

The ABC's of Yasab - AUTHORITY (Personal)

yāšab יָשַׁב - The Game of Dwelling on Earth – Pt. 3

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INTRO ...A Culture Seeking Self-definition and Personal Expression

“Out of more than a score of great civilizations in human history, modern Western civilization is the very first to have no agreed-upon answer to the question of the purpose of life. Thus ignorance, confusion—and longing—surround this topic more now than at almost any time in history. ...for most of us, in the midst of material and philosophical plenty, we have spiritual poverty.” **Os Guinness**, “Rising to the Call, Discovering the Ultimate Purpose of Your Life”, p. 7 (2003)

My goal isn't to help you help yourself, but to help you rethink yourself. And the only way you will rethink yourself is if, before rushing too quickly to commonsense answers, you encounter a different set of questions. The first step in rethinking yourself is when you decide not to accept so easily the most common answers to the most commonly asked questions.

One of the best places to see what passes for common sense is the graduation ceremony—commencement services where young people stride across the platform, celebrate their achievements, and toss their caps as they step into a world brimming with possibilities. You're probably familiar with the inspiring words you hear at these events, ...they offered up the usual commonsensical fare about the future: Follow your heart. Chase your dreams. You are enough. You do you.

No matter what, be true to yourself. If you were to discern a main point from graduation ceremonies across the United States, you'd come up with something like this: the purpose of life is to discover yourself by looking deep down, and then express yourself to the world, no matter what anyone else—family members, friends, colleagues, previous generations, or religious institutions—might say. Common sense, right?” **Trevin Wax**, “Rethink Yourself”, loc 221, Kindle (2020)

Let it go, let it go ...Can't hold it back anymore. ...Let it go, let it go ...Turn away and slam the door ...I don't care what they're going to say ...Let the storm rage on ...The cold never bothered me anyway

It's funny how some distance makes everything seem small ...And the fears that once controlled me can't get to me at all ...It's time to see what I can do ...To test the limits and break through ...No right, no wrong, no rules for me ...I'm free **“Let it Go” from “Frozen”**

“A warning: rethinking yourself means first re-thinking, and rethinking can be unsettling. It requires you to put things on the table that you've never thought to examine. It means probing your inner motivations and the desires of your heart in ways that may bother you and upset your priorities.” **Trevin Wax**, “Rethink Yourself”, loc 221, Kindle

...Let's Put Ps 24 on the table—and the Concept of “AUTHORITY” on the table—and THEN, let's Rethink ourselves!

Psalms 24:1-2 *The earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, ² for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.*

Gen 1:1, 3 *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” ...³ and God said, ‘Let there be light, and there was light.’*

— **It was imagined by God, designed by God, purposed by God, and established by God ...and It was an assignment!** ...THIS would forever define “LIGHT”

— Then Genesis describes the rest of God's founding & establishing (Land, Seas, etc.)

Gen 1:26-28, 31 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over (it)

³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good."

"Graduation/Launch—Meets—Divine ASSIGNMENT"

— "Compassion for the GROANING" ...

"...we can be misled by all our faculties. That's what we mean by the phrase, "totally depraved"—our passions are broken, our reason is not entirely reliable, and our wills, apart from Christ, are bound to sin. ...Now, it is assumed that what you feel about yourself, or believe about yourself, or perceive about yourself tells you who you are and how you should behave." **Kevin DeYoung**, "Don't Be True to Yourself", p. 4-5

Gen 4:5-7 ...So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

- Inner Turmoil and Emotional Disturbance—Depressed, Unhappy!
- God's Diagnosis— "SIN is crouching at the door and wants to be in CONTROL!!"
- Cain "Looks within"!! —and what made sense to him was to KILL ABEL!!

— What Gives God the "right" to Direct Others into Something that HE WANTS vs something that THEY WANT for Themselves?? ...AUTHORITY!!

The "Defining" of Matthew

Matt 9:1-9 And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. ² And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." ³ And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." ⁴ But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? ⁶ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home." ⁷ And he rose and went home.

⁸ When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

⁹ As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

"Matthew left everything to follow Jesus. He left his job and his income—a good income. He also gave up his social position." ... "People became tax collectors because of the wealth and financial security it provided. They became tax collectors despite the loss of respectability and friendships it entailed. Like mercenary soldiers or bounty hunters, their work was barely legal and widely despised." **Daniel Doriani**, "Matthew", Reformed Expository Comm.

So Matthew was a tax collector, officially excommunicated from the synagogue and unofficially from respectable society. But don't feel sorry for him, for he freely chose this seedy occupation, likely compelled by greed. Like today's casino boss, perhaps he accepted his somewhat socially and morally exiled (but government-approved) occupation because the paycheck was nice." **Douglas Sean O'Donnell**, Matthew, PTWC

Matthew "the tax collector" (Matt 10, Lk 5)—His IDENTITY!!

A Lineage of "Definitions & Appointments"

?—Does Your Approach to Yasab Leave Room for God to "Define" and to "Appoint You"??

- **Adam & Eve** are "appointed" to something that is DEFINED—just like Angelic Beings, just like "Light", just like "waters" and "lands", just like crawling creatures, etc.



...Now, God is Appointing Man to RESTORE God's World

2Cor 5:19 "in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation"

- **Abraham** is called into the Redemptive Purpose of God
Gen 12:1-4 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ ...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him
- **Joseph** ...
Gen 50:19-20 "But Joseph said to them, 'Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...'"
- **Moses** is called to confront Pharaoh & Egypt and to Restore God's People to His Purpose; ...BUT, when Moses "LOOKS WITHIN" He Says NO!!
Ex 3:10-11 "Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel out of Egypt. ¹¹ But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?'"
- **Jeremiah**
Jer 1:5-6 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth."
- **Matthew**
Luke 5:27-28 After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." ²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

- SAUL of Tarsus

Acts 26:16-18 *But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.*

What Does Your “Self-Definition” ULTIMATELY Answer To?

NOTICE: *In This Lineage of Humans “Dwelling” in God’s World—They are ALL Caught Up in HIS PROJECT! — From Adam’s Assignment to Bring God’s IMAGE into the earth and be God’s Representative, to the long list of “teammates” on the Team of Reconciliation to God—Abraham to Moses to Matthew*

...ie, there is No-Such-Thing as a Life Definition that is NOT about the Gospel of Jesus Christ!!

FREEDOM ...from or to?

What do we do with the “Concept of FREEDOM”? (Remember, Elsa sings about being “FREE”!) ...When you go to answer this for man—does your Human History have “the FALL” in it—or Not???

— In God’s Word, “freedom” means from the “TYRANNY of SIN & SATAN” ...and freedom into the Life of God! —It means RESTORING what the Fall Damaged!

Luke 4:18-19 *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

??... What if some of the Most Powerful Forces of “Captivity & Oppression” are coming from WITHIN ME?? ...What if my greatest Need is to be FREED from ME!??

2 Cor 4:4-6 *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.⁶ For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

...When you go to “LOOK WITHIN”—are you aware that THIS is What’s Going on Inside?

The Story of the Bible contains a common storyline for ALL Humans That are FEATURED—They are APPOINTED to Play a Role in God’s REDEMPITIVE PURPOSE!!

...and So Are We! —Matt 28:18-19

...How are you to be Used in This Great Redemptive Cause on Earth—In This Hour?