First Fruits First That They May Be One As We Are One July 1, 2023

*“Holy Father protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so*

***that they may be one as we are one****.”* [John 17:11]

*“I have given them the glory that you gave me,*

***that they may be one as we are one****.*” [John 17:12]

Chapter 17 of John stands out as Jesus’ (Yeshua’s) ultimate declaration of unity. In fact, the statement “*that they may be one as we are one*” is spoken twice, John 17:11 and 17:22.

The word “*they*” speaks of more than the disciples sitting around the Passover table. It echoes across time. It’s a word for all humanity. It is a declaration of God’s love for you and me. The word “*we*” speaks of the Holy Trinity, specifically, Yeshua and God.

In the first instance, our Lord asks for His Father’s protection. He does this not in the power of His Name – Yeshua, but in the power of His Holy Father’s Name! Moreover, he states this is the Name that You, Father, gave to Me.

To further justify His request Jesus tells us why: “*that they may be one as we are one*.” This is nothing less than earthshaking. Yeshua is asking His Holy Father to give to us – you and me – the same power that He was given.

Our Lord holds nothing back. He wants us to have everything He has with His Abba Father. Hold this thought for just a moment. For all the esteem we have for the One and Only Son of God, our Messiah wants us to have the unity, the intimacy, the holiness, the connection with Go that He, a Member of the Holy Trinity, has with Mighty God.

That statement in and of itself is simply incomparable. Yet Yeshua takes us further, deeper still.

The gift of God’s Presence, His Very Being, His Luminous Spirit, His Glory is imparted to us as well. The Glory of God speaks of His nearness to His creation – you and me.

I can’t think of anything more valuable in all the universe than what Yeshua asks His Heavenly Father to grant to us. That’s as big as it gets.

Yeshua wants us to know God personally, intimately, the same way that He knows God. He wants us to be the Firstfruits of Creation in the same way He is Creation’s Firstfruit.

This unity is the cornerstone of God’s Kingdom. Everything that exists is built upon this stone.