Trust and Rely_batah

"It is better (*towb* - good and prosperous, more appropriate and sensible) **to trust** (*batah* - rely upon and put confidence in) **in** (*ba*) **Yahowah, than** (*min* - by way of comparison it is) **to trust** (*batah* - rely upon and put confidence in, to believe) **man** (*'adam* - humankind)**."** (Psalm 118:8)

The Masoretes replaced the initial *batah*, meaning "trust and rely upon" with *hasah*. It means "to take refuge in, to seek shelter, and to rely upon for protection and safety." While those are all fine things, this passage is a referendum on God versus man, on relationship versus religion. It says: **"It is better to trust Yahowah than to trust man."** Or, if you prefer: **"It is more appropriate and sensible to rely upon and place your confidence in Yahowah, than to trust, rely upon, or believe humankind."**

As a direct comparison, God is giving us an option, an alternative, and a choice - asking us to make a judgment call. It is an either or. Yahweh has said that it is better to trust Him than it is to trust man. He is not suggesting that you should trust both. It is one or the other. It's relationship *or* religion. It's the Word *or* the Church. It's a referendum on revering God *or* fearing Him.

Make your choice and live with the consequence. You can pitch your tent with Yahweh and camp out with Him for all eternity or you can seek the company, shelter and protection of man's institutions. This is the single most important decision any of us can make. It is the reason we have freewill; it is the reason we exist.

That is why this divine referendum is being repeated, this time from a purely political perspective. If you are a member of the Moral Majority, the Christian Coalition, or part of the Republican Right, pay close attention. **"It is better to trust and rely upon** (*batah*) **Yahowah than to believe, placing confidence in, political rulers** (*nadiyb* - princes and nobility, leaders with human status)**."** (Psalm 118:9)

Since Scripture's primary message is to "*batah*, to trust, rely upon, and put our confidence in" Yahweh, let's pause a moment and contemplate what that means. First, while you can have faith in and express a belief in something or someone you don't know, the same cannot be said for trust. A prerequisite of trust is knowledge and understanding. In this vein, the source of said knowledge is the Word. Understanding comes from the Spirit. To trust Yahweh you have to first *yada'*/know Yahweh. And the best way to do that is to study Scripture under the guidance of the Spirit.

Knowledge plus understanding equates to trust. And trust is the prerequisite of reliance. I know Yah and understand His plan so I have total confidence He will deliver accordingly. Trusting Him has caused me to rely on Him for my salvation because He has taken the time to prove that He is God, to lay out His plan, and to explain how and why it works.

Scripture is full of predictions and promises. The prophecies are there so that we come to trust the inspiration behind them as being reliable. Rationally, this confidence promotes a reasonable reliance on the promises the Author has made. Yahweh has demonstrated that He is God, Creator, and Savior. And as such, He has provided the

means to know Him, trust Him, rely on Him, and to celebrate life and time with Him. I have accepted this gift and I trust Him to deliver.

It is therefore not surprising, that in addition to meaning "confidence, trust, and reliance," *batah* also means to be "sure and secure." Trust-based reliance leads to security when the object of one's trust is worthy.

While truth has never been popular, it is powerful and effective. **"Yea although** (*gam*) **every human institution and nation surrounds** (*sabab*) **me, in the personal and proper name** (*shem* - renown and reputation) **of Yahowah, I cut them off** (*mul* - oppose them and ward them away)."** (Psalm 118:10)