

December 4, 2021
Letter to the Messianic Jews 10:1-4
Conscience

Your shadow exists because light that traveled about 93 million miles unobstructed, was deprived of reaching the last few feet thanks to you.



[from Vicki Kline]



Israel Foreign Minister Yair Lapid

When Israel Foreign Minister Yair Lapid recently appointed his Messianic Jewish sister-in-law Ilil Keren to the board of the Jewish National Fund (JNF), religious news outlets created a fire storm across the Israeli media resulting in Keren resigning the post.

Keren, it was discovered, had been a member of a Messianic Jewish congregation in Tel Aviv together with her husband who held the role of “prayer leader” in the community. [

[<https://www.israeltoday.co.il/read/israeli->

Unfortunately for Messianic Jews, Yair Lapid is the Minister of foreign policy, and promote economic, cultural, and scientific relations with other countries. NOT immigration.]

Continuing my series on the Book of Hebrews/Letter to the Messianic Jews



Messianic Jews/Hebrews/MJ 10.1-4 For the Torah has in it a shadow of the good things to come, but not the actual manifestation of the originals. Therefore, it can never, by means of the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, bring to the goal those who approach the Holy Place to offer them. Otherwise, wouldn't the offering of those sacrifices have ceased? For if the people performing the service had been cleansed once and for all, **they would no longer have sins on their conscience.** No, it is quite the contrary — in these sacrifices is a reminder of sins, year after

year. For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.

[I attended synagogue in my youth, and yearly Yom Kippur services. Of course, no sacrifice, but the prayers and liturgy. There was afterward a sense of having done what we were supposed to do, but no great sense in our conscience of forgiveness and release. One believing friend asked his Rabbi during a service, “Is G-d here?” Got back a look of incredulity. “What does that mean?”]

Conscience:

1. What is it?
2. How does it operate?
3. How can we keep it at peace?

Conscience:

1. **What is it?**
2. How does it operate?
3. How can we keep it at peace?

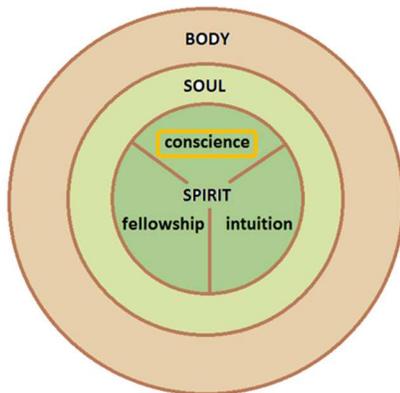
Definition of conscience

the sense or consciousness of the moral goodness or blameworthiness of one's own conduct, intentions, or character together with a feeling of obligation to do right or be good

[<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/conscience>]

¹ Thes 5.23 Now may the God of shalom Himself make you completely holy; and may your **whole spirit and soul and body** be kept complete, blameless at the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah.
[*One construct of this spirit, soul, body ...*]

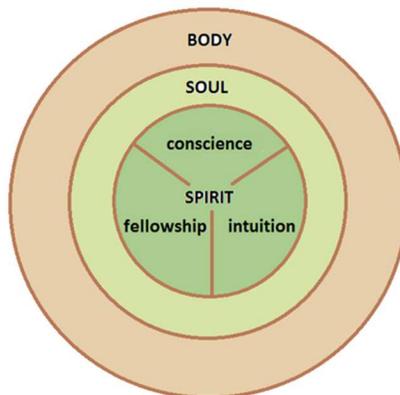
your whole
spirit and
soul and
body



Spirit is the innermost sense

1. Of self
2. Of G-d
3. Of other people
4. Of right and wrong: conscience

Soul:
intellect,
will,
emotions



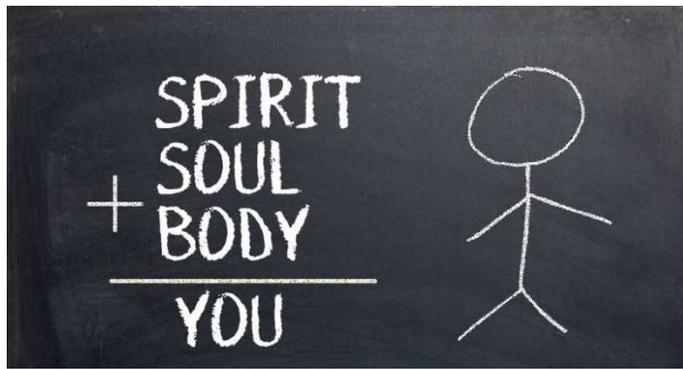
Soul is logical and emotional;
spirit is intuitive.

Sometime argue.

- ^{Ps 42.6} Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why are you murmuring within me? Hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, for the salvation of His presence.

- It's OK to lie to the IRS, the government is corrupt. Logical? Still not RIGHT!

[<http://holdingtotruth.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/spirit-soul-body-w-parts-of-spirit-rev2.png>]



We have choices to make that can defile or satisfy our conscience.

Conscience:

1. What is it?
2. How does it operate?
3. How can we keep it at peace?

T'hilim/Ps 139.13

For You have created my conscience. You knit me together in my mother's womb.

Ro 2.15b-16 Their consciences also bear witness to this, for their conflicting thoughts sometimes accuse them and sometimes defend them on a day when God passes judgment on people's inmost secrets. (According to the Good News as I proclaim it; he does this through the Messiah Yeshua.)

1 K 8.38-39 Regardless of what prayer or plea anyone among all your people Isra'el makes — for each individual will know what is plaguing his own conscience — and the person spreads out his hands toward this house; hear in heaven where you live, and forgive, and act.

Acts 24.15-16

In God I have a hope—which these men also wait for—that there will surely be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous. "Therefore I do my best always to have a clear conscience before both God and men.

1 Tim 1:5 Now the goal of this command is love from of a pure heart and a clear conscience and a genuine faith.

2 Cor. 4.2 Indeed, we refuse to make use of shameful underhanded methods, employing deception or distorting God's message. On the contrary, by making very clear what the truth is, we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

[Our only inventory in ministry is integrity]

1 Timothy 4:2

Such teachings come from the hypocrisy of liars whose own consciences have been burned, as if with a red-hot branding iron.



Conscience:

1. What is it?
2. How does it operate?
3. How can we keep it at peace?

Messianic Jews/Hebrews/MJ 10.1-4

For the Torah has in it a shadow of the good things to come, but not the actual manifestation of the originals. Therefore, it can never, by means of the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, bring

to the goal those who approach the Holy Place to offer them. Otherwise, wouldn't the offering of those sacrifices have ceased? For if the people performing the service had been cleansed once and for all, they would no longer have sins on their conscience. No, it is quite the contrary — in

these sacrifices is a reminder of sins, year after year. For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.

Here is the miracle and the uniqueness of faith in the Messiah Yeshua

Ro. 8.15-17 **For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to bring you back again into fear; on the contrary, you received the Spirit, who makes us sons and by whose power we cry out, “Abba!” (that is, “Dear Father!”). The Spirit himself bears witness with our own spirits that we are children of God; and if we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Messiah — provided we are suffering with him in order also to be glorified with him.**

Myself, Sunday evening, April 13, 1969: “Your name is now in the Book of Life.”

Pilgrim
Holiness
Church,
Schenectady
NY, April 13,
1969, after
10 days of
fasting, I
experienced



Golden glow up in the laminated rafters. “Cloud of liquid love.” April 13, 1969: I experienced New Birth. Many young people similarly seeking.

Went home few weeks later. “Mom, Dad, I’ve found the answer to life’s problems. It’s not in drugs, or revolution, but in the love of Jesus Christ.”

Sent me to psychiatrist. “You’re worse than Hitler. He destroyed our bodies. You are destroying our souls.”

Not everyone may have the dramatic story

I did. But the inner Ruakh/Spirit assurance of salvation all must have.

Then I considered, “But, what about my Jewishness?” “Put on altar” I’ll figure out the Jewish piece later. Need to get the salvation piece ...

In Judaism, the Book of Life ספר החיים *sefer ha-khaim*, is the book in which God records the names of every person who is destined for Heaven and the World to Come. Particularly considered on High Holidays. So I knew the term vaguely.

Wesley:

“Your sins are forgiven, accepted thou art,
I listened and heaven sprung up in my heart.”

Do you have the witness of the Spirit that your name is in the Book of Life?

- I think so
- I hope so
- It should be: I do all this ...

The only think acceptable is:

Ro. 8.15-17 **You received the Spirit, who makes us sons and by whose power we cry out, “Abba!” (that is, “Dear Father!”).**

Scriptures on the Book of Life: serious business!

T'hillim/Ps 69.29 Erase them from the book of life, let them not be written with the righteous.

Yeshayahu/Is 4.3 **Those left in Tziyon and remaining in Yerushalayim will be called holy, and everyone in Yerushalayim written down for life.**

Phil 4.3 **I ask you, true companion, to help these women—they labored side by side with me in spreading the Good News, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.**

Rev. 3.5 **The one who overcomes thus will be dressed in white clothes; I will never blot his name out of the Book of Life, and will confess his name before My Father and His angels.**

Rev. 13.8 **All who dwell on the earth shall worship him [the satanic anti-Messiah]—everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the Book of Life of the Lamb.**

Rev. 17.8 **The beast that you saw was, and is not, and yet is about to rise up from the abyss and head for destruction, those who dwell on the earth—whose names have not been written in the Book of Life.**

Rev. 21.12 **And I saw the dead—the great and the small—standing before the throne. The books were opened, and another book was opened—the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what was written in the books, according to their deeds. [*Books ... apparently record of all our deeds, words, thoughts.*]**

Rev. 20.5 **And if anyone was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**

Rev. 21:27 **And nothing unholy shall ever enter it, nor anyone doing what is detestable or false, but only those written in the Book of Life.**

**Hanukkah connection
to the witness of the Spirit that our conscience is clear.**

Yn 10.22-30 **Then came Hanukkah; it was winter in Jerusalem. Yeshua was walking in the Temple around Solomon's Colonnade. Then the Judean leaders surrounded Him, saying, "How long will You hold us in suspense? If You are the Messiah, tell us outright!"**

Yn 10.22-30 **Yeshua answered them, "I told you, but you don't believe!...My sheep hear My voice. I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life! They will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. [*Do YOU hear His voice? In the Ruakh, in the Word? Never perish, as long as you hear ... Shma. This is the message the Messiah of Israel had for our people on Hanukkah. "Hear my voice." (from Israel Pochtar.)*]**

Yn 10.22-30 **My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. And no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."**





- Conscience:
1. What is it?
 2. How does it operate?
 3. How can we keep it at peace?

FIRSTLY: internal

Mishlei/Prov 4.23 Guard your heart diligently, for from it flow the springs of life.

Col.3.15 Let the shalom of Messiah rule

brabeuetō	“to act as umpire, lit: to act as arbiter in the games)”
βραβεύετω	
let rule	

in your hearts—to this shalom you were surely called in one body. Also be thankful.

SECONDLY: relational

Mtt 5.23-24 So if you are offering your gift at the Temple altar and you remember there that your brother has something against you, leave your gift where it is by the altar, and go, make peace with your brother. Then come back and offer your gift.

[In conflict, the winner is the first one to unconditionally humble themselves.

Not I was wrong because you make me sooooo mad.

Just: I was wrong. I apologize.

Not even “Forgive me” at first.

G-d in Messiah will NOT give us the Ruakh sense of peace in our conscience if we have offended or been offended. Forgive. Seek forgiveness.

Not all offenses can be resolved ...]

Gal. 5.13-15 Through love serve one another. For the whole Torah can be summed up in a single saying: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not destroyed by one another.

Eph. 4.15, 32 Speaking the truth in love, we will in every respect grow up into him who is the head, the Messiah...Be kind to each other, tenderhearted; and forgive each other, just as in the Messiah God has also forgiven you. *[Too many fires to put out.]*

T'hillim/Ps 141.3-5 Set a guard, Adoni, over my mouth. Keep watch over the door of my lips...**Let the righteous strike me—it is kindness. Let him correct me—it is oil on my head —my head will not refuse it.** Yet still my prayer is against their wickedness.

¹ Cor 13.4 Love ... suffers long.

THIRDLY: sacrificial [Hanukkah connection]

According to the rabbis, these three cardinal sins require martyrdom because of their intrinsic severity, and not because of the punishment prescribed for them. One must therefore be martyred for any Biblical law associated with them, no matter how minor it may seem. However, one need not be martyred for a rabbinical prohibition. [<https://www.aish.com/jl/m/pm/48936542.html>]

We are commanded, "Love Adoni your God ... with all your soul" (Deut. 6:5), and this is interpreted to mean that one must continue to love God even at the expense of one's earthly existence and soul.

Vayikra/Lev. 22.32 **You must not profane My holy Name, for I will be made holy among the Sons-of-Yisrael. I am Adoni who makes you holy.**

וְנִקְדַּשְׁתִּי בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

"Making the Name holy," "kiddush Hashem" has been a theme in Judaism

Therefore, if any government passes an edict forbidding the practice of any religious law, one must be willing to be martyred.

There are three cardinal sins which one may not transgress under any circumstances, even at the expense of one's life. They are: idolatry, murder and sexual crimes. These sins outweigh life because of their intrinsic severity. One must be martyred for idolatry since absolute love of God implies that one not even appear to forsake Him under any conditions.

One must be martyred for sexual crimes, since they are equated with murder, as the Torah states in the case of rape, "The [rapist] is no different from a man who rises up against his neighbor and murders him."

Dt. 22.26 **But if the man finds the engaged woman in the field, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her is to die.**

These three cardinal sins require martyrdom because of their intrinsic severity, and not because of the punishment prescribed for them. One must therefore be martyred for any Biblical law associated with them, no matter how minor it may seem. However, one need not be martyred for a rabbinical prohibition. [<https://www.aish.com/jl/m/pm/48936542.html>]

Hanukkah connection to the witness of the Spirit that our conscience is clear.

Antiochus IV destroyed the Temple, the central place of Jewish worship, and outlawed the practice of Shabbat, Jewish festivals and circumcision. Antiochus IV forced the Jews to choose between worshiping the Greek gods or death. [<https://tulanehullabaloo.com/58300/intersections/two-jews-guide-to-hanukkah/>]

At the heart of the Hanukkah story is the heroism of the Maccabees. While the Greeks had sophisticated weapons of war, along with lightning-fast chariots, the Jews operated almost entirely on foot. The Greeks were an empire, a world power; the Jews were a band of upstarts.

The Greeks were led by experienced generals, and the Maccabees by a family of priests. The gulf in numbers, training and equipment was immense. That is why the eventual victory against the Greeks is a central part of the miracle of Hanukkah. No one observing this mismatched struggle would have given the Jews even the slightest chance.

Was It Allowed by Torah Law?

By any reasonable estimation, their vastly unequal footing would have made the instigation of war a straightforward suicide mission! There was simply no natural way for the Jews to have

succeeded in their endeavor. We may then ask: Is it even permitted according to Jewish law to put oneself in such certain danger? certain danger?

[https://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah/article_cdo/aid/5320184/jewish/Were-the-Maccabees-Wrong-to-Fight.htm#utm_medium=email&utm_source=1_chabad.org_magazine_en&utm_campaign=en&utm_content=content]



Summary on the Conscience:

3. How can we keep it at peace?

- Be sensitive to the Ruakh!
- Humble yourself, forgive, over hurtful speech.
- Be willing to sacrifice yourself
- TRUST Yeshua!

1. Do you KNOW Yeshua and the assurance of sins forgiven?
2. Are you hearing daily from His Word?
3. How are you applying what you heard?
4. Are you asking this of another? [Who are you discipling, building up?]