



THE BIKE ISSUE

When we left Pennsylvania for Tucson and didn't bring a car with us, we had a variety of reasons for doing so. A point had been reached where driving, and its attendant culture, had become a burden. Sit, drive, sit some more. Watch TV, sit in your car and look at another glass screen. Gas prices go up, down a little, up some more... Registration, inspection, new tires, more gas, more gas, more gas...



It has been 2 months since we've driven a vehicle. Now, we get around by bike and bus. It has been a major change in our lives, but as we reflect

upon the "pros" and "cons," it seems to have been a beneficial decision to make. Here are some things to consider:

SPIRITUALLY:

Joshua 6:16-23 **"And all the sons of men that were left upon the earth, became exhausted through evil on account of the rain, for the waters were coming more violently upon the earth, and the animals and beasts were still surrounding the ark. And the sons of men assembled together, about seven hundred thousand men and women, and they came unto Noah to the ark. And they called to Noah, saying, Open for us that we may come to thee in the ark--and wherefore shall we die? And Noah, with a loud voice, answered them from the ark, saying, **Have you not all rebelled against the Lord, and said that he does not exist?** and therefore the Lord brought upon you this evil, to destroy and cut you off from the face of the earth. Is not this the thing that I spoke to you of one hundred and twenty years back, and you would not hearken to the voice of the Lord, and now do you desire to live upon earth? And they said to Noah, We are ready to return to the Lord; only open for us that we may live and not die. And Noah answered them, saying, Behold now that you see the trouble of your souls, you wish to return to the Lord; why did you not return during these hundred and twenty years, which the Lord granted you as the determined period? But now you come and tell me this on account of the troubles of your souls,**

now also the Lord will not listen to you, neither will he give ear to you on this day, so that you will not now succeed in your wishes."

This is an excerpt from the flood account of the book of Jasher/Yashar¹, "the book of the righteous ones." In my humble opinion, it is a book that speaks of our physical and spiritual ancestors prior to the emergence of Abraham as our forebear who would lead us back to "the one true god." Our faith is older than Moses and Abraham, this book is one of our connections to our ancient past.

The text quoted above is the final interaction between Noah and the other sons and daughters of man before their destruction. Prior to this, they had all been warned by Noah and others older than him.



Also, there were other floods and natural phenomena that spoke of Yohowah Alaha's displeasure with humanity. This is the interpretation of certain ecological events that are discussed in various biblical texts. As we see, from this particular passage, due to humanity's atheism, non-belief in a deity, they ignored or denied the

messages that they received from nature. This info runs concurrent with a topic that I discussed in a video concerning Hosea 2:18-23.

The earth reacts to our disobedience. Why is this? Because man came from the earth². We are connected to the planet. This is why the sins of Eve had an effect upon her body, but the sins of Adam had an effect upon the planet.³ We came from the ground and have an influence upon it. Stepping out of the car and putting yourself closer to the earth is a small way to acknowledge that something is wrong with the ecology of our planet. Marvin told us this much over 30 years

¹ Joshua 10, 2 Samuel 1

² Genesis 2:7

³ Genesis 3:14-19

ago. European culture is a cancer that is destroying the planet. When the air is polluted enough, we can not exist. They are killing us with consumerism. Riding a bike is my way of acknowledging that I hear the voice of Yahowah Alaha.

ECONOMICALLY:

Gas, insurance, inspection, registration, maintenance... "America's love affair with the car" is an expensive relationship. Consider these extremely low calculations. If you drive an economy car very short distances, you will spend, an incredibly low, \$30/month on gas, \$360/year. A used car payment will run \$140/month, \$1680/year. Inexpensive insurance, \$360/year. Factor in necessary maintenance: Tires, registrations, taxes, tune-up, windshield wipers, "unexpecteds" and you have a considerable financial investment. Even with this bare-bones example, imagine what you could do with an extra \$2400 per year. Imagine if you could pay that little and own a car!

PHYSICALLY:

1/3 of the US population is classified as obese, the rest are classified as 'overweight.'⁴ Here, in this country, we are inundated with high caloric, low quality food and "activities" that keep us inactive. TV, internet, video games. We live sedentary lifestyles that harm our personal well-being. Our solutions to our physical problems usually involve medications (that further harm our physical selves),

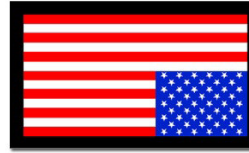
surgeries and diets. Unbiased research and honest observation shows that none of these 'solutions' solve anything. All of them seem to have further and sometimes deeper physical ramifications.

All research proves that a balanced diet and reasonable physical activity (exercise!) can lessen and/or eliminate a large percentage of our modern illnesses. Why not incorporate exercise into your day? Riding to: work, the store, your friend's house, the meeting, or



for pleasure can improve your health.

POLITICALLY:



Every time you operate a car you are doing so with the permission, and under the authority, of the United States government. Any time that you drive, it is within the realm of legality for you to be stopped and searched, questioned and detained, privileges revoked. [Insert your own personal horror story here.] You must have the correct documentation on your person at all times. You must pay all fees and taxes that are required of you. Whatever is determined as being necessary or lawful by the government for the operation of your vehicle, you must comply with. If you wish to operate your vehicle in peace, you must be in absolute compliance with the legal authorities. Through the various fees intrinsic to driving a car, you are paying the salaries of the state's servants. Riding a bike will allow you to starve the beast.

REALISTICALLY:

Transitioning away from anything that is a staple of American culture is a very difficult process. We were raised in it, and are dependent upon it more than we realize. Our existence here is built around this culture: this way of thinking, doing and being. To know that there are options and alternatives is the doorway to doing things differently. Yahowah Alaha always directs us in the way that we should go. At the very least, take a break and ride for enjoyment. It's beautiful outside.



Amaryah-sabba@live.com

⁴ <http://www.wisegeek.com/is-obesity-really-a-big-problem-in-america.htm>