossians/1-13.htm)who has delivered us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His Dear Son, [14](https://biblehub.com/colossians/1-14.htm)in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins…”

 Let’s look closer at that passage of Scripture in **John 12**, spoken by Yahushua.

 **John 12:23-26**: “The hour has come for the Son of Aḏam to be esteemed. [24](https://biblehub.com/john/12-24.htm)`Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone.** **But if it dies**, **it bears much fruit**. [25](https://biblehub.com/john/12-25.htm) **He who loves his life shall lose it, and he who hates his life in this world shall preserve it for everlasting life.** [**26**](https://biblehub.com/john/12-26.htm) **If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me. And where I am, there My servant also shall be. If anyone serves Me, the Father shall value him**.”

 Messiah died for us. We die for Him and for His will, which is for us to reach the earth with His loving salvation, starting with our home and neighborhood. **Acts 1:8** is the key to finding His will. “He won’t direct a parked car.” We’re in this world, but not of it, as born-again ones, we are children of the King of the Kingdom of heaven. We’re here to prepare for eternity. We’re here to get to know our Master and His Father personally. We’re here to do Their will for the salvation of mankind.

 Most in western Christianity take on belief in “Jesus” as a religion, which guarantees eternal life. Some are baptized into the religion as babies, or as children. Some pray a prayer to go to heaven with little understanding of what they are doing, even being allowed to pray it without repentance. In “seeker friendly” churches, sin is not preached, only “mistakes,” “failings,” or “issues.” Few know what it means to be saved, because few understand that they are “sinners.” Thus, many take on religion without being truly born again. They do not understand the transfer from slavery to Satan and the fallen ones to servanthood to a new Master – Yahushua – to follow in His steps and obey Him.

 We, in a true new birth, must be filled with the Spirit of Yahuwah following it as they were on the day of Pentecost and afterwards. The “baptism” by Messiah is not just a one-time experience, and certainly not a religious milestone to wear as a badge of honor. After a true new birth, we submit to Yahuwah’s Spirit, and allow Messiah to baptize us into Him. We must be diligent to obey Him so that we are continually filled, so that we allow Him to pour through us to others. Those who buddy-up to the world, as Ya’cob/James and Yochanan/John the Apostle tell us, are enemies of Yahuwah. (**James 4:4; I John 2:15-17**) Our citizenship is in heaven. (**Philippians 3:20-21**) Death to self, as symbolized in baptism, is mandatory so that we bear fruit – His nature, ways, and thinking, as well as fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-24**), as well as reproduce by leading others to salvation and discipling them in the Word. It is the order of nature. It is the order of the spiritual realm of the Kingdom of Light. We do not bear fruit of ourselves, but as we allow spiritual photosynthesis, i.e. the Son, Light of the world, the pure living water, the Spirit of Yahuwah, and the breath of His life to rule our life, then fruit is borne naturally, for His will is our will. When He says, go talk to that one about me, we say “yes Master.”

 This is what is symbolized by His descent into the heart of the earth. What He is saying is that we have a choice. We can be His seed, allowing Him to plant us into the soil of His will. Then we allow the breaking process of our will to take place so that He controls our desires, our thoughts, our actions. We must let Him break our stubborn carnal will by tests, trials, hardships, suffering. This is what this life on earth is for – to break us – so that the crust of sin-desire is gone, so that our focus is on eternity, so that we die to self and come alive unto Him.

 As we are broken, we become soft and gentle, kind, merciful, compassionate, loving and caring, unselfish, humble, and contrite beings. No pride, no arrogance, no lifting one’s self up above anyone else, but being a servant of our Master and a light to the lost, the suffering, the confused, the tormented, the unloved.

 Unless we let that hull we place around us as “self-protection” dies, we are alone – all to our own ugly self. We are exposed to all the brutality of the world of the fallen ones. However, IF it dies, out of our re-born spirit will flow life, love, light, and the nature of our Savior and heavenly Father. We will rise up into the Light, and drink of the pure water of life, as in **John 7:37-39**, and be a fountain of water for others.

 Unless we die to self and be like our Master, we will not rise to eternal life in the Kingdom. He plants us as a seed when we are born again. He watches, He waits. As the new life begins to grow, and the sunlight, the Word, and the rain (the Spirit) comes down on us, into us, we will be transformed so that our life bears “much fruit” for His honor and esteem, and for our eternal reward. Take this to the Master in prayer!

Shabbat Shalom, Chag Sameach! In His love, Yedidah - March 19, 2021