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QH 5.1 A PORTRAIT OF “THE LIFE” IN SCRIPTURE

Shalom aleykhem, achym. This last in our series on *Haderek, Haemeth* and *Hachay*

The Way, The Truth, and The Life – is the shortest and simplest of all. While more is written about “Life” in the scripture than about both The Way and The Truth combined, the exact nature of its final state remains somewhat of a mystery to us and is not exactly defined in scripture in detail. That is most likely because we have nothing in this present existence with which to compare it. All we know for sure is that it is promised to be wonderful and everlasting for those who believe in YHWH and obey Him, following in faith after His son, our Messiah, Yehoshua Hamashiach, as it is written:

“Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, what Elohyim has prepared for those who love Him.”

The English term “life” has various definitions, and its Hebrew cognate, *chay*, is used in various ways. In this study, we will focus on some of the verses in scripture which use the words life and *chay* in a higher sense than mere physical existence, and we will delve into “The Life”, according to the words of Yehoshua, our Messiah, as an existence of being above and beyond that of merely mortal men and common beasts, which eventually die and are no more.

As with any study, each of us is responsible to search the scriptures themselves to ensure that what we think we know is in fact what scripture tells us. Use this article as a guide, if you wish, but look for yourself to see what The Way, and The Truth, and The Life really mean for us. When you do, try your best to see past any preconceived doctrines or old teachings you might have, then let the words of scripture and Messiah have their own way. Learn as a little child would learn:

“And Yehoshua called a little child to Him, set him in their midst and said, “Amein, I say to you, unless you turn and become as little children, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens. Whoever then humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of the heavens.”

Webster’s Dictionary defines life as: 1) that property of plants and animals (ending at death) which makes it possible for them to take in food, get energy from it, and grow; 2) the state of having this property; 3) a human being; 4) living things collectively; 5) the time a person or thing is alive or exists; 6) one’s manner of living; 7) the people and activities of a given time, place; 8a) one’s animate existence; 8b) a biography; 9) the source of liveliness; 10) vigor; liveliness.

Strong’s Concordance #2416 defines life as: live; hence raw (flesh); fresh (plant, water, year), strong; also (as noun, especially in the feminine singular and masculine plural) Life (or living thing), whether literally or figuratively.

These definitions of life are, of course, inadequate to define “The Life” of those who will inherit the kingdom of YHWH. Below, we have compiled a sampling of verses that describe the greater Life offered in the scriptures to those who belong to YHWH and follow the teachings of His Messiah. As you read them, try to consider each in both its greater, spiritual sense, as well as in its simple, literal meaning.

חַיִּי – CHAY (TANAK)

ALL LIFE COMES ONLY FROM YHWH ELOHYM.

B’REISHYTH 2:7

“And YHWH Elohyim formed the man out of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils breath of lives. And the man became a living being.”

YHWH ORIGINALLY PROVIDED OUR ACCESS TO LIFE.

B’REISHYTH 2:9

“And out of the ground YHWH Elohyim made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and excellent for food, with the Tree of Life in the midst of the garden and the Tree of the Knowledge of Excellence and Wickedness.”

OUR DISOBEDIENCE AND SELF-CENTEREDNESS HAS RESULTED IN A LOSS OF UNFETTERED ACCESS TO LIFE.

B'REISHYTH 3:22

“And YHWH Elohyim said, ‘See! The man has become like one of us, to know excellence and wickedness. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the Tree of Life, and eat, and live forever...’”

THE WORD OF YHWH IS OUR LIFE AND FOR THE LENGTH OF OUR DAYS.

D'VARYM 17:19

“And it shall be with [the king], and he shall read [the Torah] all the days of his Life, so that he learns to fear YHWH his Elohyim and guard all the Words of this Torah and these laws, to do them...”

LIFE AND BLESSING COME FROM LOVING YHWH, WALKING IN HIS WAYS, AND GUARDING HIS COMMANDS.

D'VARYM 30:15

“See, I have set before you today Life and excellence, and death and evil, in that I am commanding you today to love YHWH your Elohyim, to walk in His ways, and to guard His commands, and His laws, and His right-rulings. And you shall live and increase, and YHWH your Elohyim shall bless you in the land, which you go to possess.”

**WE MAKE THE CHOICE OF LIFE OR DEATH, BLESSING OR CURSING,
BY WHETHER WE WILL OBEY AND CLING TO HIM, OR NOT.**

D'VARYM 30:19

“I have called the heavens and the earth as witnesses today against you: I have set before you Life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore, you shall choose Life, so that you live, both you and your seed, to love YHWH your Elohyim, to obey His voice, and to cling to Him

for He is your Life and the length of your days

to dwell in the land which YHWH swore to your fathers, to Avraham, to Yitzchaq, and to Ya'aqov, to give them.”

GUARDING THE TORAH IS NOT A WORTHLESS TASK, BUT IT LEADS TO LIFE.

D'VARYM 32:47

“And when Mosheh ended speaking all these words to all Yisrael, he said to them, “Set your heart on all the words with which I warn you today, so that you command your children to guard to do all the Words of this Torah. For it is not a worthless Word for you, because it is your Life, and by this Word you prolong your days on the soil which you pass over the Yarden to possess.”

WE MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN THE WAY OF LIFE AND DEATH.

YIRMEYAHU 21:8

“You shall also say to this people, Thus said YHWH, ‘See, I set before you the way of Life and the way of death.’”

THE ONE WHO WALKS IN THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL LIVE AND NOT DIE.

YECHZEZOEEL 33:15

“Again, when I say to the wrong, ‘You shall certainly die,’ if he turns from his sin and does right and righteousness, if the wrong restores the pledge, gives back what he has stolen, and walks in the laws of Life without doing crookedness, he shall certainly live; he shall not die.”

THOSE WHO CHOOSE LIFE AND HAVE THEIR NAMES WRITTEN IN HIS BOOK WILL WAKE UP TO EVERLASTING LIFE.

DANI'EL 12:2

“And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book, and many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth wake up, some to everlasting Life, and some to reproaches, everlasting abhorrence.”

THE PATH OF LIFE IS JOY AND PLEASURE FOREVER.

TEHILLAH 16:11

“You show me the path of Life; in Your presence is joy to satisfaction; at Your right hand are pleasures forever.”

YHWH GAVE LIFE TO DAWID AND TO HIS SEED FOREVER.

TEHILLAH 21:4

“The king rejoices in Your strength, YHWH; ... He asked for Life from You, and You gave it to him Length of days forever and ever.”

YHWH IS THE SOLE GIVER AND SUSTAINER OF LIFE, AND NO OTHER.

TEHILLAH 27:1

“YHWH is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? YHWH is the refuge of my Life; whom should I dread?”

WE SHOULD KEEP OUR TONGUES FROM EVIL IF WE DESIRE LIFE.

TEHILLAH 34:12

“Who is the man who desires Life, who loves many days, to see excellence? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.”

WITH NONE BUT YHWH IS THERE AN ABUNDANCE OF LIFE.

TEHILLAH 36:9

“For with You is the fountain of Life; in Your light do we see light.”

NO ONE WHO PRACTICES IDOLATRY OR OTHER RELIGIONS REACHES THE PATH OF LIFE.

MISHLE 2:19

“None going in to [the strange woman] does return, nor do they reach the paths of Life so walk in the way of excellence, and guard the paths of righteousness.”

WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING, AND KNOWLEDGE BECOME LIFE TO OUR BEINGS.

MISHLE 3:22

“My son, let [wisdom, understanding, and knowledge] not depart from your eyes; watch over sound wisdom and discretion; then they become Life to your being and an adorning to your neck.”

HE WHO HEEDS DISCIPLINE IS IN THE WAY OF LIFE.

MISHLE 10:16

“He who heeds discipline is in the way of Life, but he who refuses reproof goes astray.”

IN THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS LIFE.

MISHLE 12:28

“In the way of righteousness is Life, and in its pathway there is no death.”

THE FEAR OF YHWH IS A FOUNTAIN OF LIFE.

MISHLE 14:27

“The fear of YHWH is a fountain of Life, to turn away from the snares of death.”

THE REWARD OF HUMILITY IS LIFE.

MISHLE 22:4

“The reward of humility is the fear of YHWH, riches and esteem and Life.”

ZQH – ZOE (KETUVYM HATALMIDYM)

The Greek word, “Zoe,” is used in the Ketuvym Hatalmidym (writings of the disciples) to translate the Hebrew word Chay as a nearly exact equivalent. Below we offer you examples of “The Life” from those writings, as well.

VERY FEW PEOPLE TRULY FIND THE WAY TO LIFE AND WALK IN IT.

MATTITHYAHU 7:14

“Because the gate is narrow and the way is hard-pressed which leads to Life, and there are few who find it.”

NOTHING SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO COME BETWEEN US AND EVERLASTING LIFE.

MATTITHYAHU 18:8

“And if your hand or foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away from you. It is better for you to enter into Life lame or crippled, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be thrown into the everlasting fire. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it away from you. It is better for you to enter into Life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be thrown into the fire of Gehinnom.”

IF YOU WISH TO ENTER LIFE, GUARD THE COMMANDS OF YHWH.

MATTITHYAHU 19:16

“And see, one came and said to him, ‘Excellent teacher, what excellence shall I do to have everlasting Life?’ And he said to him, ‘Why do you call me excellent? No one is excellent except One Elohyim. But if you wish to enter into Life, guard the commands.’”

EVERYONE WHO LEAVES ALL FOR YEHOShUA’S SAKE SHALL RECEIVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

MAROOS 10:30

“Yehoshua said, ‘Amein, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for the sake of me and the glad tidings, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come, everlasting Life.’”

ONE’S POSSESSIONS OR MATERIAL THINGS DO NOT MEASURE ONE’S LIFE.

LUOAS 12:15

“And he said to them, ‘Mind, and beware of greed, because one’s Life does not consist in the excess of his possessions.’”

IN YEHOSHUA, WE FIND LIFE AND ENLIGHTENMENT

YOCHANAN 1:4

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

WHOEVER TRULY BELIEVES IN YEHOSHUA WILL NOT PERISH EVERLASTINGLY, BUT LIVE.

YOCHANAN 3:16

“For Elohim so loved the world that He gave His only brought-forth son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish but possess everlasting Life.”

HE WHO TRULY HEARS YEHOSHUA’S WORD AND BELIEVES IN YHWH WILL LIVE WITHOUT COMING INTO JUDGMENT.

YOCHANAN 5:24

“Amein, Amein, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes in Him who sent me possesses everlasting Life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed from death into Life.”

THE TESTIMONY OF RESURRECTION AND LIFE IN THE SCRIPTURES BEAR WITNESS OF YEHOSHUA.

YOCHANAN 5:39

“You search the scriptures, because you think you possess everlasting Life in them. And these are the ones that bear witness of me.”

YEHOSHUA GIVES TRUE LIFE TO THE WORLD, AND HE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE.

YOCHANAN 6:33

“For the bread of Elohim is he who comes down out of the heaven and gives Life to the world.” So, they said to him, ‘Master, give us this bread always.’ And Yehoshua said to them, ‘I am the bread of Life. He who comes to me shall not get hungry at all, and he who believes in me shall not get thirsty at all.’”

HE WHO DESPISES THIS LIFE FOR THE SAKE OF EVERLASTING LIFE SHALL PRESERVE IT.

YOCHANAN 12:25

“He who loves his Life shall lose it, and he who hates his Life in this world shall preserve it for everlasting Life.”

EVERLASTING LIFE COMES FROM TRULY KNOWING YHWH AND HIS MESSIAH.

YOCHANAN 17:2

“And this is everlasting Life, that they should know You, the only true Elohim, and Yehoshua Messiah whom You have sent.”

THOSE APPOINTED TO EVERLASTING LIFE BELIEVE, AND OTHERS WILL NOT.

MA’ASEH 13:46

“And when the gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the Word of YHWH. And as many as had been appointed to everlasting Life believed.”

EVERLASTING LIFE IS TREASURED UP FOR THOSE WHO PERSIST IN DOING THE WILL AND WORKS OF YHWH.

ROMIYYM 2:5-7

“But according to your hardness and your unrepentant heart, you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of Elohim, who ‘shall render to each one according to his works’: everlasting Life to those who by persistence in excellent work seek for esteem, and respect, and incorruptibility...”

AS MESSIAH WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD, SO ARE WE ALONG WITH HIM, TO WALK IN THE WAY OF LIFE.

ROMIYYM 6:4

“We were therefore buried with him through immersion into death, that as Messiah was raised from the dead by the esteem of the Father, so also we should walk in newness of Life.”

BECOMING SERVANTS OF ELOHYM, WE RECEIVE EVERLASTING LIFE IN MESSIAH YEHOSHUA.

ROMIYYM 6:22

“But now, having been set free from sin, and having become servants of Elohim, you have your fruit resulting in set-apartness, and the end, everlasting Life. For the wages of sin is death, but the favorable gift of Elohim is everlasting Life in Messiah Yehoshua our master.”

HE WHO LIVES THIS PRESENT LIFE INTENT ON ONLY PLEASURES OF THE FLESH, WILL NOT INHERIT EVERLASTING LIFE.

GALATIYYM 6:8

“Because he who sows to his own flesh shall reap corruption from the flesh, but he who sows to the Ruach shall reap everlasting Life from the Ruach.”

MESSIAH IS OUR LIFE.

QOLASYM 3:4

“When the Messiah, who is our Life, is manifested, then you also shall be manifested with him in esteem.”

WE MUST LAY HOLD ON EVERLASTING LIFE AND CONTINUALLY FIGHT THE FIGHT OF FAITH.

TIMOTIYOS ALEPH 6:12

“Fight the excellent fight of the faith, lay hold on everlasting Life, to which you were also called and have confessed the excellent confession before many witnesses.”

THE MAN WHO DOES ENDURE TRIAL FOR YEHOSHUA’S SAKE WILL RECEIVE LIFE.

YA’AQOV 1:12

“Blessed is the man who does endure trial, for when he has been proved, he shall receive the crown of Life which the master has promised to those who love him.”

THOSE WHO LOVE LIFE SHOULD TURN FROM ALL EVIL, DO EXCELLENT WORKS AND SEEK PEACE.

KEPHA ALEPH 3:10

“For he who wishes to love Life and see excellent days, let him keep his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit, let him turn away from evil and do excellence, let him seek shalom and pursue it.”

EVERLASTING LIFE HAS BEEN MANIFESTED TO US IN YEHOSHUA HAMASHIACH.

YOCHANAN ALEPH 1:1-2

“What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of Life: And the Life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and announce to you that everlasting Life which was with the Father and was manifested to us.”

LOVING OUR BROTHERS IS THE EVIDENCE THAT WE HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE.

YOCHANAN ALEPH 3:14

“We know that we have passed out of death into Life, because we love the brothers. The one not loving his brother stays in death.”

HE WHO POSSESSES THE SON, POSSESSES LIFE.

YOCHANAN ALEPH 5:12

“He who possesses the son possesses Life, he who does not possess the son of Elohyim does not possess Life.”

HE WHO OVERCOMES WILL EAT FROM THE TREE OF LIFE.

CHAZON 2:7

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Ruach says to the assemblies. To him who overcomes I shall give to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of Elohyim.”

HE WHO OVERCOMES WILL NOT BE BLOTTED OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE.

CHAZON 3:5

“He who overcomes shall be dressed in white robes, and I shall by no means blot out his name from the Book of Life, but I shall confess his name before my Father and before His messengers.”

YEHOSHUA, OUR SHEPHERD, WILL LEAD US TO THE WATER OF LIFE.

CHAZON 7:16-17

“They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore, neither shall the sun strike them, nor any heat, because the lamb who is in the midst of the throne shall shepherd them and lead them to fountains of waters of Life. And Elohyim shall wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE NOT WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WILL BE THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.

CHAZON 20:12 & 15

“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before the throne, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged from what was written in the books, according to their works...And if anyone was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

ONLY THOSE WRITTEN IN THE LAMB’S BOOK OF LIFE WILL ENTER THE NEW YERUSHALAYIM.

CHAZON 21:27

“And there shall by no means enter into [the new Yerushalayim] whatever is unclean, neither anyone doing abomination and falsehood, but only those who are written in the lamb’s Book of Life.”

THE WATERS OF LIFE COME FROM THE THRONE OF ELOHYM AND OF THE LAMB.

CHAZON 22:1

“And he showed me a river of water of Life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of Elohyim and of the lamb.”

THOSE DOING THE COMMANDS OF YHWH SHALL HAVE AUTHORITY UNTO THE TREE OF LIFE.

CHAZON 22:14

“Blessed are those doing His commands, so that the authority shall be theirs unto the Tree of Life, and to enter through the gates into the city.”

WHOEVER TRULY DESIRES MAY TAKE OF THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY.

CHAZON 22:17

“And the Ruach and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And he who hears, let him say, ‘Come!’ And he who thirsts, come! And he who desires it, take the water of Life without paying!”

Through the process of examining the foregoing writings about Life from both the Hebrew and Greek scriptures, we should conclude that there is an initial breath of life – the *Nishmath Chayyim* – which was breathed into Adam by YHWH at his creation, and there is that greater Life – *Hachay* – that is offered to us by YHWH through Yehoshua Hamashiach from the Tree of Life – the *Etz Chayyim*. The former is given to all mankind and is only temporary, a poor thing in comparison to that which is to come. It is concerned with the things of the flesh and will eventually end in death, for it is written that: “no flesh and blood can inherit the Kingdom of Elohim.” The latter is given only to those who keep the commandments of YHWH and who have the Spirit and testimony of Yehoshua *Hamashiach*, following him wherever he goes. It is concerned with the things of the Spirit and will eventually result in Life everlasting, as it is written: “If the Spirit of Him who raised Yehoshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Messiah from the dead shall also give Life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit dwelling in you.”

In the beginning, all mankind was to have free access to the *Etz Chayyim*. But, because of disobedience, we lost that access with which we could have obtained immediate and everlasting Life in fellowship and love with our Creator. Ever since that time, all of creation has groaned in intense longing to have that fellowship and love restored, as it is written:

“For the intense longing of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of Elohim. For the creation was subjected to futility, not from choice, but because of Him who subjected it, in anticipation, that the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage to corruption into the esteemed freedom of the children of Elohim. For we know that all the creation groans together, and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.”

It took the complete sacrifice and perfect love of our beloved Messiah Yehoshua to reopen The Way – *Haderek*, to bring us into The Truth – *Haemeth*, and to restore us to The Life – *Hachay*. And the promise of that greater Life through Yehoshua ultimately requires that even death itself will finally be destroyed, as the apostle says:

“And when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall come to be the word that has been written, ‘Death is swallowed up in overcoming. O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your overcoming?’”

Our most grievous sorrows are often due to death through accident, disease, murder, natural disaster and old age. These are the direct result of sin, which is lawlessness, as it is written: “*The soul that sins, it will die,*” and, “*Sin is the transgression of the law.*” Our most intense joys come from a life delivered of these and other things that wrench from us those persons and things that we most love and enjoy. Real and lasting joy comes only from a life filled with love of YHWH and obedience to His Torah, along with love of His Messiah and our fellows, which He commands us to do. Then, with the perfection of one’s faith, it extends further into the even higher calling of Life and obedience prescribed and taught by Yehoshua to his followers, such as his instruction to not only love those who love us, but even to love those who hate us. This is The Way

Haderek. See how it relates to *Hachay*, the greater Life in Yehoshua our Messiah, by an example he gave when he told a man:

“If you wish to enter into Life, guard the commands.” The man asked, “Which one?” Yehoshua responded, “Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, respect your father and your mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.” The man replied, “All these I have watched over from my youth. What do I still lack?”

See, here Yehoshua instructs that, for one to successfully enter into everlasting Life, one must simply keep the commands of Torah. When the man said he had done that, yet wished to do even more, Yehoshua directed him to that higher calling of Life and obedience that belongs only to his true disciples – the set-apart ones, or *Q’doshym*. He said:

“If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

Yehoshua can prescribe this higher standard for Life, because he is “The Life” that his *Q’doshym* long for. The treasure in heaven that he spoke of is not gold or costly stones which will all eventually pass away, but is Life everlasting, that most intimate fellowship with YHWH and with those He will bring into His Kingdom, that His *Q’doshym* will enjoy forever.

That is the definition of “The Life” in scripture, *achym*, and concludes our series on *Haderek*, *Haemeth*, and *Hachay*. But, we have one thing further to say to you about these things.

We know it all seems too much – this Way to walk, all this Truth to learn, and all this Life to attempt to gain. In fact, it seems impossible. And it is. No human, except one, has ever accomplished it all without flaw. So why even try? The answer is, because it is what you were born to do. A wise man once said, “It is not your duty to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.” If you belong to YHWH, if you are in Messiah, it is your duty and should be your delight to follow him in The Way of obedience and dedication to the Father’s commandments, learning all you can about The Truth of His Word, and seeking The Life of His Kingdom with all of your strength. You will stumble occasionally but not fall, because His grace will catch you. You will never complete the work on your own, but praise be to YHWH, it has already been accomplished for you by His first-born son, our Saviour. Even when you sometimes seem to fail at the immense tasks before you, don’t quit, nor even be distracted from getting right back up and continuing in the work. You are now freed from worry of failure by the grace that has been given you, and no external thing can take that from you. Listen:

“Who shall separate us from the love of the Messiah? Shall pressure, or distress, or persecution, or scarcity of food,

or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it has been written, 'For your sake we are killed all day long, we are reckoned as sheep of slaughter. But in all this we are more than overcomers through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor messengers nor principalities nor powers, neither the present nor the future, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of Elohim which is in Messiah Yehoshua our Master.'

Brothers and sisters, strive with everything in you to please YHWH, to love one another, and to walk as closely as you can in imitation of that one who shed his own blood for your freedom and salvation. He is indeed The Way, The Truth, and The Life, as you have seen. May you all be found worthy to enter into the courts of His Kingdom. We hope to see every one of you there.

L'chayim! To Life!

Yochanan & Ovadyah