

The following Scripture passages are offered to aid beginning fellowships. The readings and commentary for this week are more in line with what has become usual; for the following will most likely be familiar observations. The concept behind this Sabbath's selection is *entering into God's rest*.

Weekly Readings For the Sabbath of February 2, 2008

The person conducting the Sabbath service should open services with two or three hymns, or psalms, followed by an opening prayer acknowledging that two or three (or more) are gathered together in Christ Jesus' name, and inviting the Lord to be with them.

The person conducting the service should read or assign to be read Exodus chapter 33; followed by Psalms chapter 95; and by Numbers chapter 20, verses 2 through 13, and verses 22 through 29.

Commentary: Moses did not enter the Promised Land of Judea. Because he struck the rock at Meribah-kadesh rather than speak to it, he was prevented from crossing the River Jordan ... he struck the rock twice, and this act of hubris cost Aaron his life. Yes, Aaron as the spokesman for Moses died because of what Moses did, which to endtime disciples does not seem like that great of a sin (Num 20:24).

Death reigned over all of humankind from Adam to Moses (Rom 5:14), but when death reigned, sin was not counted against human beings for the law had not been given (v. 13). Humankind was covered by natural grace, the lifeless shadow of the grace under which disciples of Christ presently live (Rom 6:14) ... when sin or lawlessness is not counted as sin, the person is under grace. This was the universal condition of all of humankind from when Adam was driven from the Garden of Eden until the giving of the law from atop Mount Sinai. Human beings did not have "life" in the spiritual realm; no person is born physically with an immortal soul. The only life a person had/has until born a second time is that which comes through the oxidation of sugars at the cellular level. Therefore, death reigned or reigns over every person not born of Spirit. Only the person promised eternal life escaped from death's reign, and even that person would die because the promise of salvation was not to the flesh but to the "spirit" of the person.

Prior to Jesus' resurrection, Ascension to the Father and return to Jerusalem to breathe on ten of His disciples (John 20:19-23), Jesus was the only person who was "born of Spirit," and not born solely of the red mud from which the first Adam was formed.

The patriarch Abram received use of the Breath of Yah when the linguistic radical for breath—/ah/—was added to his name: God Almighty [El Shaddai] told Abram to walk blameless before Him, and He would make His covenant with him and would make Abram the father of a multitude of nations and would change his name to Abraham and He would give the land of Canaan to him and his offspring as an everlasting possession, and He [El