

VOLUME ONE

**KINGDOM
EMBASSY
MINISTRIES**

DISCIPLESHIP DEVOTIONAL

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KINGDOM EMBASSY MINISTRIES

Remembering our Roots. Restoring Authority. Maturing Disciples. Advancing the Kingdom.

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OPENING SALUTATION

“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:11

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Kingdom Embassy Ministries Discipleship Devotional Series. This body of work was designed to fulfill multiple purposes simultaneously.

First, it is a **Daily Devotion**. There is one devotion each week patterned after the ancient yearly Torah reading cycle. However, each should require an entire week to complete. It is recommended that on day one each week you read the entire entry. Get a feel for how you can best distribute the reading requirements and assignments over seven days, and then jump right in.

Second, it is a **Comprehensive Bible Study**. For most Christians it will require a greater quantity and quality of Bible reading than they have ever done before! Please read every Scripture and make a committed effort to answer all the questions.

Lastly, it is a **Discipleship Journey**. You will learn so much over the next year, as you weave your way through thousands of Bible verses. You will oftentimes discover things you've never known, as you connect the words of Y'shua (Jesus) and His disciples to the words of Moses and the prophets and biblical history.

This will undoubtedly impact your growth as a disciple. You might even feel you graduated from seminary when you're done. But, don't be upset when it's over, this is only Volume One.

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

This Kingdom Embassy Ministries Devotional has 52 weekly devotions meant for daily discipleship. It is intended to require a full week to read, research, pray about, and process the the content of each entry. There are questions to answer each week, and it is recommended that you consider each one carefully.

Whether you enjoy the visceral feel of a paper journal, or love the convenience of digital journaling, we strongly recommend you write your answers. Devote the necessary time to explore and contemplate each question carefully. For your convenience, all Scripture references are included. The digital format has active links to associated Sermon Videos and Notes for each devotion. I encourage you to watch each sermon! For access using the printed version, enter the sermon title in the search engine on KingdomEmbassyMinistries.org.

If used as intended, the process will inspire your exponential growth as a disciple. Your understanding of God's Word will explode and you will be changed.

"May this Kingdom Embassy Ministries Discipleship Devotional enrich your life as a devout follower of our precious Savior Y'shua Messiah (Jesus Christ)."

DJH

YOUR DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

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Closing Salutation

Kingdom Embassy Ministries

Remembering our Roots. Restoring Authority.
Maturing Disciples. Advancing the Kingdom



ABOUT KEM

Identity (Who?)

Kingdom Embassy Ministries is a body of Christians who believe that before Christ's return there will be a final revealing of the sons of God, a literal transformation of God's people into the full stature and image of Christ, and we believe wholeheartedly that at the end-of-the-age, to be identified as faithful and wise servants requires human participation and a responsibility to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth.

VISION (WHAT?)

Kingdom Embassy Ministries is a prophetically informed Church, restored to a mutually submitted authority structure of apostles (pastors) and prophets, with Christ as its Chief cornerstone (king). We teach both the Gospel of Salvation and the Gospel of the Kingdom, while raising up mature, totally committed, and biblically-literate disciples of Christ of all ages.

MISSION (How?)

We present God's redeeming love with the simple message of the Gospel of Salvation; Y'shua (Jesus) shed His blood to reconcile you to God. This begins the journey from spiritual childhood to spiritual adulthood. This maturing is achieved through discipleship with one end in mind, becoming like Christ. The Gospel of the Kingdom is defined, elaborated, and disseminated by and to mature followers of Christ. This is done by a dedicated body of believers who apprehend their true identity as children of God, and who operate under a mutually submitted church governance of apostles (pastors) and prophets, with Y'shua as the chief cornerstone (king).

PURPOSE (WHY?)

Kingdom Embassy Ministries is driven to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness; recognizes that the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence and that violent men must take it by force; and that every teacher and expert in the Word of God must be instructed and trained as prophetically informed disciples in the kingdom of heaven. As disciples, we are compelled to seek all truth and to uncover the mysteries of the Kingdom.



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FOUR PILLARS

REMEMBERING OUR ROOTS

Christianity was born from its Hebraic Roots. We explore and honor the roots of our faith by participating in the practices that our savior and early church fathers enjoyed. It's not about religion or legalism, but about radical faith-based obedience to the God who saved us. (*Ephesians 2:12-13*)

RESTORING AUTHORITY

Kingdom Embassy Ministries recognizes that the church was originally established with an Apostolic (Pastoral) and Prophetic authority structure, mutually submitted under the Kingship of Y'shua our Messiah. Our desire is to honor this separation of powers, as we witnessed the early church doing, and that was so effective in making disciples. (*Ephesians 2:20*)

MATURING DISCIPLES

We are commissioned to first turn people toward Christ with the Gospel of Salvation, and to then mature Christians into disciples with the Gospel of the Kingdom.

We have been given everything we need for Godly living. Thus, we are committed to the integrity of that standard without compromise in our faith, relationships, work, ministry, finances, health and leisure. *(Luke 9:24)*

ADVANCING THE KINGDOM

Y'shua was relentless in His teachings on the kingdom of heaven and as His disciples we are committed to walking in that legacy. We too must be relentless in both preaching and advancing the kingdom of God. Y'shua was clear in His mandate for us to seek first the kingdom before anything else and that only by preaching such will the end come. *(Matthew 6:33)*



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STATEMENT OF FAITH

Kingdom Embassy Ministries believes that the church was originally established with an Apostolic (Pastoral) and Prophetic authority structure, mutually submitted under the Kingship of Y'shua our Messiah, and that we are commissioned to first turn non-Christians toward Christ, and then mature Christians into disciples.

We introduce the world to God's redeeming love with a simple message. Any version of the Gospel of Salvation will do: Christ Crucified; God loves you and gave His only Son to die for your sin; Y'shua died in your place; confess with you mouth and believe in your heart that Y'shua is Lord; believe and be baptized; unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God; Let your light so shine before men, that they would see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven...

If this simple message is presented like an eloquent speech by a brilliant professional, it will be very difficult to tell if those responding are doing so because of the polished convincing words of an inspirational speaker, or if it is truly the power of God at work. To

those who don't know God, the only message to convey is this; *“Jesus Christ, because of His love for you, went to the cross and paid the debt for your sins with His life. And when He resurrected from the grave, it paved the way for your new life as a child of God. Outside of that reality, you are destined for a life of uncertainty, fear and eventual death. Access to this gift is free for all those who God gives the faith to believe.”* There are no human words that can persuade anyone of this truth. As ministers, we can only be confident that a conversion is real if we minimize our input and let the power of God do all the work. In other words, our importance must decrease so that Christ's preeminence would increase. Preach faith in Christ crucified; nothing complicated. Then step aside and watch the power of God in action.

Now the journey from spiritual childhood to spiritual adulthood can begin. There is a known discipleship path to becoming spiritual adults. Actively add very specific things to the faith you were given. Add virtue, then knowledge, then self-control, then perseverance, then godliness, then brotherly love, and finally the greatest thing of all—love. God is love. Follow this path and the promise is that you will never stumble. On your journey, NEVER forget that all your past sins are forgiven. LEAVE THEM in the past and press on to the high calling of becoming like Christ.

God's divine power is entrusted to those who become spiritual adults, those who actively seek to increase their knowledge of the Lord Y'shua the Messiah. Spiritual adults can become partakers of His exceeding power, all of His precious promises, and His divine nature. God might say it is like this; *"If you become a mature spiritual adult, you can be trusted to manage My power and wisdom; I can now reveal the hidden mysteries of My Kingdom. You must be equipped, as My human initiative partners, to usher My Kingdom to earth. Only My wise and faithful managers can bear the responsibility of participating in all that this requires, and then partaking in My glory, without becoming prideful, self-absorbed, and or enamored with taking center stage."*

Those operating solely in human wisdom cannot even begin to conceive the wonders of what God has prepared for those who love Him with an adult-like love. Again, God is love, so the highest expression of His divine nature as a spiritual adult is perfect love. Think of it this way; the thoughts of mankind are easily known by the spirit that is in mankind. And the thoughts of God are easily known by the Spirit of God. However, when that great exchange takes place, when you accept God's love and Y'shua the Messiah's substitutionary death on the cross for you, His life for your life, the most supernatural thing occurs. God makes His Spirit

available to you and you are no longer bound by a singular reality. You now have the option to live life animated by His Spirit instead of your human spirit.

Once you submit to the total Lordship of God the Father, you are no longer subject to merely human judgments. Why? Because humans filled with only a human spirit cannot possibly understand what is on God's heart (mind) or how He operates. However, when we become mature Christians, we have access to the most extraordinary promise; we can operate with the mind of Christ. In other words, we can share in His divine nature; we can think like God. This is what we believe because this is what the Word of God clearly says.



SECTION ONE: GENESIS

WEEK 01: THE CRUX OF THE MATTER

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 1:1-6:8

- The Moment of Creation
- The Method of Creation
- The Matter of Creation
- God's Image
- Man's Mess of Things

SERMON RESOURCE: [The Master's Piece & The Crux of the Matter](#)

While doing life in general in today's society, it is eminently obvious that the Human race, by and large, does not view itself quite the same as it once did. We are now living in a casual, convenient, and global society, in which absolutes regarding intimacy between people, either of opposite or same gender, do not matter. Instead of deep, meaningful and committed relationships, casual and convenient partnerships are encouraged. If a relationship results in a pregnancy, society regularly encourages the option of killing the unborn child, framed around "a woman's choice" and addressed as "getting rid of it." The notion abounds that there is no objective morality. That is challenged only when we articulate the thought that moral absolutes do exist and from where they come!

The wickedness of society is on full display for all to see. And, it centers on attacking the truth that we have a Creator and what is the image and most important mandate of that Creator. “The two shall become one flesh,” and “Be fruitful and multiply.”

How did we get here? A wise man once said, “Begin at the beginning.” Let’s remind ourselves of the intrinsic value of humanity by doing just that! Let’s go back to the beginning!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

John 1:1-4, 2:1-11; Job 38:1-4; Colossians 1:16-22

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. How does a view of anything other than a literal six days of creation affect your view of Scripture?**
 - A. If God created matter and no space, where would He have put it?
 - B. If God created matter and space, but not time, when would He have put it?
 - C. What is the risk you take if you give yourself permission to alter or remove any part of the description of creation that Yahweh provided Moses?
 - D. According to Colossians 1:16-22, how was Y’shua (Jesus) involved in creation?

2. Do you believe God used an evolutionary process to achieve creation?

- A. Explain your answer.
- B. What is the significance of “God said” the ten times it is written in Genesis 1:2-31?
- C. How is this connected to the first miracle of Jesus in John 2:1-11?

3. What is the practical significance of man being created in “God’s image” in Genesis 1:26-29?

- A. Contemplate and journal about the three ways God’s image is under attack in modern culture?
- B. How might we say we live in an Anti-Genesis society?

4. Pro-choice supporters proclaim, “my-body-my choice,” and that a fetus is not a human life.

- A. Describe how this is either supported or contradicted by scripture.
- B. Contemplate and journal how this mindset infects every area of life and how it is a key foundation of an anti-biblical culture.

5. The common notion in Christianity is that Eve ushered in sin by falling for the lure of the Devil in Genesis 3...

- A. Read Genesis 3 again.
- B. Read Genesis 2:16-17 and then Genesis 2:21-22. Why is it incorrect to blame Eve?

- C. Read Genesis 3:6-7. What are your thoughts about who is primarily responsible?
- D. What was the Devil's chief tactic in this whole narrative? How is he still using that tactic today?

WEEK 02: TENDER BRANCHES

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 6:9-11:32

- Prepare an Ark
- Irreversible Corruption
- The Tale of Two Choices
- Failed Leadership

SERMON RESOURCE: [Tender branches: The Fate of Two Messengers](#)

Sometimes Yahweh's instructions seem quite ridiculous. Why build a boat to save you from floodwaters when it has never before rained? We're all familiar with Abraham's extreme act of faith that was accounted to him for righteousness, but Noah's obedience to build the ark might be considered the most significant act of faith prior to Abraham. By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear and prepared an ark for the saving of his household... Tragically, kept outside the ark were all those who had corrupted their way on the earth. What would have happened had Noah ignored the warning? Would he and his family have perished along with the rest?

And, of course, divine instruction did not end with Noah. Many times since, God has reached down and

prophetically called a leader to step up with extreme faith to direct or shepherd His people. Maybe even you! What happens when man refuses? What is happening right now? What will happen in the future should God's chosen vessels neglect to "prepare an ark"?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 15, 22:1-19; Hebrews 11:1-7; Luke 17:20-30, 18:1-8; Matthew 24:32-35; James 2:14-26; I Peter 3:18-22; II Peter 2:4-11; Isaiah 51:17-23 and Jeremiah 23:1-17

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Compare Noah's extreme act of faith to build an ark to the faith that Abraham had in Genesis 15, to first believe Yahweh would bring him a son, and then to put that son on an altar in Genesis 22:1-19.**
 - A. Contemplate what might have happened had Noah ignored Yahweh's warning?
- 2. God often prophetically calls a leader to step up with extreme faith to direct or shepherd His people:**
 - A. What has happened in the past when man refuses?
 - B. What is happening right now in the earth?
 - C. What will happen in the future should God's chosen vessels neglect to "prepare an ark"?

- 3. In Matthew 24:32-35, Y'shua said, "learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near."**
 - A. How does this relate to the "time" being near?
 - B. How does this relate to the "days of Noah?"
- 4. Discuss what Peter means when he says baptism is an antitype to the flood in I Peter 3:18-22.**
 - A. Note: an anti type represents the opposite of something (real or symbolically) or something represented by a symbol.
- 5. In II Peter 2:4-11, what example did the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes leave for those who would afterward live ungodly? Also, in your opinion...**
 - A. How is this influencing the Church today?
 - B. How is this influencing the world outside the Church today?
- 6. Discuss the current and future consequences of failed leadership as seen in Isaiah 51:17-23 and Jeremiah 23:1-17:**
 - A. In the Church
 - B. Outside the Church

WEEK 03: ARE YOU THE ONE?

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 12:1-17:27

- A 24 Year Journey of Promises
- Fulfilling Promises Yourself
- It's Isaac not Ishmael

SERMON RESOURCE: [Are You the One?](#)

Are you the one or should I look for another? It's hard to imagine that you can experience so many encounters with God, and still have doubts. At times, even after you have tasted the promises of God, you still might end up in a difficult situation. In those moments do you look for another?

At other times you have to wait on the Lord for what seems like a lifetime. During those long dry seasons, do you look for another? Do you find another? And what happens while you are enjoying the other, and Yahweh encounters you with what you have been waiting for? Only, you're no longer waiting, as you already took matters into your own hands. All of a sudden you're in a sticky wicket; on one hand you have been enjoying "another," and now God is ready to fulfill His promises.

If your reaction is, "God, can't I just keep what I already have, and You can bless that?" you're in good

company! Abram soon to become Abraham did just that. “Why not let Ishmael inherit what you have promised me?” Let’s explore this all too common occurrence in our walk of faith, “Are you the one, or should I look for another?”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Luke 7:18-23, 11:9-13; John 16:23-24; James 4:2-3

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. When was the first promise made to Abram?**
 - A. List the six promises made to Abram in Genesis 12:2-3.
- 2. What did Abram believe that was accounted to him as righteousness in Genesis 15?**
 - A. What did he ask for from Yahweh?
 - B. What did Yahweh promise him?
 - C. What did Yahweh do when Abram asked for confirmation?
 - D. What happened that was prophetic, while Yahweh confirmed His promise in Genesis 15:12-21?
- 3. In Genesis 15:2, Abram asked Yahweh, “What will You give me, seeing I go childless?”**
 - A. How does Y’shua’s encouragement in Luke 11:9-13 relate to Abram’s request?

- B. How would have Y'shua's words in John 16:23-24 made Abram confident in God's answer?
- 4. After 10 years Abram was still waiting for the promise to be fulfilled:**
 - A. What did he do and what role did Sarai have in his decision in Genesis 16:1-16?
 - B. How have you made similar moves on your own when God's promises seem delayed?
- 5. In Genesis 17:1-27, thirteen years after Ishmael is born, Yahweh is ready to fulfill His promise, 24 years after He originally spoke to Abram:**
 - A. What is Abraham's response in Genesis 17:18?
 - B. How is Abram's request related to James 4:2-3?
 - C. Have you had similar responses when Yahweh is ready to fulfill a long-awaited promise in your life?
 - D. How are you holding up while you wait for God's promises?
- 6. Compare Abraham's request in Genesis 17:18 to John the Baptist's question about Y'shua in Luke 7:18-21.**
 - A. Compare Yahweh's answer to Abraham in Genesis 17:19-21 to Y'shua's answer to John in Luke 7:22-23.

WEEK 04: A PROPHETIC BAILIWICK

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 18:1-22:24

- No Prophets No Church
- Put on Your Prophetic Glasses
- Your Only Begotten Son
- A Test of Faith for All Times

SERMON RESOURCE: [A Prophetic Bailiwick](#)

I'm not certain you'll find a portion of Scripture that has more prophetic big ticket items than Genesis 18 to 22. We could certainly grab any one of them and teach an entire sermon on it. Let's see: nothing is impossible with God; all things happen in their appointed times; God does not hide what He will do from His prophets; who are you to judge me; don't look back, forget the past; God always shows us what He will do in the future; God provides where He guides; faith is a combination of hearing and doing; what happens when you don't withhold your only begotten son; what it means to be a living sacrifice; a third day return to life; the worship and faith connection; the ram of God and lamb of God; the significance of descendants as numerous as stars and sands; the singular "seed" of promise; fear not, He already has your spouse picked out!

But, instead of just one, I decided—let’s do them all! Hence “A Prophetic Bailiwick.” In other words, let’s operate in a certain sweet spot, in this case, the prophetic! Besides, you can’t build THE CHURCH without it. Remember, “You are members of the household of God, which is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Y’shua Himself being the chief corner stone.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Amos 3:1-7; Ephesians 2:19-22; Matthew 19:23-30; Luke 1:31-38; II Peter 1:1-11; Psalms 103:11-12; Philippians 3:12-16; II Corinthians 5:17; Luke 9:61-62; Leviticus 1:9-13; 6:8-13; Romans 12:1-2

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Discuss the idea of Yahweh’s promises being fulfilled at appointed times.**
 - A. Why is this so significant in regards to Abraham?
- 2. What does it mean that God does nothing without first revealing it to His servants the prophets?**
 - A. In what ways was Abraham acting as a prophet? (See Genesis 18:17-18, 20:7; Amos 3:1-7)
 - B. What are the three governing branches of the Church according to Ephesians 2:19-22?

3. Relate the grave error of Lot's wife looking back in Genesis 19:12-29 with how we are supposed to consider our past sins as a Christian in II Peter 1:1-11.

- A. Consider also Psalms 103:11-12; Philippians 3:12-16; II Corinthians 5:17; Luke 9:61-62 in your answer.
- B. Contemplate what it likely means that she was tuned into a "pillar of salt."

4. How do these New Testament verses relate to the life of Abraham and Sarah?

- A. Matthew 19:23-30 and Luke 1:31-38 to Genesis 18:1-18

5. Yahweh provides where He guides. Read Genesis 22:1-19...

- A. How did this show up in the faith of Abraham when he was instructed to sacrifice Isaac?
- B. Abraham ensured Isaac that God would provide for Himself a lamb; why?
- C. Why was it significant that Abraham said, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."?

6. The type of offering Yahweh told Abraham that Isaac would be in Genesis 22:3 was a burnt offering:

- A. What is most significant about a burnt offering?
(Refer to Leviticus 1:9-13; 6:8-13 to see the attributes of burnt offerings.)
- B. Now that you see its attributes, how might this relate to the living sacrifice of Romans 12:1-2?

WEEK 05: FLEECES & TESTIMONIES

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 23:1-25:18

- Fleeces
- Desperate Prayers
- Answered Prayers
- Criteria & Confirmation
- Three Witnesses

SERMON RESOURCE: [Fleeces and Testimonies](#)

Have you ever been pressed to the limit and you know that beyond any doubt the only way you will find peace, the only way you will be certain, is if God Almighty answers your petition in every detail? I'm not talking about a vague feeling or gentle leading; I'm talking exact and detailed answers. I've been there! We all have.

In my three decades as a devout Christian I can recall those testimonies as if they were yesterday. They seem so fresh in my mind, I'm sure because I have told the stories over and over and over again. I believe it glorifies God as it testifies to His majesty. But, it also encourages me and others to keep the faith when times are tough and when "there I am again" needing another specific and detailed answer from the Lord. He has never let me down. And that's the thing; His track record

in my life is so long and so predictable that every time I'm up against it, I know just what to do. It's who He is and it's how I've learned to live, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. For those of you who have been there, you know what I mean. For some of you who have yet to test the deep waters of radical faith, jump in; "the water is fine!"

Finally, let me leave you with this; I love to tell stories, mostly because I love to speak about my testimonies, which has led me to this simple yet profound conclusion: "If you tell your testimony, God will give you more testimonies to tell!"

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Judges 6:36-40; Ephesians 3:20; James 5:16; Philippians 4:6-7; Romans 8:27-28

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever been desperate in prayer?

- A. What did that look like?
- B. How did God answer?
- C. How did you hear His voice?

2. Abraham's chief servant was sent on a mission in Genesis 24:

- A. What was he to do? Not to do?

- B. What were Abraham's two criteria he was sent to fulfill?
 - C. What additional criteria did the servant add?
 - D. Describe how each of these criteria were satisfied?
- 3. Relate what Abraham's servant did with Gideon's famous fleece before Yahweh in Judges 6:36-40.**
- 4. As promised in Ephesians 3:20, God gives us exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think:**
- A. How did God give more to the servant than he asked for?
 - B. How has God done that with you? Describe at least three personal testimonies; thank God again; and then tell each testimony to at least one person.
 - C. Relate the servants prayer in Genesis 24:12-14 to what we learn about prayer in James 5:16; Philippians 4:6-7; and Romans 8:27-28.
- 5. Describe the three testimonies given in Genesis 24.**
- A. Explain this quote: "If you tell your testimony, God will give you more testimonies to tell!"

WEEK 06: THE IMPETUOUS SEED

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 25:19-28:9

- Foot in Mouth Disease
- Promises without Thinking!
- Slow Down before You Speak
- Impetuous Decisions
- Count the Cost before you Speak

SERMON RESOURCE: [The Impetuous Seed](#)

Impetuous: impulsive, rash, hasty, reckless, heedless, foolhardy, imprudent, injudicious, ill-conceived, ill-considered, unplanned, unreasoned, unthought-out, unthinking, precipitate, precipitous, headlong, hurried, rushed. Anything but a cautious and sober-minded decision. For years I have taught my children, “Stop...think before you do anything.” At one point I had rubber bracelets made with these words on them: “What would dad think?” I’m not joking; I forced my children to wear them.

How many times have you wished you could stuff your words back into your mouth? As they leave your lips you’re thinking, “please no!” I am sure Esau felt that way the moment after his belly was full. “Sure, take my entire inheritance for a bowl of soup.” No more impetuous words were ever spoken. Let’s take a trip

through the Bible and find the many instances when man spoke too soon, without thinking, sometimes extensively. It never works out well. We will land in the modern day and see how this is playing out in our world, even now.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Esther 3-7; Matthew 12:36-37; 13:1-23; 20:20-28; 26:14-75; 27:3-5; Luke 14:28-33; Jonah 1:1-3; 11-12; Job 1-42; Habakkuk 1-2

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Have you ever spoken too soon, before thinking?
(See Genesis 25:31-34 and Genesis 27:1-40)**
 - A. Were there long-term consequences?
 - B. What were the consequences for Esau when he flippantly gave up his birthright?
- 2. What overly exaggerated complaint led to Esau's bad choice in Genesis 25:31-34?**
 - A. How might you apply Habakkuk 2:6 to Esau's promise?
 - B. What lessons do you learn about measuring your words carefully from Proverbs 14:15-18; Proverbs 19:2; James 1:19-20; and Ecclesiastes 7:9?

- C. What lessons do you learn about impetuous choices from Matthew 12:36-37; 13:1-23; 20:20-28; 26:14-75; 27:3-5?
- D. What should you do before you make any decisions? Use Luke 14:28-33 to guide your answer.

3. Discuss the modern-day application of Habakkuk's words in Habakkuk 2:5-20:

- A. Take your time and go verse-by-verse and consider what is going in the world around you.
- B. Biblically, nations tend to rise and fall and the people tend to suffer depending on the decisions leaders make. Consider your nation's leadership and how Habakkuk 2:5-20 might apply to them.

4. What was ironic about Haman's words against the Jews in Esther 3:8-9 and what he intended for Mordecai in Esther 5:13-14?

- A. Read Esther 3-7 (Hint: draw your conclusions from Esther 7)
- B. What inspired Haman's impetuous behavior?
- C. Do you ever say the wrong thing for the wrong reason?

5. Job is a story filled with impetuous behavior, and his friends had plenty to say to him (if time permits I recommend you read Job 1-42):

- A. What did the approach of Job's three older friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar) have in common? (See Job 4:7-9; 5:1-9; 11:1-3; 15:1-3; 18:1-2; 20:1-3)
- B. What was different about Elihu's advice? What was the same? (See Job 32:1-22; 33:1-6; 34:1-5; Job 35:1-2)
- C. What was God's ultimate reaction to all of Job's friends? (See Job 38:1-2; Job 38:33; Job 40:1-2)

WEEK 07: A NATION DIVIDED

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 28:10-32:2

- Birth Wars
- Mothers, Tribes & Kingdoms
- A House Divided
- Unity
- The Divine Nature

SERMON RESOURCE: [A Nation Divided](#)

Each week as I explore the portion of scripture we will be studying, I wait on the Lord to highlight something to me. Sometimes it's something big right there in the text; and sometimes it's an idea that just jumps off the pages. You know, the Word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than a two edged sword, and it pierces us right down to the core. This week I saw the great controversy that emerged when Jacob fell in love with Rachel, but was forced to marry Leah first. "That's how we do things around here," Laban insisted.

This launched Jacob into the midst of a baby war. What jumped off the pages was that Leah birthed the line that became the priesthood and the Messiah, and Rachel birthed the line of Joseph who saved Israel from extinction and seems to be the representation of the

Church. History has recorded the great schism as Israel became a divided nation after King Solomon's death, and later both kingdoms were exiled for disobedience! Benjamin, Rachel's second son and Jacob's twelfth, became the only tribe to land in both kingdoms during the exiles! And Paul, the Jewish Apostle to the Gentiles, was from the line of Benjamin. Wow! Jews and Gentiles uniting as "One New Man!" Y'shua taught us that a kingdom divided cannot stand, so today, as we live in a divided nation, never before has unity of the faith been more crucial.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Deuteronomy 17:16-17; I Kings 10:26-28, 11:1-13; James 1:1; II Kings 17 & 25; Ezekiel 37:15-22; Romans 11:11-24; Ephesians 2:11-13, 4:1-6; John 17:20-23; Philippians 2:1-2; I Corinthians 2:16; II Peter 1:2-4; II Corinthians 6:11-18

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Wives and Maidservants; Sons and Birth Order**
(Hint: refer to the introduction of this devotion.)
 - A. What is prophetically significant about Levi and Judah being born to Leah, Jacob's first wife?
 - B. What is prophetically significant about Joseph and Benjamin being born to Rachel, Jacob's second and favorite wife?

2. Israel became divided into two kingdoms, first because King Solomon transgressed Yahweh's commands!

- A. What did he do that God explicitly told him not to do? (See Deuteronomy 17:16-17; I Kings 10:26-28, 11:1-13)
- B. What was the specific consequence for those actions?
- C. How is that consequence related to James 1:1?

3. A combination of Solomon's disobedience and the continued transgressions of the people led to Israel separating into two kingdoms:

- A. Discuss the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. (See II Kings 17 & 25)
- B. Which tribes migrated to each of the kingdoms? (II Kings 17:5-23, 25:1-7)

4. Both kingdoms were eventually captured by pagan kings:

- A. What is prophetically significant about where the kingdoms were sent into exile?
- B. What is the fascinating prophetic fact about Great Britain? (Hint: research what "British" means! Hint #2: Think in Hebrew "Brit" + "ish")

5. In Matthew 12:22-30 Y'shua said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and

every city or house divided against itself will not stand.”

- A. How do these words relate to a divided Israel?
 - B. What was God’s prophetic plan to “reunite the tribes” in Ezekiel 37:15-22?
 - C. Why is that significant to the Church in Ephesians 2:11-13?
 - D. How does Paul relate this reunification to the Church in Romans 11:11-24?
 - E. Think back to all you’ve read here and consider that Benjamin was the only tribe exiled into both kingdoms. Why does it make total prophetic sense that the Apostle Paul is from the line of Benjamin?
- 6. Discuss the importance of unity in the Body of Christ:**
- A. How does unity relate to oneness, the mind of Christ, the Divine nature, and holiness? Use the following verses to help your answer: (John 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:1-6; Philippians 2:1-2; I Corinthians 2:16; II Peter 1:2-4; II Corinthians 6:11-18)

WEEK 08: SPIRITUAL TENACITY

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 32:3-36:43

- Violent and Tenacious
- Wrestling with God
- Who is Yahweh? Who are You?
- Intimate Processes
- What gets in the way?

SERMON RESOURCE: [Spiritual Tenacity—For Those with Ears to Hear](#)

Jacob wrestled with God all night long and when God insisted he let go, we notice a different side of the son “who dwelled in tents.” Jacob’s response was a resounding, “I WILL NOT let You go!” Yet, the Hebrew words behind the scene give us even greater insight into how violent this encounter truly was, and how tenaciously Jacob resisted. The adverb, “I will not” has a permanent and resolute quality as it modifies a verb, in this case, “let You go!” “I will not” demands absolute prohibition of “let you go.” Yes, Jacob is violent in his encounter: forceful, ferocious, intense, potent, and furious; and Jacob is tenacious in his engagement: locked-on, relentless, fixated, resolute, and steadfast!

What does this mean for us? Spiritual tenacity and violence require a well-developed sense of who God is,

plus an unadulterated understanding of who you are to God. Yahweh is steadfast, never lies, and is, of course, infinitely capable of doing what He promises. We are the wild cards in the relationship. If we fail to recognize who we are to Him, we suffer from spiritual amnesia, and it is easy to get swept away in a flood of anxieties and doubts. Yahweh will certainly do His part; will you do yours? Y'shua taught us, "The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."

If you want on the team, it's going to take some violent and tenacious wrestling with God. To do so, you must invest as much time as it takes to know God intimately, and spend equal time learning who you are to Him! I promise, be spiritually violent and tenacious about your call and election, and if you do these things you will never stumble.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Matthew 11:11-15; 24:11-14; Romans 1:7, 4:20-22, 7:14-25, 8:15-17; Luke 10:23-24; John 14:12-14; Philippians 1:6; Numbers 23:19; II Peter 1:1-11; II Corinthians 5:16-21; Colossians 3:9-10; Deuteronomy 28:13

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Up until his all-night encounter with God in Genesis 32:22-32, Jacob seemed quite fearful and passive:**
 - A. What was different on that night?
 - B. Why was he holding on so tight?
 - C. What did he receive?
 - D. How might you relate Jacob's persistence to Y'shua's words in Matthew 11:12 and 24:13?
- 2. What is prophetically significant about Jacob's name change?**
 - A. What is his new name and its meaning?
 - B. How does his new name relate to a proper understanding of Christian identity?
- 3. Jacob wrestled with God:**
 - A. Relate Paul's testimony in Romans 7:14-25 with Jacob's experience in Genesis 32:22-30.
 - B. What do both Paul and Jacob realize about their new identity?
- 4. Discuss the four promises God reiterated to Jacob in Genesis 35:11-12 that were originally made to his Grandparents Abraham and Sarah.**
 - A. What have you been promised in Luke 10:23-24 and John 14:12-14?
- 5. Who...**
 - A. ...is God? (See Genesis 32:29-30; Philippians 1:6; Numbers 23:19; Romans 4:20-22)

- B. ...are you? (Genesis 32:27-28; II Corinthians 5:16-21; Colossians 3:9-10; Romans 1:7, 8:15-17; Deuteronomy 28:13;)
- 6. Discuss the seven-step process of receiving all of God's promises according to II Peter 1:5-8.**
- A. What is the foundation of that process?
 - B. Name at least four amazing promises in II Peter 1:1-11
 - C. What is Peter warning you about?

WEEK 09: BETWEEN TWO VERSES

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 37:1-40:23

- One Verse Two Years
- Prepped for Power
- Preparation Takes Time
- This is a Test; Are You Ready?
- What to do with Power?

SERMON RESOURCE: [Between Two Verses: Prepped for Power](#)

We live in one of the most important prophetic times in history. I am sure many men over the centuries have made that claim, but if I had to make my argument for the case, I would say we are at a crossroads for two massive reasons. In the United States, and by extension globally, because of the position the U.S. holds in the world, we have come to this great divide. On one side we have those who will boldly proclaim that there is One God, and that He has revealed His image to us. First He did so in Genesis when He made man and woman in His image, told them to marry and to be fruitful as a family, and then again He revealed Himself through His One and only Son. On the other side we have bold declarations that gender is fluid, and therefore there is no definitive distinction

between a man or a woman. Marriage is irrelevant and certainly, even if considered, is not reserved for the union between a man and a woman and, as such, has redefined the family. And then there is the assault on being fruitful, with the mass annihilation of unborn children. These violations add up to the very denial of the image of the One and only God. The conclusion of the matter is this; one side says, “There is only One God,” and the other, by their beliefs and policies says, “There is no God.”

Now, take that definitive conclusion and add this. Historically, God’s people, starting with Israel, have a reputation of killing the prophets. When the conviction of their words reached the people, especially the leaders, many times instead of repenting, they simply killed the messenger. Today, in the church we have done much the same. The church was originally established on the Apostles and Prophets with Christ as the Chief Cornerstone, and yet today, the church, and by extension denominations, are run primarily by Pastors, with almost zero Prophetic oversight. This has left the church divided, drastically reducing its power and influence in the world. As proof, just contemplate how little impact the church has had worldwide on exposing all lies that have gripped the entire planet in 2020 and 2021. Not only has the church been impotent in the matter, it has actually been complicit. And if you are not

acutely aware of how this is true, that itself is further proof of what I am saying. The Prophetic authority must be restored in the church; this Separation of Powers must be reestablished for the Body of Christ to take its rightful place of authority in the world and finish what we are here to do.

To understand the critical importance of a Separation of Powers, let's look at the three branches of government in the United States, which operate federally and in each state. You may not have realized, but this form of government was modeled after the Holy Bible, in which Israel was governed by the King, the Priest, and the Prophet, all working together. When operating as intended, they were mutually submitted to one another, and all three submitted to the Torah. In the United States, the King is the Executive Branch, the Priest is the Legislative Branch, and the Prophetic is the Judicial Branch, all three, when operating properly, are mutually submitted to one another and to the Constitution.

Today in the church that would translate to the King of Kings, the Pastoral, and the Prophetic. It is never good when any branch abdicates or overextends its power, or violates its constitution. In Washington, DC, that breeds corruption. In the church it births new religions, waters down the truth, and ruins its power and influence. In both cases it creates fertile soil for

dictators. That is why we must restore Prophetic authority in the church! It's the only way we will be prepared to finish the work Y'shua left us to do. Consider this lesson your preparation course!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 41; Acts 7:17-36, 8:14-23, 19:11-20, 22:3-5; Galatians 1:1-2:5; II Corinthians 11:22-28, 12:1-10; Matthew 7:21-23, 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:1-14, 13-17; I Corinthians 2:6-7; 3:1-2; Hebrews 5:12-14, 6:1-3; Luke 10:19

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. It's undeniable that Joseph had a rough journey:

A. What was his apparent error in judgement relative to his two dreams in Genesis 37:1-11?

2. In every "turn of events" for Joseph, we see a common theme (see Genesis 37:12-36 and Genesis 39):

A. What was stripped from Joseph as he transitioned both into slavery and into prison?

B. What was obvious about Yahweh's hand in Joseph's journey?

3. Joseph's prison mates also had two dreams in Genesis 40:

A. What was common in each?

- B. What was the outcome of each?
- C. What did Joseph ask the cupbearer to do for him?
- D. What was the immediate outcome?
- E. What was the eventual outcome (Refer to Genesis 41)?
- F. What was the time frame between the immediate and the eventual and why is that so important?

4. All throughout the Bible we see a predictive pattern of preparation:

- A. Discuss the preparation time for Joseph (Hint: his age in Genesis 37 and Genesis 41).
- B. What is so fascinating about what took place between Genesis 40:23 and Genesis 41:1?
- C. Discuss the preparation time for Moses (Hint: his age when he left Egypt and his age when he was called to go back. See Acts 7:17-36)
- D. Discuss the preparation time and process for Paul (See: Galatians 1:1-2:5 and Acts 22:3-5; II Corinthians 11:22-28; 12:1-10).

5. Y'shua's disciples were charged with the feeding of 5000 men plus women and children, a narrative written about in all four Gospels (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:1-14):

- A. The Synoptic Gospels (the three with a similar outline and perspective) all leave out one detail that only the prophetic Gospel of John includes;

what is that detail and how does it related to preparation? (Hint: see John 6:4-6)

- B. How does the feeding of the 5000 and that detail relate to Matthew 24:45-46?

6. The preparation time is always a time for growing into maturity:

- A. Explain the maturing process. (See: I Corinthians 3:1-2; Hebrews 5:12-14, 6:1-3; I Corinthians 2:6-7).
- B. Why is it so important to have that time?

7. What type of power and authority does Yahweh want to give you?

- A. See Luke 10:19 (Bonus for the really mature: Expand you answer after reading John 13-17)
- B. In the end, what would be the ultimate indicator that you have matured as a disciple? (Again see: Matthew 24:45-46)?
- C. What does power and authority look like in the wrong hands? (Hint: Matthew 7:21-23; Acts 8:14-23, 19:11-20)

WEEK 10: NEW WINESKINS

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 41:1-44:17

- Clothes Shopping
- What You Wear Matters
- New Wine in What Skins?
- New Purpose New Garment
- Clothed in...

SERMON RESOURCE: [New Wineskins](#)

It would seem that in creation mankind was clothed only in the skin on his body and in that form he reflected the glory of God. Something happened when sin came into the world. He looked upon the glory of his own body, and instead of seeing the glory of God, he became afraid and attempted to cover what he now saw as “nakedness.” What took place next has great prophetic significance. God saw man’s new sense of embarrassment over his original glory and accommodated him by causing him to be covered with a “new skin”, an animal skin, a certain downgrade.

This downgrade would now plague mankind into the future and does not seem to have a complete resolution until the revealing of the sons of God, at which time “creation is restored.” Our ultimate hope is to

be clothed with a restored heavenly image so we shall not be found naked, like Adam.

The theme of being clothed in either sin and shame or glory and righteousness is something that is well-defined in the life of Joseph. And we will see the exact pattern in the life of every believer as he is sanctified from glory to glory. And putting on a new skin that reflects this glory is something that our Savior taught about in a short parable: “No one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved.” It’s time to put on your new wineskin!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Remember Genesis 37-40 from last week; Genesis 1-3; Romans 6:1-23, 8:18-21; Ephesians 1:19-20, 4:22-24; Galatians 2:20; II Corinthians 3:16-18, 5:1-5, 17; Esther 8:2; Luke 5:33-39, 9:1-2; II Peter 1:3, 2:20-22; Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 19:7-10; Philippians 2:9-11

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Describe and discuss the rise and fall and rise again in the life of Joseph from Genesis 37-41.**

- A. Relate his journey by using the “clothes on his back” as indicators of his status.

2. Think about Adam and Eve in the Garden in

Genesis 1-3:

- A. What were they wearing before the fall?
- B. What did they “realize” after the fall and what did they do about it?
- C. After God questioned them about what they felt about being naked, what did He do as a result of their answer?

3. Relate what God did with Adam and Eve’s “nakedness” to the following:

- A. Joseph’s journey of suffering on the way to leadership in Egypt.
- B. The Christian journey of suffering on the way to becoming like Christ. (See: Romans 8:18-21; Ephesians 4:22-24; Galatians 2:20; II Corinthians 5:1-5, 17)

4. Y’shua said, “No one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved.” Relate this message to:

- A. Joseph’s journey of suffering on the way to leadership in Egypt.

- A. The Christian journey of suffering on the way to becoming like Christ.
 - B. Relate Luke 5:33-39 to Romans 6:1-23
 - C. Relate Luke 5:33-39 to II Peter 2:20-22
- 5. Pharaoh lifted Joseph to second in command over all of Egypt in Genesis 41:42-45. Discuss the following:**
- A. The transfer of Authority, Glory, Honor, and Power.
 - B. The use of the Signet Ring and all it represents. (Use Esther 8:2 to assist you.)
- 6. Describe what it means to be clothed in...**
- A. Authority (Luke 9:1-2; Matthew 28:18-20)
 - B. Glory (II Corinthians 3:16-18)
 - C. Righteousness (Revelation 19:7-10)
 - D. Honor (Philippians 2:9-11)
 - E. Power (II Peter 1:3; Ephesians 1:19-20)

WEEK 11: EMOTIONAL TUG-OF-WAR

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 44:18-47:27

- Tug-of-war Climaxes!
- Forgiveness is Sound Theology
- Never Avenge Yourself
- Suffer for Doing Good
- Do Not Become Weary!
- A Purposeful Existence

SERMON RESOURCE: [Emotional Tug-of-War](#)

As we move about in our daily lives, nothing is more evident than the constant emotional tug-of-war in which we live! Life is filled with constant emotional battles, which we can choose to either fight in the flesh or in the Spirit. Truthfully, none of us enjoys dealing with the issues that cause stress, inconvenience, and controversies. No one likes to be forced into such battles.

However, it is also abundantly evident that Christians today have, in many ways, been wrongfully led to believe that the moment they receive Christ as Savior, such battles will become a thing of the past, money will flow in abundance, sickness will vanish, life will suddenly become much easier, and everyone will get along. And this long list of G-rated happy promises

can grow unabated! You've heard this type of "prosperity only" preaching; I have too! Should such thoughts have a place in the minds of Christians living solely for the Kingdom? If this is what the Christian life is meant to be, then why did Peter write, "For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil?" Let's find out!

And to be clear, I have nothing against a positive attitude nor an optimistic outlook on life. You should have both! This is more of a wake-up call to make you aware that life, as a follower of Christ, will not always feel like "sunshine and rainbows." There will invariably be suffering on your journey to maturing as a disciple, and I want to prepare you.

What we learn in today's Scriptures is that instead of the zero-issue life, the battles we face don't come about by mere coincidence. They are actually, on many occasions, orchestrated by God, and I implore you to recognize and seize the moments when they present themselves. Don't waste these opportunities. It is from that perspective I write. So, let's develop a better theological approach to such opportunities and use them to mature as disciples of Christ. This will then allow you to take part in advancing God's Kingdom on earth. Deal?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Romans 12:9-21; Proverbs 16:9; I Peter 3:17-18; Galatians 6:9; II Thessalonians 3:13; Hebrews 12:3

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Review Genesis 45:1-8...

- A. Describe what happened as Joseph reached his boiling point.
- B. How did his brothers react?
- C. Contemplate why Joseph asked his brothers to come closer, as he was about to reveal his identity.
- D. As second in command over all of Egypt, what options did Joseph have at his disposal, regarding how he would treat his brothers?
- E. How did Joseph demonstrate that he had become aware of God's divine plan?
- F. Have you ever been in a position where you had options like Joseph? How did you react?

2. Proverbs 16:9 says, "A man's heart plans his ways but the Lord directs his steps."

- A. How does the story of Joseph perfectly demonstrate this?
- B. Compare Romans 12:9-21 to how Joseph handled the situation with his brothers.

3. There is no doubt that difficult situations can make you want to give up...

- A. Describe how each of the following scriptures encourages you to use the opportunity for good, instead of quitting. (See: I Peter 3:17-18; Galatians 6:9; II Thessalonians 3:13; Hebrews 12:3)
- 4. It is important to recognize that our emotional battles impact our involvement in God's purposes. If we retreat, we limit our usefulness for God. Think of your worst personal encounters:**
- A. On a scale from 1-10, how does that situation measure on your emotional meter?
- B. Have you tried to look at that situation through Spiritual glasses, instead of emotional lenses?
- C. You have now read through the entirety of Joseph's life, and see how he handled his emotions. How does that challenge you today to handle your emotional tug-of-wars?
- 5. Is it necessary for you to see God's end purpose, before you surrender your need to be recognized in your suffering?**
- A. If your answer is yes, how will that fix what's already happened?
- B. How will that diminish your anguish, pain, and heartache today?
- C. Does recognizing that God has seen all of your emotional tug-of-wars, and the fact that He came and decided to suffer along with you, change anything in your view on this matter?

WEEK 12: AMBASSADORS WITH SWORDS IN CHAINS

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 47:28-50:26

- Ambassador Training
- Ambassador in Chains
- Put Away Your Sword
- Position Yourself

SERMON RESOURCE: [Ambassadors with Swords in Chains](#)

Here we are, facing our greatest enemy. We could be standing in the garden with Y’shua on the night of His betrayal, or standing with Moses and Israel at the edge of the sea on the night of their deliverance from Egypt. “Draw the sword and fight or stand still and see the deliverance of Yahweh?” that is the question. Look around you this very day. Do you feel the danger; do you feel your enemies pressing in against you? Do you feel the need to prepare, to ready for the fight, the need to defend yourself and your family against the tyranny? We are poised at the precipice of a PROPHETIC MOMENT in history. What is the Lord asking us to do? Should we “cut off the ear of our foe” or “be still”?

This week we explore the final chapters in the life of Joseph, a man who had many opportunities to raise

the sword against his enemies. What can we learn from his life? What can we learn from the heart of the man who said to his adversaries, and may I paraphrase? “I’m Joseph, do not be afraid; it’s all good. I’m not God and He had a plan all along to use my chains as a means to become an ambassador to the most powerful nation on earth. And He did it all so He could save you! So no, I have no sword to lift against you; but now, stand still and see the deliverance of the Lord!”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 13:52; Ephesians 6:10-20; Matthew 26:52-56, 10:16-26; John 15:18-25; Romans 8:28-30; I Corinthians 10:13; I Peter 2:11-12; Luke 19:11-44; Exodus 14:9-14; Psalms 46:1-11; II Chronicles 20:5-17.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Y’shua taught in Matthew 13:52 that even legal experts in the Scriptures must be trained, instructed, and disciplined concerning the Kingdom:**
 - A. Why do you think He said that?
 - B. Contemplate and journal about what is so distinct about the Kingdom that even experts need specific training?
- 2. Paul taught us in Ephesians 6:10-20 that the true battles we face are not against flesh and blood:**

- A. If so, then with whom are the true battles?
 - B. How are these battles fought?
 - C. How does this teaching in relate to Y'shua's instruction to Peter, in Matthew 26:52-56, to put away his sword in the Garden of Gethsemane?
 - D. How does this relate to Paul referring to himself as an "ambassador in chains"?
 - E. Now, relate this to Joseph's approach in Genesis 50:19-21.
- 3. After Y'shua told Peter to put down his sword...**
- A. What did He say He could do, had He desired?
 - B. How is this consistent with Paul in Ephesians 6?
- 4. It is obvious that no matter how much persecution Y'shua endured, He never picked up a weapon to defend Himself. Why not?**
- A. How should this play out in the lives of His disciples?
 - B. What are we taught to expect according to John 15:18-25?
- 5. Y'shua taught us in Matthew 10:16-26 that we "would be brought before governors and kings for His sake, as a testimony":**
- A. What did He promise would happen in those moments?
 - B. How did this play out in the life of Joseph?
(Compare Genesis 41:14-16 to Matthew 10:18-20)

- C. What promises do we see in Romans 8:28-30 and I Corinthians 10:13 playing out in Genesis 50:19-21?
- 6. The Scriptures teach us that we ought not miss the day of Christ's visitation (see: I Peter 2:11-12; Luke 19:41-44):**
- A. How does this relate to our response to our enemies?
 - B. How does this relate to the parable about the minas in Luke 19:11-27?
 - C. How does the parable about the minas relate to the Kingdom?
- 7. Moses, David, and Jehoshaphat also had moments in life when they could either pick up the sword and fight, or be still:**
- A. Describe the choices each of them made and the outcome. Refer to Exodus 14:9-14 for Moses, Psalms 46:1-11 for David, and II Chronicles 20:5-12 for Jehoshaphat.
- 8. In particular, the Spirit spoke to Jahaziel (a priest) in II Chronicles 20:13-17, on behalf of all of Judah and King Jehoshaphat saying, "You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves."**
- A. Relate this directive to Y'shua's words to Peter in the Garden.
 - B. Now contemplate and journal how Matthew 13:52 relates to positioning yourself correctly?

SECTION TWO: EXODUS

WEEK 13: FEAR GOD OR FEAR MAN?

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 1:1-6:1

- Godless Leadership
- To Whom is Your Allegiance?
- Who do You Fear?
- Preparedness and Evidence

SERMON RESOURCE: [Fear God or Fear Man?](#)

We are living in a time in which governments are behaving more and more as if they are God, or more accurately, gods. If we pay close attention, we can see that they continually devise ways to force allegiance and involuntary obedience, like it was in the days of old, when kings and magistrates insisted on, even commanded, they be worshiped as gods. By force, either by written or oral decree, kings required their subjects to pay them homage with unwavering fidelity. Of course, this was to replace worship to the god in whom they believed, the god in whom they preferred to serve and worship. And those who worshiped the one and only God, Yahweh, were not immune to their decrees!

While in the present day, we are yet to see such ultimatums in the United States, “Worship the king or die!” the time may not be too far off. Many indicators

point to a day quickly approaching when believers will be forced to privatize their worship in order to exercise any worship at all. May it always be said of us, those who identify as the children of the one and only Most High God, that we would fear God instead of man!

We have already witnessed business owners being persecuted and sued, and some businesses caused to shut down, for not providing services they deem to violate their closely held religious convictions. Legal battles have ensued over religious liberties between establishments and the government. Secular authorities attempt to impose cooperation with same sex unions and late term abortions. And recently, under the guise of pandemic restrictions, they even forced the closure of Churches throughout the nation. The list of issues against believers in Yahweh and His Son Y'shua is long and growing every day.

It's time to take the gloves off! Who do you fear; do you fear God or do you fear man? Ultimately, government bureaucrats are pushing to create a godless society at the behest of a sin-riddled world. We are living in a postmodern, pluralistic society in which people are being indoctrinated to believe there is no ultimate source of truth. As such, there is no ultimate source of morality, and at the very core, they'd like you to believe that we owe allegiance for who we are and to

what we can aspire, to their very rulership. I don't know about you, but I can't vote for that!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Daniel 3:8-18, 6:1-28; Acts 4:1-37, 17:1-7; 1 Samuel 12:24; Job 28:28; Psalms 33:1-8; Matthew 10:28; Job 28:28

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Current Events:

- A. Exodus 1:8 records that "A new King, who had not known Joseph came to power in Egypt." What changed once the person in charge no longer had respect for the God of Israel?
- B. What did the king attempt to do in Exodus 1, and what was the outcome each time?
- C. Do you see the same trend against God in our current government? Please describe!
- D. Do you see beliefs and behaviors in our society indicative of this? Please describe!

2. Let's consider the actions of the Hebrew midwives?

- A. What priorities did they demonstrate?
- B. Whom did they fear more, Pharaoh or Yahweh?
- C. We can clearly see that the midwives were deceptive; we can even agree they actually lied. How did God treat their "righteous deception?"

3. To whom do you bow and pay unwavering allegiance?

- A. Read Daniel 3:8-18. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are dealing with king Nebuchadnezzar. What is he demanding? What do they do?
- B. When their lives are threatened, what is their famous response?
- C. If confronted, would you be able to stand on your faith the same way?

4. In Daniel 6, King Darius is essentially “tricked” into making a decree.

- A. Why are the others leaders in the kingdom against Daniel?
- B. What decree do they get the king to sign?
- C. What is Daniel’s response to the decree and why?
- D. What happens to Daniel and what ultimate impact does it have on King Darius?
- E. Read Acts 4. How do the disciples respond in a similar fashion to Daniel?
- F. In Acts 17:1-7 what are the disciples accused of doing and saying?

5. What is the main admonition in the following verses?

- A. I Samuel 12:24; Job 28:28; Psalms 33:1-8; Matthew 10:28

6. Preparedness and Evidence...

- A. Are you willing and prepared to stand for your faith in the same way we see in this lesson?
- B. What evidence is there in your life that your allegiance is to Yahweh and Yahweh alone?

WEEK 14: FIRE, WORMS & WARRING ANGELS

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 6:2-9:35

- Demonstration of Power
- Meekness and Timing
- Ministering Angels
- Who has the Power?
- Angles in Action

SERMON RESOURCE: [Fire, Worms & Warring Angels](#)

The ancient battle rages on. There have been many playwrights and players along the way, but the storyline is always the same. Men would rather be worshiped as gods than worship God. Whether it was Pharaoh, king of Egypt, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go,” or, Herod [Agrippa I], king of Judea, “And the people kept shouting, “The voice of a god and not of a man!” man has long fought to steal the honor due only to Yahweh.

The outcome is never good. Men who arrogantly receive the accolades reserved for God alone always meet with a dreadful fate. Fire, worms and warring angels, among other horrible outcomes await all who

challenge Yahweh’s ultimate authority. And it’s sad to say, but right now we are witnessing the same obstinance by world leaders. Strap in, “Look among the nations and watch—be utterly astounded! For Yahweh will work a work in our days which you would not believe, though it were told you.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

II Kings 1:2-4, 10-15; Acts 5:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 9:51-56; Matthew 26:47-56; John 18:33-38; Hebrews 1:6-14; Acts 12:5-24, 1:7-8; Psalms 104:1-4; Leviticus 10:1-2; I Thessalonians 1:5; Luke 24:49; I Corinthians 2:4; Habakkuk 1:5

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. There are many examples of Yahweh’s demonstration of power. Discuss an example of each of the following:**
 - A. Through Moses (See our Scripture reading for today)
 - B. Through Elijah (See: II Kings 1:10-15; II Kings 1:2-4)
 - C. Through Peter (See: Acts 5:1-11)
- 2. How did God demonstrate His Power through Pharaoh (see Exodus 9:16-17)?**
 - A. Discuss how and why we, as believers, have access to God’s power (see Ephesians 1:15-23)

- B. What could you do with that power RIGHT NOW?
 - C. What lesson do we learn about God's timing from Luke 9:51-56?
- 3. It is clear that Y'shua has the authority to call down angels from heaven to intervene before He was crucified (see Matthew 26:47-56):**
- A. What did He do instead?
 - B. Define Meekness. How is meekness related to God's timing?
 - C. Relate John 18:33-38 to Matthew 26:47-56.
 - D. What access do we have to angels? (see Hebrews 1:6-14)
 - E. How was an angel involved in the judgment of Herod because he received praise as if he was a god? (See Acts 12:21-24 and Psalms 104:1-4)
 - F. How might this relate to Leviticus 10:1-2?
 - G. How do we see angels in action in Acts 12:5-19?
- 4. In John 19:10-11, Pilate claimed to be the one with power...**
- A. What did Y'shua assure him was actually going on?
 - B. From where does real power come? (See: Acts 1:7-8; I Thessalonians 1:5; Luke 24:49; I Corinthians 2:4)
- 5. How might you imagine angels involved in Yahweh's warning in Habakkuk 1:5?**

WEEK 15: DARKNESS YOU CAN FEEL

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 10:1-13:16

- Unimaginable Darkness
- The Seared Conscience
- Light and Darkness
- Counterfeit Lights

SERMON RESOURCE: [Darkness You Can Feel](#)

Each week the Scriptures challenge us with something new. No other book can affect us like that; literally, you can read the same words over again and be impacted in a brand new way. The Word is living and active and sharper than a two edged sword! This week as I read through the final three plagues before the exodus, these words gripped me; “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt.” It was a blackness so black that the people could feel its weight on their skin and they could see absolutely nothing. It was a complete absence of light.

It stirred something as I contemplated the appropriate title for such a teaching. “Unimaginable Darkness”, “Total Blackness”, and “Darkness Within” were all candidates. Finally, I simply settled on these terrifying words: “Darkness You Can Feel”. There was no

light in Egypt. Can you imagine such total darkness that you could literally feel it? That was Egypt's final step before complete devastation. However, there was light over the children of Israel in Goshen and their deliverance was near. Today, I sense that a total darkness is near in all the "Egypt's" in the world. And once again God's people will see the deliverance of the Lord.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Titus 1:15; Ephesians 4:17-19; I Timothy 4:1-2; II Corinthians 4:1-18, 6:14-18, 11:12-15; I John 1:5-7; Ephesians 5:8-14; Acts 26:14-18; Isaiah 5:20-25; Amos 5:18-21; Matthew 10:26-27

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. What does it mean to you to be in such complete darkness that you could literally feel it?**
 - A. Why is it significant that complete darkness is only possible in the absence of light?
- 2. What is the prophetic significance that the plague of darkness was the final plague before Egypt's destruction?**
 - A. How is this darkness related to the ongoing hardness in Pharaoh's heart and his final declaration in Exodus 10:27-29?

- 3. Pharaoh went from never having heard of Yahweh (Exodus 5:2), to asking Him for forgiveness multiple times throughout the plagues (i.e. Exodus 10:16-18). In the end his heart was completely dark...**
 - A. How might this be related to a seared conscience? (Use Titus 1:15; Ephesians 4:17-19; and I Timothy 4:1-2 to assist your answer.)
- 4. Relate the light and darkness of the ninth plague with:**
 - A. II Corinthians 4:6 (God commanded light to shine out of darkness.)
 - B. II Corinthians 4:7-12 (We are hard-pressed on every side.)
- 5. After Israel made its way into the Wilderness, it soon found itself backed up against the sea with no way to escape?**
 - A. What did Yahweh do that gave Israel time to escape through the parted sea?
 - B. What role does light and darkness play in this miracle provision and in II Corinthians 4:6?
 - C. How is this reflected in Paul's words in II Corinthians 4:7-12?
 - D. How does it relate to things seen and things not seen in II Corinthians 4:16-18?
- 6. The Bible is replete with Scriptures comparing and contrasting light and darkness. Study II**

**Corinthians 4:3-6; I John 1:5-7; Ephesians 5:8-14;
Acts 26:14-18; II Corinthians 6:14-18; and Isaiah
5:20-25:**

- A. Relate each Scripture to what challenges your growth as a disciple.
 - B. Relate each Scripture to current events in the world.
 - C. How does each Scripture speak to the role of the church, and how then is Amos 5:18-21 a warning to the church?
- 7. Satan masquerades as an angel of light (II Corinthians 11:12-15)...**
- A. Relate this to Isaiah 5:20-25 and Ephesians 5:8-9
 - B. What are we promised in Matthew 10:26-27 about deception being exposed?

WEEK 16: THE SIN THAT LEADS TO DEATH

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 13:17-17:16

- Back Against the Wall
- Defining Enemies
- The Point of no Return
- Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit
- A Decisive Victory

SERMON RESOURCE: [The Sin that Leads to Death](#)

We are called to love and pray for our enemies—a high calling indeed. But, are we called to do the same for Yahweh’s enemies? I think the answer is certain; we are not to pray FOR them but ABOUT them! But, what about them?

There is no doubt that the line a man crosses to the place of no return is difficult to understand, but let there be NO DOUBT that such a line exists. In the Old Testament the line was demarcated with a public voluntary commitment to worship Yahweh and crossed when returning to worship other gods, yet insisting that it was okay to do so, and having total peace about it. Joshua called it a “witness against yourself.” I don’t believe this included ignorance or accidents or self-

deception. It seems to be a moment of knowing and yet still purposely doing so. In the New Testament it is simply referred to as blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, or grieving the Holy Spirit, or the sin that leads to death for which no amount of prayer can remedy.

God calls these line-crossers wicked; they hate Him and have become His enemies. As such, let us agree that all sorts of curses and destruction are coming upon these enemies of His. And we need not identify those who today hold this dreadful title because they are perfectly capable of identifying themselves. They arrogantly raise their hands and openly declare, “Pick me, pick me, pick me!” They place their hand upon God’s Holy Writ and make promises while they aspire to evil and boldly stand for beliefs and practices which Yahweh calls abominations. They openly declare by their proclamations and actions that “There is no God!” Yes, they arrogantly live lives filled with sin that leads to death.

Yes, we must pray, not for THEM, but instead ABOUT them. It’s a simple prayer. Father, please show the world Your vengeance against those who hate You!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Psalms 60:11-12, 146:3-5, 121:1-3, 10:3-4, 10:12-16, 58:1-11, 109:1-14, 52:1-9; Jeremiah 17:5-8 Exodus 5:2, 8:8-28, 9:27-28, 10:16-28; Deuteronomy 29:16-20; Joshua

24:19-27; Romans 1:18-32; I John 5:14-17; Ephesians 4:30; Matthew 12:22-32; Hebrews 10:26-31; Acts 12:20-24, 5:1-11

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. **Shortly after Israel left Egypt the people found themselves trapped with their backs against the sea and Egyptian chariots racing toward them:**
 - A. How did the people respond?
 - B. What did Yahweh do? (Name as many miracles as you can.)
 - C. What was Moses told to do?
 - D. Use the following to describe how we should act when we feel backed up with no way out (See: Psalms 60:11-12, 146:3-5, 121:1-3; Jeremiah 17:5-8)
2. **Jesus' words are clear, "Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you..." (Matthew 5:43-44)**
 - A. What defines an enemy of yours?
 - B. What defines an enemy of Yahweh (See: Psalms 10:3-4, 10:12-16, 58:1-11, 109:1-14)?
 - C. What are the attributes of the wicked? (See: Psalms 52:1-9)
 - D. Must all your enemies also be God's enemies?

- E. Are you commanded to love, bless, do good, and pray for Yahweh's enemies? Why or why not?
- 3. In our previous devotion we saw the plague of darkness and learned how this, in many ways, equated to a seared conscience. At this point of darkness there is no way back to repentance.**
- A. How might this indicate Pharaoh had become an enemy of God?
 - B. Describe Pharaoh's transition from unaccountable to unforgivable. (Use: Exodus 5:2, 8:8-28, 9:27-28, 10:16-28)
 - C. How might this relate to the unforgivable sin we see written about in the Old Testament? (See: Deuteronomy 29:16-20; Joshua 24:19-27)
 - D. Compare Pharaoh's descent into darkness to Paul's words in Romans 1:18-32.
- 4. Relate what appears to be the unforgivable sin in the Old Testament with blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?**
- A. Use the following scriptures to craft your answer. (See: I John 5:14-17; Ephesians 4:30; Matthew 12:22-32; Hebrews 10:26-31)
 - B. How might the following be examples of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit? (Herod in Acts 12:20-24 and Ananias and Sapphira Acts 5:1-11)
 - C. How might you evaluate today when someone has crossed the point of no return?

5. Mediate and journal about the following:

- A. If there is no sin that God cannot forgive, then what makes a sin unforgivable? (Hint: Consider Pharaoh's descent into unforgivable in the previous question.)

6. Time and again we see how faithless God's people were, no matter how many miracles they witnessed.

- A. What faithless response did they have when they saw Pharaoh's army approaching while they camped at the sea?
- B. What was Moses' faithful response in the moment and how might you utilize this approach in your own life?

7. You would think that Pharaoh had enough with the devastation of the ten plagues culminating with unimaginable death, even in his own household, but God had one more victory over Pharaoh that was needed:

- A. When Yahweh raises His mighty arm against His enemies the victory is certain. Describe this final victory over Pharaoh and how Exodus 14:27-29 makes you sure it was decisive!

WEEK 17: ROCK PAPER SCISSORS

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 18:1-20:26

- The Power of Testimony
- The Separation of Powers
- Improper Governance

SERMON RESOURCE: [Rock Paper Scissors](#)

The U.S. government is made up of three distinct branches modeled after the biblical order of governance that mandated a separation of powers. In the Old Testament we see the King, the Priest, and the Prophet. Today we call these branches, the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial. These three branches are intended to share equal power and are endowed with the authority to keep each other in check. It should be easy to connect the dots here. One branch enforces the laws (the King or Executive), one branch brings forth the laws (the Priest or Legislative), and one branch rules if the laws are being interpreted and obeyed as per their intent (the Prophet or Judicial). Think Rock—Paper—Scissors! What a beautiful balance of powers. And such a beautiful form of governance was created by none other than the Creator of all things.

What happens when any one of these branches attempts to override the other two? The Executive

Branch can overstep its power by abuse of executive orders or by mobilizing its justice department against its political rivals. A King without a Priest and a Prophet is a tyrant! In today's vernacular we might say a President not submitted to a legislature or judiciary is a dictator! When the Legislative Branch oversteps its authority, it's equivalent to "mob rule." A Priest without a King and a Prophet becomes an idol! Today we might say this happens when legislative representatives (lawmakers) appease the lowest common denominator, when all that matters is to satisfy the selfish majority, so they can maintain their own power! And when the Judicial Branch has gone off the rails it begins to "legislate from the bench." Why follow the law when you can simply invent laws as you go, to satisfy your own agenda? In other words, who needs to interpret if the laws that are already in place are being properly applied, when you can easily invent your own laws at any moment? A Prophet without a King and a Priest is an anarchist! Dictators, idols and anarchists are the antithesis of godly governance.

Moses was called to be a Prophet of the Most High, but he finds himself also filling "priestly duties", even though the Levitical Priesthood has not yet been formally initiated. Moses is about to get a lesson from Jethro, his pagan priest father-in-law. "Son, this is how you run an organization without burning out." No doubt

Moses has been hearing from Yahweh, the King, and making judicial decisions, but he is also trying to take on all the ministry to the people. Suddenly a priesthood, the people ministry, makes a whole lot of sense. Shortly after Moses takes Jethro's advice, God confirms that this is the direction He is taking His people. "If you obey Me," He says, "You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." Yahweh is the King, Moses is the Prophet, and now we need a formal ministry of, to, and for the people! Sound familiar?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Romans 15:18-21; Hebrews 2:1-4; Acts 14:1-3; Mark 16:14-20; Ephesians 2:19-22, 4:11-13; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; Deuteronomy 17:14-20; II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:11-13; Jeremiah 23:1-40; Luke 11:47-50; Leviticus 10:1-3

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Describe what seems to happen to Jethro in Exodus 18:1-12, as he returns Moses' family after the exodus:**
 - A. What does Moses tell him?
 - B. How does he react?

- C. Relate this to the power of testimony in the New Testament. (See: Romans 15:18-21; Hebrews 2:1-4; Acts 14:1-3; Mark 16:14-20)
- 2. What is Jethro's advice to Moses in Exodus 18:17-23, about how to better deal with matters of judging the people?**
- A. What does Moses do with his advice?
B. How can this be related to a priesthood?
- 3. Jethro's advice included leadership parameters...**
- A. What were those parameters in Exodus 18:21?
B. What does Paul do when assigning Church leaders in I Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9?
- 4. Name the three branches of government for Israel that we see in the Old Testament Scriptures. In your own words, compare those branches to:**
- A. The government of the United States.
B. Proper Church governance (See: Ephesians 2:19-22; Ephesians 4:11-13)
C. Governance of a Corporation. (Hint: three departments—someone has to be in charge; someone has to deal with the people; someone has to oversee operations and quality control.)
- 5. Good governance is best accomplished with a separation of powers. Describe the function of each branch in the following examples and how their interaction and interdependence enables good governance.**

- A. The Government of Israel in the Old Testament
 - B. The government of the United States.
 - C. Proper Church governance.
 - D. Governance of a corporation.
- 6. Good governance always seems to have a founding document to lean on when making decisions and navigating operations:**
- A. What does God command of kings in Deuteronomy 17:14-20 that shows us how important this document is? And why does He command it?
 - B. What is that document for Israel and the Church? (Hint: II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:11-13)
 - C. What is that document for the United States of America?
 - D. What should be that document for any business or organization?
- 7. When any branch of government oversteps its authority and refuses to submit to the other branches, it creates a dangerous imbalance. Describe how using each of our four governing examples, Israel, United States, Church, and Corporate. (Read Jeremiah 23:1-40 to experience governance gone wrong):**
- A. A king without a priest and a prophet becomes a tyrant!

- B. A priest without a king and a prophet becomes an idol! (Hint: tendency toward prophets Luke 11:47-50)
 - C. A prophet without a king and a priest becomes an anarchist!
 - D. Bonus: what happens to bad priests? (See: Leviticus 10:1-3)
- 8. BONUS! Think of the game often played that we call Rock, Paper, Scissors:**
- A. How is this an example of the separation of powers?
 - B. If you were to compare each element of this game to corresponding branches of government (Israel, United States, Church, Corporate), which element would relate to which branch and why?

WEEK 18: FAKE NEWS

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 21:1-24:18

- False Testimony
- Mob Rule
- Christians Non-Conformists
- Information Oligarchy

SERMON RESOURCE: [Fake News](#)

It's amazing how the Bible remains so relevant every day of our lives. Even though the following ideas were written almost 3500 years ago, just meditate on how relevant they are at this very moment. "Do not spread fake news. Do not help a guilty person by being a lying witness. Do not follow the mob mentality into doing what is wrong. When you give testimony in any legal matter, do not pervert justice by taking sides in favor of the mob mentality."

Yes, we stand at a crossroads in history. Will you bend to the expedient pressures of the day? Will you conform to the ways of the world or, in other words, the mob mentality? Or, will you hold fast to the truth? Many key moments in history were defined by what the leaders of the day had done. Did they do what was right or did they follow the crowd? Today's crowd shows up as a new breed of "democracy." The mob rules in the

way of Mainstream Media; Social Media; Hidden Agenda Groups; Virtue Signaling; Institutional Brow Beating; Faith-Based Complacency; and Cognitive Dissonance.

But, all is not lost for those in Christ. You have in you the call to practice righteousness and the anointing to know the truth. And for those who hate Christ, well, there is a different fate; Yahweh will arraign them and set His accusations against them. That is what is in store for those who pervert justice in favor of the mob!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Acts 6:8-15, 21:17-21; Numbers 22-25; Matthew 26:14-49, 27:3-26; Joshua 13:22; Exodus 32:1-35; I Samuel 15:1-35; Romans 12:1-2; I John 2:15-29

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. How are false reports and mob rule showing up in today's world?

- C. What does Yahweh command about fake news? (See: Exodus 23:1-2; Special Request: explore those verses in as many version as you can!)
- D. How is it that the guilty seem to be getting away with their lies?
- E. How can we be certain that in the end they will not escape God's judgment?

2. Describe how false witnesses played a role and the consequences for those who lied in each of the following (Consider: “And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous.” Exodus 23:8):

- A. The stoning of Stephen in Acts 6:8-15.
- B. The prophecy of Balaam in Numbers 22:15-18.
- C. The betrayal of Y’shua in Matthew 26:14-49. (Hint: Focus on the Ugly Deal in verses 14-16 and the Ugly Deed in verses 14-49.)
- D. How do these violations ultimately come back to bite? (See: Acts 21:17-21; Joshua 13:22; Matthew 27:3-8)

3. Compare mob rule with governance by democracy.

- A. How does history prove that all pure democracies are destined to fail?
- B. How is a pure democracy against scripture? (Hint: a democracy is control of an organization or group by the majority of its members. Also see Exodus 23:2)

4. Describe how mob rule played out in the following biblical narratives:

- A. The Golden Calf (See: Exodus 32:1-35)
- B. The Kingship of Saul (See: I Samuel 15:1-35)
- C. The Crucifixion of Y’shua (See: Matthew 27:15-26)

- 5. How and why are Christians called to be non-conformist (See: Romans 12:1-2 and I John 2:15-17)?**
- A. Explain the following: “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” And “Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing.”
 - B. How does the call to practice righteousness and the anointing that comes with knowing Christ protect you from deception? (Use: I John 2:18-29)
- 6. Describe how each of the following is used by the Information Oligarchy in pursuit of cultural manipulation: (Hint: an oligarchy is a small group of people having control of a country, organization, or institution.) Who are they and what are their tactics?**
- A. **Mainstream Media:** TV, Radio, Networks, Movie Studios, News Papers, Magazines and Tabloids, Opinion writers who pose as journalists, etc.
 - B. **Social Media:** FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Google (and other search engines and social apps); and all other digital communications outlets, etc.
 - C. **Hidden Agenda Groups:** Social terrorist organizations who use something true to gain momentum, while at the same time having zero

interest in achieving that for which it says it stands. Their actual goals are devoid of their namesake or stated mission. Example: Black Lives Matter. Yes, OF COURSE black lives matter, and all lives matter. But the organization is in name only as it promotes absolutely nothing that has anything to do with black lives mattering.

- D. **Virtue Signaling:** A decadent, happily manipulated, zombie-like populace takes on a self-proclaimed newly defined moral high ground, while they look down their noses at all those who hold to any Judeo-Christian family values and any semblance of inalienable rights endowed by their Creator. Those who don't blindly fall in line with the moral flavor of the day are bad and should be publicly exposed and punished.
- E. **Institutional Brow Beating:** Government Branches and Agencies, Mega-corporations, Educational Institutions and their Intellectual Elite, Professional and College Sports, and the Entertainment Industry (Music and Hollywood and the like), all champion the lowest common denominator of morality. They routinely promote any policy or movement, which at its very core is against the God of the Holy Bible and Jesus Christ!

- F. **Faith-Based Complacency:** A church that has become more interested in remaining free of conflict with civil authorities in order to maintain its man-given rights, which then results in routine acceptance of things that are fundamentally opposed to the tenets of the faith itself. In other words, Christians and what they stand for, believe in, and how they live, wind up looking little different than the rest of the world.
- G. **Cognitive Dissonance:** Intellectual and emotional incongruence, disparity, discrepancy, disagreement, tension, inconsistency, and contradiction to reality at such a high level that a person becomes too exhausted to further contemplate it or even spend one more minute trying, thereby ceding to a level of passive acceptance that would otherwise be impossible.

WEEK 19: THE VOLUME OF THE SCROLL

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 25:1-27:19

- Copies and Shadows
- The True Tabernacle
- Whose House We Are
- Among or In?
- What's in Your Heart?

SERMON RESOURCE: [The Volume of the Scroll](#)

Have you ever heard the idiom, “the Devil is in the details?” As usual, the enemy wishes to hijack what is rightfully Yahweh’s. The truth is that it is God who is in the details and there is no better place to witness this than the directions given to Moses to build the Tabernacle, the Ark, and the Altar. And you must trust me; this is not mundane work designed to keep Moses busy; it’s not an exercise in futility. There is a divine reason behind each refined instruction. We discover the reason for the details when we explore the letter to the Hebrews. This Tabernacle made by hands was an exact copy of the heavenly Tabernacle. And we learn that Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come,

and also that the law has a shadow of the good things to come.

I think my greatest joy in rereading the Scriptures over the years is the never-ending discoveries it has in store for us. A little gem sits in the tenth chapter of Hebrews, a reference to Psalm 40. It reads like this: “In the volume of the scroll it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.” Those seventeen words just explode off the page. Yes, it should be so simple, so obvious, yet it remains so profound, so convicting. Instantly, it made sense to me why Y’shua was so frustrated with the religious leaders of the day, who cared more about receiving honor from men than from God. Y’shua rebuked them; “If you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me...” There it is, right there—“Moses wrote about Me.” Where? In the volume of the scroll. “...But, if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

The entire volume of the scroll, the Torah of Moses, was about Y’shua. Moreover, I might ask you the same question. “If you don’t believe the writings of Moses, how can you possibly believe the words of Christ?” In other words, are you in, “the Law has been done away with” club? And if so, can you recognize how much you’ve been missing? And now, if you spend a few moments meditating on that, you might further appreciate why this Discipleship Devotional is organized

around the weekly readings of the Torah of Moses and why John wrote: “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

I John 3:4; Hebrews 8:1-6, 9:1-28, 10:5-10, 3:1-6, 12:25-29; Colossians 2:8-17; John 5:46-47; I Samuel 15:22-23; II Samuel 7; II Chronicles 2:3-6; Exodus 25:8, 29:45-46; Leviticus 26:12-13; II Corinthians 6:16; Haggai 2:5-9; Psalms 40:6-10, 119:11

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Moses was given detailed instructions to build the Tabernacle, the Ark and the Altar. Four times God reminded him to, “Make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” (See: Exodus 25:9, 40; 26:30; 27:8)

A. Why was it essential that he follow the instructions down to the smallest detail? (Use Hebrews 8:1-6 and Hebrews 9 to assist your answer.)

2. Why does the writer of Hebrews say the following:

A. The Holy Place made by hands is a copy of the true?

B. Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come?

- C. The law has a shadow of the good things to come? (Also see: Colossians 2:8-17)
- 3. The book of Hebrews is one of the most important prophetic revelations in the Bible...**
- A. Explain the relationship between Hebrews 10:7 and Y'shua's words in John 5:46-47.
- B. Now, with a better understanding of the importance of the Law of Moses, explain Hebrews 10:8-9
- C. Now explain Hebrews 10:7-10 in relationship to Psalms 40:6-8.
- D. How do these Hebrews and Psalms passages relate to Samuel's rebuke of King Saul in I Samuel 15:22-23 for his direct violation of God's instructions, while claiming he did so to honor the Lord with an offering?
- 4. David had the prophetic discernment to build God's House (Temple) in II Samuel 7:**
- A. Relate that prophetic moment to Hebrews 3:1-6.
- 5. In II Chronicles 2:3-6, Solomon acknowledges that God cannot even be confined to all of Heaven, let alone a building.**
- A. Explain why Solomon's determination is consistent with Moses use of very specific language describing where Yahweh dwells. (See: Exodus 25:8; Exodus 29:45-46; Leviticus 26:12-13)

- B. What is the amazing revelation in Paul's words in II Corinthians 6:16 that shows where God intended to dwell all along?
- 6. Hebrews 12:25-29 refers to Haggai 2:5-9 when it says "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."**
 - A. What do you think that means for us today?
- 7. Now that we recognize that Y'shua is the volume of the scroll referred to in Hebrews 10:5-10 from Psalms 40:6-10...**
 - A. Psalms 40:8 says, "Your law is within my heart." What does it look like to have the law written in your heart? (Use Psalms 40:9-10 to name two have's and four have not's.)
 - B. Compare Psalms 119:11 to Psalms 40:8.

WEEK 20: IMPLANTED SAGACITY

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 27:20-30:10

- Divine Assignments and Impartation
- Where God Guides He Provides
- Spiritual Gifts and Offices
- Challenges and Temptations

SERMON RESOURCE: [Implanted Sagacity](#)

Have you heard this one before? “God helps those who help themselves.” There are so many quippy little phrases that float around in our culture that have no foundation in God’s truth. The Bible says that God’s strength is made perfect in my weakness, so that snappy little saying seems closer to the opposite of the truth. Paul’s perspective on those who could not help themselves was— “When I am weak then I am strong.”

But every once in a while, one of those little idioms is true! This one for instance: “Where God guides God provides.” Yes, it is true that you should consider yourself on assignment for God, and whatever assignment you are on, God has provided everything you need to fulfill your destiny in Him. From your implanted skills and gifts, to your personality bents, to the very circumstances you will find yourself in throughout your lifetime, Yahweh is directing your steps

and making provision along the way. If you go where God guides it won't always be easy, but I promise it will be the greatest adventure imaginable.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Psalms 37:4-5; Ephesians 2:10; Proverbs 16:9, 29:18; Jeremiah 29:11-13; Philippians 4:19; II Timothy 1:6; Romans 1:11; I Timothy 4:14-15; I Chronicles 28:11-12; I Corinthians 10:12-13, 12:1-31, 13:1-13, 14:1-5; Ephesians 4:1-16; Acts 6:1-4; James 1:12-18, 4:1-3; II Corinthians 12:9-10; Romans 11:29; Colossians 3:23-24; Matthew 25:14-30

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Read Psalms 37:4-5 and mediate on what it means to delight in Yahweh and that He will “give” you the desires of your heart:

- A. What does it mean to “delight in,” and “commit your way to,” and “trust in” God?
- B. What are two ways Yahweh “gives”? (Use Ephesians 2:10; Proverbs 16:9; Jeremiah 29:11-13; Philippians 4:19 to help your answer.)
- C. Sometimes God gives you challenges; what should your weakness in distress cause? (See: II Corinthians 12:9-10)

- D. Why is having no vision for what Yahweh wants of you so risky? (See: Proverbs 29:18)
- 2. What does Paul mean by, “stir up the gift of God which is in you”? (See: II Timothy 1:6; Romans 1:11; I Timothy 4:14-15)**
- A. What does it mean to have spiritual gifts imparted to you?
- B. What does it mean that you should not neglect your gifts?
- 3. Where God Guides He also provides:**
- A. How did this show up for Moses when he was instructed to make holy garments for his brother Aaron, the High Priest? (See: Exodus 28:1-3)
- B. How did this show up for David in regard to the building of the Temple? (See: I Chronicles 28:11-12)
- 4. Discuss the different gifts and offices we find in scripture (See: I Corinthians 12:1-31, 13:1-13, 14:1-5; Ephesians 4:1-16):**
- A. Why is it a bad idea to compare yourself to others? (Also see: Acts 6:1-4)
- B. Why is love paramount above all gifts?
- 5. What are some of the greatest challenges and temptations as you pursue God’s gifts and calling in your life? (See: James 1:12-15, 4:1-3)**

- A. Can you be tempted beyond your abilities? Why or why not? (See: I Corinthians 10:12-13; II Corinthians 12:9-10)
 - B. Are your gifts and calling ever truly optional? Why or why not? (See: James 1:17-18; Romans 11:29; Colossians 3:23-24)
- 6. Consider the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30 from a pastoral position and then discuss the following ideas:**
- A. “The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” (Romans 11:29)
 - B. “It is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” (I Corinthians 4:1-2)
 - C. “Everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.” (Luke 12:48)
 - D. “Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord.” (Colossians 3:23-24)
 - E. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” (James 1:17)

WEEK 21: FACE COVERINGS

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 30:11-34:35

- Proper Perspectives
- From Veiled to Unveiled Faces
- From Glory To Glory
- From Dull to Understanding Hearts

SERMON RESOURCE: [Face Coverings](#)

Have you ever found it difficult to track with the Apostle Paul? You're not alone. Even Peter recognized that many people had a hard time understanding his writings, often twisting his words so badly that it caused trouble. Are you doing the same? And, no other topic has birthed such confusion than Paul's words about the Law. Let's highlight some of his doozies:

- The doers of the law will be justified...
- By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified...
- You have become dead to the law through the body of Christ...
- We have been delivered from the law...
- Do we make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law...
- The commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death...

- The ministry of death, written and engraved on stones...
- The ministry of condemnation had glory...
- The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good...
- The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life...
- We know that the law is spiritual...
- What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions...
- What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not!
- I agree with the law that it is good...

All the confusion exists because we are reading his words through a filter, a face covering. Paul referred to this as a “veiled face.” The face covering is supposed to be removed in Christ. When this was written, the whole world was still walking around with their faces covered with useless “protective masks,” a physical manifestation of their minds being blinded with deception, a spiritual blindness for sure. Are you still reading Paul’s words with your face covered?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

II Peter 3:14-16; Romans 2:14, 3:20-31, 7:1-16; II Corinthians 3:4-18; Galatians 3:19-21; Philippians 3:1-11; Matthew 13:1-23; Isaiah 6:5-10; Jeremiah 4:1-4

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Peter was a simple fisherman; Paul, a highly educated Torah scholar. Peter acknowledged that Paul wrote in complex ways that people often twisted:

A. Why did Peter say it would lead to their own destruction in II Peter 3:14-16?

2. Make sense of these seeming contradictions:

A. Romans 2:14 vs. Romans 3:20

B. Romans 7:4 vs. Romans 3:31

C. II Corinthians 3:7 vs. Romans 7:12

D. II Corinthians 3:6 vs. Romans 7:14

E. Galatians 3:19 vs. Romans 7:7 & 7:16

F. How does Romans 7:1 help us understand why there “seems” to be contradictions?

G. How does Galatians 3:21 assure us there are no contradictions?

3. Paul also said, “I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.”

A. How does Philippians 3:1-11 help explain his many seeming contradictions as referenced in Question #2?

B. How does this shed greater light on his words in II Corinthians 3:9-11?

- C. How did Philippians 3:1-11 help him finally distinguish the difference between his own righteousness and God's righteousness?
- 4. Moses had such glory on his face after spending time with Yahweh that he was forced to cover his face with a veil when speaking to the people. (Read II Corinthians 3:4-18)**
 - A. Why does Paul elude to these people as having their minds blinded?
 - B. What does it mean that "until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament?"
 - C. What does it mean that "The veil is taken away in Christ?"
 - D. What does it mean that "the Gospel is veiled to those who are perishing?"
- 5. In Y'shua's famous parable about the sower and the four soils in Matthew 13:1-23, it is obvious that the soil represents the condition of the heart.**
 - A. Describe the four soils.
 - B. Relate Y'shua's explanation about the heart to the words of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:5-10).
 - C. Relate Y'shua's specific reference to the third soil to the words of the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 4:1-4).

WEEK 22: ETHICAL CHRISTIANITY

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 35:1-40:38

- Commands for the Sabbath
- Gifts and Contributions
- Willing Participants
- The Work of the Kingdom and You!

SERMON RESOURCE: [Ethical Christianity](#)

Brennan Manning, a Franciscan Priest and author of the Ragamuffin Gospel wrote—“The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.”

I too can echo those words. We should agree, whether it's the common everyday believer who sadly lives their lives as described by Manning, or the recognizable faces of all those who were once held in high esteem for their achievements in the faith, and have now fallen in disgrace, and gone the way of fame to infamy, it is an utter atrocity. The reputation of Christianity is poisoned by professing believers who live this way!

Of course, every Christian is responsible for their own sin. But, as a whole, why has modern Christianity

failed to effectively push back against the tirade of temptation it faces from societal pressures? Could it be that Christendom, as a body, has forgotten its ethical foundations?

Consider what God spoke through Jeremiah the prophet; “The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly corrupt: who can know it?” This should no longer be true for the Christian heart, having become circumcised unto the Lord. And it should be abundantly evident that if you separate from the lifestyle moorings that God provided in the Scriptures for your instruction, it will always yield the same outcome. In other words, once you claim the spiritual transformation Christianity promises, the outward reflection of that transformation should show up in your everyday life. And when it does not, the spectating world will highlight and point fingers at all those who crash and burn, and as a result, will indict Christianity for the hypocrisy they witness. All this would be averted if we returned to “Ethical Christianity.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 1:1-2:3; Psalms 80:34; Hebrews 13:8; II Thessalonians 3:6-15; Proverbs 26:14; Colossians 3:23-24; II Corinthians 9:6-15, 12:12-22; Jeremiah 4:1-4, 17:5-10

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**1. It is clear that the Scriptures teach that the seventh day of the week is the Sabbath (See Exodus 35:1-2 and review Genesis 1:1-2:3):**

- A. Why is the predominant teaching in the church today different than what the Scriptures teach about the Sabbath?
- B. Discuss the various common teachings you've heard about the Sabbath and why you think they are correct or incorrect?
- C. Does Yahweh alter His laws? (See: Psalms 80:34; Hebrews 13:8)
- D. Bonus Research: Who takes credit for "changing the Sabbath?"

2. The Sabbath certainly gives us a day to rest, but what are the other six days meant for? (See: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; Proverbs 26:14; Colossians 3:23-24)

- A. What does the Bible teach about idleness and being a sluggard?
- B. How are we, as believers, supposed to work?

3. The work of the Kingdom requires resources (See: Exodus 35:5-21; Exodus 36:5-7):

- A. God asked Moses to take a contribution from the people to collect all the resources needed to

build everything to do with the Tabernacle: How did the people respond?

B. How does this relate to what Paul teaches the Church regarding willing participation in giving? (See II Corinthians 9:6-15)

C. What does it mean to have a generous heart?

4. Is your gift and calling from God on a shelf, like a trophy, or are you using it? (See II Corinthians 12:12-22)

A. Would you be receptive and obedient to God if He were to call you to a specific task as Paul describes in II Corinthians?

B. Would you take immediate action knowing He is the one who called you or hesitate by saying, "let me pray about that."?

C. Relate Paul's words to Exodus 35:31-35.

5. There is no doubt we live in a self-indulgent "me and mine" culture:

A. What is motivating and dictating your actions: things of the flesh or things of the Spirit? Explain!

B. How might your choices relate to Jeremiah 4:1-4 and 17:5-10?

C. If you are not living the way you should, what excuses are you making?

D. What can you do to change right now?

SECTION THREE: LEVITICUS

WEEK 23: WITHOUT BLEMISH OR APOSTATE RELIGION

SCRIPTURE READING: Leviticus 1:1-6:7

- Preserved Blameless
- Apostate Religion
- Spirit, Soul and Body
- Spots in Your Love Feasts
- Grave Determinations
- Blatant Sin

SERMON RESOURCE: [Without Blemish or Apostate Religion](#)

Time and again we read in the Old Testament how Yahweh insists that the offerings brought before Him be spotless, “without blemish.” In the New Testament the sacrifice is to be holy, acceptable, and the perfect will of God. Yes, Paul calls us to give our lives as spotless living sacrifices in the same way those animals were offered without blemish.

As a point of fact, all throughout the New Testament we are called to live blameless lives, without spot or wrinkle. Ah yes, the ever-repeating patterns in the Scriptures. God’s insistence on the perfect sacrifice was always pointing ahead to His spotless bride.

And yes, another pattern shows us what it looks like when rebellion is afoot. Instead of a lamb without blemish, let's go ahead and offer blind and lame animals, or worse yet, stolen animals. Can you imagine how far from God you must be to think you can offer Him a sacrifice that you heisted? It's preposterous! In the New Testament, these apostates are called "spots in our love feasts." Today they don't look like Christians dragging lame or stolen animals before the Lord; instead, it's a whole movement of people who call themselves Christians, while they remain fully entrenched in the world.

The prophet Amos called them out like this: "Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! ...Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies." Which side best represents you; the spotless bride or the stolen blind animal?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:12-16; I Corinthians 1:4-9; Colossians 1:21-23; Ephesians 5:25-32; I Thessalonians 5:23-24; Jude 1:11-13; Genesis 4:1-15; Numbers 22:2-6; Joshua 13:22; Numbers 16:3-35; Malachi 1:6-14, 2:1-3, 17, 3:13-15; Jeremiah 23:16-17; Isaiah 5:20-21; Deuteronomy 29:14-20; Leviticus 19:17-18; Amos 5:18-21

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Compare the requirement to bring only sacrifices without blemish before Yahweh to what God requires of the Church:

- A. Eleven times in our Torah Portion this week, Yahweh tells Moses that all sacrifices must be without blemish! Review Leviticus 1:3, 10, 3:1, 6, 4:3, 22-23, 27-28, 32, 5:15, 17-19, 6:6 to solidify your understanding.
- B. What does Yahweh consider a holy, acceptable and reasonable sacrifice for the Christian? (See Romans 12:1-2)
- C. Pray and journal about why Paul is calling Christians to be “living sacrifices.”
- D. Why are we called to be a spotless bride? (See: Philippians 2:12-16; I Corinthians 1:4-9; Colossians 1:21-23)
- E. Read Ephesians 5:25-32. How is a husband commanded to present his wife and why?

2. We are called to be sanctified in spirit, soul and body (See I Thessalonians 5:23-24):

- A. Why could we rightfully consider this the “Wholistic Gospel?”
- B. What does the idea of the Wholistic Gospel entail?

- C. Name as many facets of your life that should be included in the Wholistic Gospel? (Hint: Think of areas of your life that fit under each main category of Spirit, Soul and Body.)
- 3. There is no wrong answers for 2C, but understanding all the different areas of your life that must be sanctified is a key to your advancement as a disciple...**
- A. In which areas are you strong?
- B. In which areas are you weak?
- C. What will you do to improve the weak areas? When will you begin? Who will you ask to hold you accountable? How will you know you have improved?
- 4. What does Jude mean in Jude 1:11-13 when he says “these are spots in your love feasts”?**
- A. Why does he liken this to “the way of Cain (Genesis 4:1-15), the error of Balaam (Numbers 22:2-6; Joshua 13:22), and the rebellion of Korah (Numbers 16:3-35)?
- 5. The prophecy of Malachi exposes a people and a priesthood who had polluted their sacrifices to Yahweh:**
- A. Why were their sacrifices unacceptable? (See Malachi 1:6-14, 2:1-3)
- B. How are you offering “less than perfect” sacrifices to God?

6. Discuss the grave determinations they had made about Yahweh according to Malachi:

- A. “The table of the LORD is defiled; and its fruit, its food, is contemptible.” (See Malachi 1:7, 12)
- B. “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD.” (See; Malachi 2:17; Jeremiah 23:16-17; Isaiah 5:20-21; Deuteronomy 29:14-20)
- C. “It is useless to serve God; what profit is it that we have kept His ordinance?” (See Malachi 3:13-15)

7. Considering all of the blatant sin and ridiculous determinations brought to light in Malachi, what is Yahweh asking someone to step up and do?

- A. Hint: “Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, so that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain?” (See Malachi 1:10)
- B. How does this relate to the famous words of Leviticus 19:17-18?
- C. How might Amos 5:18-21 be a warning to modern-day Christians?

WEEK 24: CONVERTS & DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READING: Leviticus 6:8-8:36

- Many Called Few Chosen
- Patience, Perseverance and Hope
- Burned Completely
- Worthy of Your Wages
- Here, Do, Go!
- Convert or Disciple

SERMON RESOURCE: [Converts and Disciples](#)

There is no doubt God has called many people to represent Him. However, the Scriptures also reveal that only some of them will answer to the higher call of the “chosen”. It seems that the free “ticket to eternity” comes with some fine print. The good news about the Good News is that if you don’t meet the requirements laid out in the fine print, your ticket does not get voided. Praise Yahweh for that!

That is good news; however, you also don’t get to participate in the assignments of the chosen! Yes, those are quite exciting. When the first priests (Aaron and his sons) were consecrated, there were anointing rituals performed that pointed to corresponding assignments that we, the many of the Royal Priesthood, would one day be commissioned to do. It is in these assignments

we find our opportunity to step up from “called” to “chosen.”

I think I can characterize those assignments with three little words; hear, do, and go! Paul said it like this; “How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? If you take on these assignments, you will transform from the many who are called to the few who are chosen. By the way, that is also how you go from a convert to a disciple!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Matthew 20:1-16, 10:8-10, 28:18-20; Romans 2:6-8, 5:1-5, 6:1-7, 10:13-17, 12:1-2; Galatians 6:6-10; II Peter 1:5-9; Ephesians 4:20-28; Philippians 3:7-16; I Thessalonians 5:16-19; Hebrews 12:1-2; II Corinthians 10:3-6; James 1:12-22, 4:7-8; I Peter 5:6-11; I Corinthians 9:9-15; I Timothy 5:17-18; II Thessalonians 3:7-10

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Consider the parable of the workers in the vineyard in Matthew 20:1-16:

- A. What did the land owner do that was so odd?
- B. What did the workers accuse him of?
- C. What was his explanation?

2. Aaron and his sons were instructed in Leviticus 6:8-9 to keep the fire of the altar burning continually.

- A. What is the important imagery for Christians Leviticus 6:8-9? (Hint: Romans 2:6-8; Galatians 6:6-10; II Peter 1:5-7; Romans 5:1-5)
- B. Relate this idea to patience, perseverance and hope.

3. Priestly rituals that require a change of clothes as in Leviticus 6:10-11. (See: Ephesians 4:20-24; Philippians 3:7-16; Romans 6:1-7; II Peter 1:9)

- A. How does this relate to your transformation into a new creature in Christ?
- B. How does this relate to dying to sin?

4. Some offerings were required to be burned completely (See Leviticus 6:12-13, 22-23):

- A. How might this relate to your life in Christ? (See: I Thessalonians 5:16-19; Hebrews 12:1-2; II Corinthians 10:3-6; James 1:12)
- B. Describe how these images can be used to differentiate a convert from a disciple.
- C. Contemplate and discuss how this might relate to a living sacrifice (See Romans 12:1-2).
- D. Contemplate and discuss how this might relate to resisting the devil. (See: Ephesians 4:25-28; I Peter 5:6-11; James 4:7-8)

5. The priests were to be given a certain portion of the sacrifices for their personal use (See Leviticus 7:32-36):

- A. How does this relate to a worker being worthy of his wages? (See: I Corinthians 9:9-15; I Timothy 5:17-18; Matthew 10:8-10; II Thessalonians 3:7-10)
- B. How might it relate to a life in ministry today?

6. Consider the parable of the wedding feast in Matthew 22:1-14:

- A. How does this relate to the great commission in Matthew 28:18-20 and Romans 10:13-17?

7. The priests were anointed in Leviticus 8:22-24 with blood on their right ears, right thumbs, and right big toes:

- A. How does this relate to Romans 10:13-17?
- B. Relate the priestly anointing to the Christian life. (Hint: Ears: James 1:19-20; Thumbs: James 1:22; Toes: Matthew 28:19-20; Blood: Romans 6:5)?

8. Read I Corinthians 2:1-16...

- A. How is I Corinthians 2:1-5 speaking about converts? What is the only message to converts? What is Paul's concern?
- B. How is I Corinthians 2:6-16 speaking about disciples? What are some of the details reserved for disciples only?

WEEK 25: THE FACE OF Y'SHUA

SCRIPTURE READING: Leviticus 9:1-11:47

- The Glory of Yahweh
- Yahweh's All-Consuming Fire
- Abominable Things
- Holiness
- Doctrine of Demons

SERMON RESOURCE: [The Face of Y'shua](#)

Glory? The high renown or honor won by notable achievements. A small sample of many possible synonyms would be fame, prestige, distinction, preeminence, and acclaim. Even magnificence or great beauty, praise, worship, and thanksgiving are excellent descriptors. Yet, when pondering the glory of Yahweh, not even all of these words aggregated come close.

Nevertheless, here is the promise when you choose to obey Him; “The glory of Yahweh will appear to you.” What is not worth trading for that? In other words, obey God by any and all means, and the payoff will be immeasurably above your cost.

But there's more. The guarantee extends beyond His glory being revealed “to you” and deepens to His glory being revealed “in you.” Let's take pause and consider the magnitude of this promise. God's glory will

be revealed in you! What's that worth to you? I hope your answer is this: "I have spent enough of my past lifetime doing the will of the pagans. I will no longer run with them in the same flood of dissipation, nor live the rest of my life in the flesh for the lusts of men. From now on I live for the will of God."

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

I John 3:4, 4:7-8, 16, 5:2-3; I Corinthians 2:7, 16, 13:13, 16:13-14; Romans 7:1, 8:18, 12:9-10; Philippians 2:3-4, 3:10-11; Hosea 6:6; I Samuel 15:22-23; II Peter 1:2-3; Ephesians 1:15-19; Matthew 4:4, 7, 10, 13:10-11, 17:1-2, 22:29; II Timothy 3:14-17; II Samuel 7:3, 21; John 1:14, 10:27, 14:15; Hebrews 3:18-19; James 2:18-20, 24, 26; Luke 10:21-24, 24:25-27, 44-45; Acts 9:8, 10:9-28; II Corinthians 3:18, 4:6, 10:4-6; Isaiah 60:1-3; I Peter 4:1-7; Galatians 2:20; Amos 5:18-24, 6:3-7, 9:9-15; Jeremiah 23:1-2; Malachi 1:10, 2:7-8; I Timothy 4:1-5

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Refer to Leviticus 9:6. Contemplate and journal about what leads to the Glory of Yahweh appearing using the following...**
 - A. Identify four "things of Yahweh." (See: {#1} I John 4:7-8, 16; I Corinthians 13:13, 16:13-14; {#2} Romans 12:9-10; Philippians 2:3-4; {#3} Hosea 6:6; I

Samuel 15:22-23; {#4} Philippians 3:10-11; II Peter 1:2-3; Ephesians 1:15-19)

- B. What does it mean to know the commands of Yahweh? (See: Romans 7:1; Matthew 4:4, 7, 10)
 - C. What does it mean to know the Scriptures? (See: II Timothy 3:14-17; Matthew 22:29)
 - D. What does it mean to hear Yahweh's voice and know His heart? (See: John 10:27; Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; Matthew 13:10-11; II Samuel 7:3, 21)
 - E. What does obedience have to do with love? (See: John 14:15; I John 5:2-3)
 - F. How are faith and obedience connected? (See: Hebrews 3:18-19; James 2:18-20, 24, 26)
 - G. How does the Glory of God appear in the face of Y'shua and subsequently in you? (See: Luke 10:21-24, 24:25-27, 24:44-45; Acts 9:8, 15-18; Matthew 17:1-2; II Corinthians 4:6; John 1:14; Isaiah 60:1-3; I Corinthians 2:7; Romans 8:18; II Corinthians 3:18)
 - H. What does it mean to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ? (See: II Corinthians 10:4-6; I Corinthians 2:16)
 - I. What does it mean to no longer live for you old life? (See: I Peter 4:1-4; Galatians 2:20)
- 2. Discuss the idea of profane fire? (See: Leviticus 10:1-11; Leviticus 11:44-45)**
- A. How does this relate to a lack of holiness?

3. God’s people, including Christians, are called to distinguish clean from unclean (See Leviticus 11:41-47):

- A. Are leaders of the Church teaching this?
- B. Can most leaders distinguish between what may be eaten and what may not be eaten according to the Scriptures?
- C. Does the idea of clean and unclean foods apply today? Why or why not? (Hint: Keep in mind Leviticus 10:9-11; John 14:15; 1 John 3:4)

4. Christians are called to distinguish between holy, common, good and evil. Being called to holiness and acting in a way that is not holy is devastating for Church leaders. Yahweh is gracious, but there was no wiggle room for priests (pastors) of Yahweh to go do their own thing, unauthorized things! (See: Amos 9:8-10; Jeremiah 23:1-2; Malachi 1:10; Malachi 2:7-8; Amos 5:18-24; Amos 6:3-7; Amos 9:9-15; I Peter 4:17)

- A. Is the modern-day “Church” possibly guilty of no longer being capable of distinguishing between the clean and the unclean?
- B. Do modern-day Church leaders understand the command to be holy?
- C. Define holy, common, good, and evil? Do you recognize the vital distinction between holy and good? Please explain!

5. Did Paul teach that food laws of Leviticus 11 had changed?

- A. Could Paul possibly be saying it is a doctrine of demons to restrict foods according to God's laws of clean and unclean animals in Leviticus 11, or was he referring to something else? Please explain! (See: I Timothy 4:1-5; Hint: speaking lies in hypocrisy...commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving.)
- B. Has Yahweh ever created unclean foods to be received to eat with thanksgiving?
- C. Could Paul have ever referred to the Laws in Leviticus, to which he strictly adhered, as "doctrines of demons"? Please explain!
- D. Bonus: Was Peter's dream about food or men? (See Acts 10:9-16, 28)

WEEK 26: GO TO THE PRIEST—HE IS WILLING

SCRIPTURE READING: Leviticus 12:1-15:33

- Get Thee to a Priest
- Get Thee to THE Priest
- White Washed Tombs
- Blood and Purification
- Submit or Resist

SERMON RESOURCE: [Go to the Priest—He is Willing](#)

It is not uncommon for man to walk around with secret sins, hidden deep within his heart. In stark contrast, leprosy was a horrific wasting disease which essentially rotted the body from the outside. There can hardly be a better depiction of sinful decaying flesh. And there is simply no way to hide it.

In the days shortly after the Levitical Priesthood was consecrated, we see provisions made to evaluate and manage this horrible affliction. At the first sign of a lesion, the person shall be brought before the priest. Through a series of assessments and isolation periods outside the camp, and various sacrifices, the priest would declare the afflicted person clean or unclean.

So, is it any wonder why, when Y’shua first encounters a leper begging for mercy, desperate to be made clean, He simply and profoundly declares him clean? He partakes in no elaborate evaluation process, requires no quarantine or reassessment. Why? Because He is the Royal High Priest and the ultimate sacrifice for all lepers, even those of us you are instead decaying on the inside.

After He cleanses the leper, with unmistakable intention He says, “Go and show yourself to the priest.” And let’s not miss His assertion. He is not directing the “once leper” to go for an evaluation, but instead as a witness. “Offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them,” He instructs. And tell no one along the way, this particular testimony is for the “whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Luke 2:22-35, 5:12-14, 8:40-56, 17:11-19; Matthew 5:17-20, 23:1-3, 27-28, Isaiah 1:16-20; Psalms 51:5-7, 139:23-24; John 1:29, 8:10-11; I John 3:9; II Peter 1:9; Hebrews 4:12-13, 7:11-19; Acts 4:13-20; I Corinthians 6:12-20; II Corinthians 6:14-18; Romans 6:12-14

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. There were detailed instructions in Leviticus 13:1-17 for the Levitical Priest to deal with those suspected of leprosy:

- A. What were the duties of the priest?
- B. What were the obligations of the suspected leper?
- C. What were the two potential outcomes?

2. Y'shua encountered lepers throughout His ministry (See: Luke 5:12-14, 17:11-19):

- A. Why did Y'shua tell the healed Lepers to go show themselves to the priests?
- B. Why did He tell the first leper He healed in Luke 5:12-14 to "tell no one else but the priest" what had happened?
- C. What else was the healed leper to do when he visited the priest and why?
- D. How is this consistent with Y'shua's words in Matthew 5:17-20?

3. How does Y'shua healing lepers relate to the following:

- A. Isaiah 1:16-20 *"Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow."*
- B. Psalms 51:5-7 *"Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."*
- C. John 1:29 *"The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*
- D. John 8:10-11 *"Go and sin no more."*

- E. I John 3:9 *“Whoever has been born of God does not sin.”*
 - F. II Peter 1:9 *“Forgetting you were cleansed from your old sins.”*
 - G. Hebrews 7:11-19 *“The two priesthoods”*
- 4. Relate the affliction of leprosy to Y’shua’s rebuke of the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23:27-28:**
- A. Discuss outward and inner sin.
 - B. Discuss the thoughts and intents of the heart.
(See: Psalms 139:23-24; Hebrews 4:12-13)
- 5. Relate the birth of Y’shua with the days of purification of His mother in Luke 2:22-35 to what is commended in Leviticus 12:1-8.**
- 6. Consider the narrative about the woman with the issue of blood in Luke 8:40-56:**
- A. How might her 12 year issue relate to the ritual purification commanded of women after childbirth in Leviticus 12:4 and Leviticus 15:19, 31?
 - B. How might it relate to the 12 year old girl resurrected by Y’shua?
- 7. Consider the narrative about Peter and John being commanded to no longer talk about Y’shua in Acts 4:13-20:**
- A. What was their response and how does this relate to the idea that Christians must submit to their governing authorities?

- B. How do you know when to submit and when to resist?

8. How do the laws of ritual cleansing in Leviticus 15 relate to:

- A. Christians as the temple of the Holy Spirit and the call to cleanse ourselves from all uncleanness? (See I Corinthians 6:12-20)
- B. Not being unequally yoked with unbelievers nor having fellowship with darkness? (See II Corinthians 6:14-18)
- C. Being set free from sin? (See Romans 6:12-14)
- D. Your Outside vs. Your Inside (See Matthew 23:27-28)
- E. Compare Matthew 23:1-3 with Matthew 23:27-28

WEEK 27: BLOOD, LAW & LOVE

SCRIPTURE READING: Leviticus 16:1-20:27

- The Blood of Y'shua
- Knowing the Law
- Rules for Gentiles
- Righteousness of Law and Faith
- Loving Your Neighbor
- Loving God

SERMON RESOURCE: [Blood, Law & Love](#)

Get yourself in a quiet place in which you can think without any distractions. I want to ask you three critical questions that you should enjoy contemplating. Are you there?

Here's the first one: Why does the blood of Jesus "save" you? Now, don't give a snap answer; really think about it. Ready for the next one?

Here's number two: What is the relationship between the righteousness of faith and the righteousness of the law? Again, take your time! It's pretty complicated. Are you ready for the last question?

Here's your final question: When God first commands us to love our neighbor, what specifically does He say we should do to demonstrate that love? Take as much time as you need.

These three questions can be challenging for many Christians. And they are not intended to put you on the spot, but rather to demonstrate the critical importance of knowing God's Word, and more specifically, the Hebrew Roots of your faith.

If you enjoyed the challenge of answering any of these questions, you will thoroughly enjoy this week's devotional: Blood, Law, & Love

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Hebrews 9:22; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:19-20; I John 1:7; Luke 22:20; Revelation 1:5-6; Romans 2:13, 3:20-31, 7:1-3, 10:1-9; Acts 15:19-21; Matthew 4:5-7, 5:12-20; Leviticus 18:1-5; Deuteronomy 30:11-14; John 4:20-21, 14:15-21; Malachi 1:6-10; Mark 12:28-34; James 2:14-24

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Why can the blood of Y'shua redeem you? (See: Leviticus 17:11-14; Hebrews 9:13-22)

- A. Considering your answer, why then is the Law of Moses important to your salvation? (Use these to help: Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:19-20; I John 1:7; Luke 22:20; Revelation 1:5-6)

2. Clear your mind and read Romans 7:1-3:

- A. Why is Paul specifically addressing those who know the law of Moses?

- B. What must happen, according to the law, in order to be released from marriage?
 - C. Spiritually speaking, prior to becoming the betrothed bride of Christ, who were you married to?
 - D. According to the law, what must happen to release you from your “first” marriage, so you can become the bride of Christ?
 - E. Why, then is this law instrumental in your salvation?
 - F. Can you now see why Paul is addressing those who know the law? Please explain!
- 3. Relate Leviticus 17-18, concerning Blood, Idolatry and Sexual Immorality, to the ruling in Acts 15:19-21 for Gentiles turning to faith in Y’shua.**
- A. To what four categories of law must the Gentiles adhere? (Do you recognize that they come from the law?)
 - B. What does Acts 15:21 say about Gentile education?
- 4. What would have happened had Y’shua tossed Himself off the Temple when tempted by the Devil in the wilderness? (See Matthew 4:5-7)**
- A. What laws would He have broken had He done so? (Think spiritually and physically.)
- 5. Consider the following after reading Leviticus 18:1-5 and Deuteronomy 30:11-14:**

- A. What were Yahweh's people warned about before entering the promised land?
- B. What were they commanded to do?
- C. What were they promised if they did obey?
- D. Would you consider the promises a good thing?
- E. What is Yahweh teaching His children about their ultimate ability to keep His commandments?
- F. What does it mean to you that, "the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it?"

6. Consider Romans 10:1-9 in detail:

- A. What was the key glitch in the Israelites' knowledge about righteousness?
- B. When Paul refers to Leviticus 18:5 in Romans 10:5, what is he saying will give them life? (Obeying Yahweh's commandments with Christ's righteousness or disregarding Yahweh's commandments because they are no longer relevant because of Christ?)

7. After his Leviticus 18 reference, Paul continues referring to Moses in Romans 10:6-8, this time from Deuteronomy 30:11-14, alluding to Moses' words as the "righteousness of faith."

- A. Explain then how Paul is comparing the righteousness of the law and the righteousness of faith in Romans 10:6-8 using Leviticus 18:1-5 and Deuteronomy 30:11-14.

- 8. Deuteronomy 30:14 ends with the words, “that you may do it.”**
- A. What does the end of Romans 10:8 substitute for those words?
 - B. What does this reveal about what Paul’s was teaching Christians about the law?
 - C. How is the correct understanding law and faith instrumental in Romans 10:9?
 - D. How is this relevant to your born-again confession of faith?
- 9. What is the distinction between “doer of the law” and “works of law”? (See: Romans 2:13, 3:20-31)**
- A. Explain: Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.
- 10. How does the scripture equate hiding your face from your brother’s sin to hating him? (See Leviticus 19:17-18; John 4:20-21)**
- A. What is your consequence if you do so? (See Leviticus 20:1-5)
 - B. What measures should you take to keep your brother from sinning? (See Malachi 1:6-10)
 - C. Relate Leviticus 19:17-18 to Mark 12:28-34.
- 11. Relate love for God to obedience. (See: Matthew 5:12-20; John 14:15-21)**
- A. Discuss faith and works as taught by James. (See James 2:14-24)

WEEK 28: ARE YOU STILL WALKING WITH A LIMP?

SCRIPTURE READING: Leviticus 21:1-24:23

- Invited to the King's Table!
- No Need to Limp
- Everything You Need
- Perfect Soundness

SERMON RESOURCE: [Are You Still Walking with a Limp?](#)

It's not the limp of Jacob I'm referring to here—not the limp of a man who has just wrestled with God and prevailed, a man fighting for a new name, a new identity, a new calling, even a new destiny. No, that would be a welcomed limp, as it bears the scars of a testimony of overcoming with God. He fought to the very end; “I will not let You go until you bless me!” I pray we would all live with the tenacity of Jacob, the fortitude necessary to emerge as an overcomer, the very meaning of Israel, even if we are left with a noticeable limp!

Is this not the exact opposite circumstance I am referring to here, scars that remind us that we have indeed already been blessed, but cannot see the blessing, will not see the blessings, two inches in front of us? You have been given all things needed to live a

godly life, blessed with every spiritual blessing, imbued with resurrection power, and yet you still walk around like you have a defect, as if you were lame in the feet, a spiritual cripple. In other words, you are walking around with a limp when—indeed, you should be sprinting freely into your destiny, a useful tool for bringing the Kingdom and doing greater works!

It's time for a spiritual hip replacement. Yes, it's a major surgery and you will need lots of recovery time and rehab. But fear not, the surgeon is a world-renowned expert and His scalpel—well, it's sharper than a two-edged sword!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

II Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13, 16:1-4, 19:24-30, 21:1-9; Psalms 23:1-6; Luke 5:17-26, 18:35-43; Matthew 6:33, 7:7-12, 11:1-6; John 5:1-15, 14:12; Mark 2:10-17, 3:1-12, 9:23-24; Acts 3:1-16; James 1:2-4, 4:1-6; II Peter 1:2-4; Philippians 4:13, 19; Ephesians 1:15-21, 2:1-10; Hebrews 4:12-13; II Corinthians 5:17-21

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Aaron was instructed by Moses in Leviticus 21:16-23 to not allow any priest with a defect to make an offering before Yahweh:**

A. How is this remedied in Christ?

- B. Compare the favor that Jonathan's lame son Mephibosheth found in the eyes of King David with the favor we've found in the presence of our King when we came before Him with our defects. (See: II Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13, 16:1-4, 19:24-30, 21:1-9)
 - C. What does it mean to eat at the King's table? (See Psalms 23:1-6)
 - D. How might King David's treatment of Mephibosheth be prophetic of Y'shua as the "Son of David"? (See Luke 18:35-43)
- 2. What are the six signs Y'shua named in Matthew 11:1-6 that you no longer need to walk with a limp?**
- A. Bonus: Research one biblical example of each.
- 3. What is the common timing that we see in so many miracles about healing? (See Luke 5:17-26; John 5:1-15; Mark 3:1-12; Mark 2:10-12; Acts 3:7-9)**
- A. What does this teach you about your call and destiny?
- 4. Discuss what the following ideas mean to you:**
- A. You are perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (See James 1:2-4)
 - B. His divine power has given you all things that pertain to life and godliness. (See II Peter 1:2-4)
 - C. You can do all things through Christ's strength. (See Philippians 4:13)
 - D. God shall supply all your needs. (See Philippians 4:19)

- E. Greater works than what Y'shua did you will do. (See John 14:12)
 - F. Ask, and it will be given to you. (Matthew 7:7-12)
 - G. Ask, but don't ask with selfish motives. (See James 4:1-6)
 - H. Seek first the Kingdom. (See Matthew 6:33)
 - I. You have God's power (See Ephesians 1:15-21)
 - J. You are God's workmanship. (See Ephesians 2:1-10)
- 5. Discuss these ideas relative to "perfect soundness". (See Acts 3:1-16)**
- A. What kind of surgery does the Great Physician perform? (See Mark 2:13-17)
 - B. What is His surgical instrument? (See Hebrews 4:12-13)
 - C. What is the most effective six-word prayer for your faith? (See Mark 9:23-24)
 - D. You are a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (See II Corinthians 5:17-21)

WEEK 29: RAVENS & LILIES

SCRIPTURE READING: Leviticus 25:1-27:34

- It's Impossible
- This is a Test!
- Desperate Times
- Don't Worry; Seek First
- Pagans Worry; Believers Rest

SERMON RESOURCE: [Ravens & Lilies](#)

Have you ever come to the end of your faith? You know, that moment when you think, maybe even say out loud, “How can I possibly get through this? My circumstance is impossible! Where on earth will I find provision?” When the people of Israel were instructed to let the land rest for a full year, every seven years, they worried about the inevitable lack of provision; “Where will we get our food?”

On one occasion, thousands followed Jesus to a deserted place to hear His words and be healed, and by evening they were hungry. Jesus simply asked His disciples, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” They responded in the same spirit as their ancestors; “Where will we get food to feed them? Send them away to get their own food.” Jesus went on to challenge them; “They do not need to go away. You give

them something to eat.” We learn in John’s Gospel that He did this to test them! What was the test?

Later in His ministry, Jesus taught a parable explaining this very test. If a homeowner knew in advance the schemes of a thief, what would he do? It’s simple; he’d prepare for the break-in. The lesson is that if you have advanced notice of an impending event, let’s say, like the Master asking you to “give the people something to eat in a deserted place,” you too must be prepared. It turns out Jesus has, indeed, given us such advanced notice! “Who is the faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give the people food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.” In other words, be prepared to feed My people when the famine comes!

Oh, and if you are worried about from where such provision will come, Jesus has something to say about that as well. “Do not worry about what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. The pagans worry about these things. Your Father knows what you need; all you have to do is seek the kingdom of God.” Do that and you will have all the provision you will ever need! And blessed will that servant be!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Ephesians 3:20-21; Exodus 16:1-36; John 6:1-14, 26-35, 14:27; I Corinthians 10:1-5; Deuteronomy 8:1-5; Matthew 6:9-24, 11:28-30; Luke 11:9-13, 12:13-43; Genesis 41:33-41; Philippians 4:6-19

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. How do you respond when God requires something of you that seems completely impossible?**
 - A. What obvious question arose when Israel was told to rest the land every seven years? (See Leviticus 25:20-22)
 - B. What did Yahweh tell them they could and could not do? (See Leviticus 25:5-12)
 - C. What did Yahweh promise them? (See Leviticus 25:18-19)
 - D. What does this teach us about Yahweh? (Also see Ephesians 3:20-21)
- 2. What did Yahweh provide for the Israelites when they were hungry in the wilderness? (See Exodus 16:1-36)**
 - A. What rules did He give them about collecting their daily provision?

- B. What did He promise them for the Sabbath that set the premise here for His provision in Leviticus 25, for resting the land every seven years?
 - C. Why was it critical that Israel remember, for all generations, His supernatural provision of bread from heaven?
 - D. Relate Manna to Y'shua as the Bread of Life. (See: John 6:26-35; I Corinthians 10:1-5)
- 3. This is a test; this is only a test!**
- A. Describe and discuss the test of collecting only the manna needed for daily consumption, the test of Israel in the wilderness, and how Y'shua tested the disciples when He asked them to feed thousands of people in a desolate place. (See Exodus 16:1-36; Deuteronomy 8:1-5; John 6:1-14)
 - B. Relate this manna to the Lord's Prayer. (See Matthew 6:9-13)
- 4. Considering desperate times... (See Luke 12:13-34)**
- A. What does Y'shua warn us not define our lives by?
 - B. What should we examine about our hearts?
 - C. When worried about provision, what should we do and not do?
- 5. Relate the following ideas to each other, and think prophetically! (See: Luke 11:9-13; 12:13-43; Genesis 41:33-41; Philippians 4:6-19 John 14:27; Matthew 6:24, 11:28-30)**

- A. Building bigger barns
- B. Storing up treasure
- C. Worrying about provision
- D. The way pagans think
- E. Advanced notice of an impending event
- F. The feeding of the 5000
- G. The faithful and wise servant
- H. Serving two masters
- I. A father's provision
- J. Anxiety vs. Peace

SECTION FOUR: NUMBERS

WEEK 30: MY REDEEMER LIVES

SCRIPTURE READING: Numbers 1:1-4:20

- Ancient Ancestry
- The Uriah Story
- Royal Bloodlines
- The Levirate Marriage
- Endless or Important Genealogies

SERMON RESOURCE: [My Redeemer Lives](#)

There are times when arguing about minute details is a waste of effort, even contrary to your intended outcome. You must be wise to recognize when the little things matter and when to let them go. It is often said, “Don’t sweat the small stuff; and it is all small stuff.” I agree with the first half of this epitaph, but strongly oppose the latter.

At times, the smallest of what seem to be ancillary ideas, have the most poignant relevance. In one place we read the serious instruction of a spiritual father to his son, “Don’t give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.” And yet we also see in the first census of Israel, how Moses and Aaron “took a man from every tribe, each one the head of his father’s

house, and recited their ancestry by families.” It seems in this case genealogy mattered!

And then we have Matthew, the writer of the most comprehensive Gospel, who opens his greatest life’s work with microscopic details; “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham...” His ensuing words seem like “endless genealogies,” a meticulous list that fills space, but seems to lend no deeper meaning to the narrative. Be honest, how many times have you read Matthew? And how much attention have you given to those first seventeen verses? By the way, if you had, you’d have noticed the serious math error!

But then, if you get out your prophetic magnifying glass, you’ll notice he mentions five very significant women, all named in what is usually reserved for a line-up of men. And they all have one thing in common; can you guess? One woman in particular alludes to something so significant that it could be the entire reason Matthew included the genealogy. Yet, it is a microscopic detail, strikingly easy to overlook, and it is almost certain you never noticed it! Hint: It’s NOT Mary.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

II Samuel 11, 12; Psalms 51:1-19; Matthew 1:1-21; Genesis 38; Joshua 2; Ruth 1-4; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; I Timothy

1:3-8; Galatians 3:15-29; I Peter 2:9-10; Romans 8:18, 10:12-13; II Peter 3:14-18

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. The first census of Israel: (See Numbers 1:1-18)**
 - A. How were the Israelites divided and counted?
 - B. Why is it significant that the ancestry of each family is recited according to the father's house?
- 2. Samuel dedicates two entire chapters to the narrative about David, Bathsheba and Uriah: (See II Samuel 11, 12)**
 - A. How do we know King David is at the wrong place at the wrong time? (See II Samuel 11:1-5)
 - B. Describe what David does in an attempt to cover up his sin? (See II Samuel 11:6-27)
 - C. What are the consequences of his and Bathsheba's actions? (See II Samuel 12:10-23)
 - D. How does Yahweh view the birth of Solomon? (See II Samuel 12:24-25)
 - E. Bonus: Read Psalms 51:1-19 which is David's Psalm about these events!
- 3. Matthew intentionally begins his Gospel with a detailed 42-generation genealogy from Abraham to Y'shua: (See Matthew 1:1-17)**
 - A. Name the five women mentioned in the genealogy.

- B. What is the common theme between all of them?
(Further research: Genesis 38; Joshua 2; Ruth 1-4; Matthew 1:18-21)
 - C. Which woman demonstrates best how far God will go to preserve a name? Explain your choice.
(Hint: the woman is not referred to by name!)
 - D. What is most curious about the genealogy from the captivity in Babylon until Christ?
- 4. Describe in detail the Law of the Levirate marriage. (See Deuteronomy 25:5-10)**
- A. What is done to a man who refuses to fulfill this biblical duty.
 - B. Prophetic Moment! How might this law “spiritually” apply to the genealogy of Y’shua?
(Hint: Think about King David and focus on the same woman from question 3C.)
- 5. Distinguish the warning against heeding talk of endless genealogies in I Timothy 1:3-8, from the importance of recognizing bloodlines and...**
- A. ...all believers being “sons of God and Abraham’s seed”? (See Galatians 3:15-29)
 - B. ...all believers being a “chosen generation?” (See I Peter 2:9-10)
 - C. ...there being “no distinction between Jew and Greek”? (See Romans 10:12-13)
 - D. Describe how the “law is used lawfully in Ruth 4:17-18. (See I Timothy 1:8)

6. With everything you've learned in this study, I want you to contemplate what a heavenly encounter between David and Uriah would look like. Would Uriah...

- A. ...curse David and call him a lying, adulterous murderer?
- B. ...Thank David?
- C. Explain your choice! (Hint: consider Romans 8:18 in your answer.)

7. Bonus consideration!

- A. Why is good theology so important? (See II Peter 3:14-18)

WEEK 31: VOWS AND VANITY

SCRIPTURE READING: Numbers 4:21-7:89

- The Nazarite Vow
- Making Oaths to Yahweh
- Forgetting Yahweh’s Name
- Vanity

SERMON RESOURCE: [Vows and Vanity](#)

It’s always something. Week after week, as we dive deeper into the Word of God, we get a glimpse of how far we’ve strayed from the truth. It’s not difficult to completely change the meaning of Y’shua’s teachings by strategically leaving out a few words here and there. You think I’m exaggerating? I challenge you; look up Matthew 5:33-34 in any English translation of the Bible and tell me if you don’t conclude that you are no longer to swear an oath to God!

Take a look: “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.*’ But I say to you, *do not swear at all...*” Now, notice a completely different message when we add back the original language: “Again you have heard what was said to those of long ago: You shall not swear *by my name* falsely, but you

shall return to the Lord your oath. But I say to you not to swear *in vain* in any matter..”

Do you see it? Y’shua never instructed us to NO LONGER take oaths to God, but rather to end your futile thinking that you can leave Yahweh’s name out of your promises. Or, even worse, that you can purposely leave His name out as to lessen your obligation or your seriousness to fulfill your commitment. That is what Y’shua called “swearing in vain!” Leave out the phrases “by my name” and “in vain” and you have an utterly different passage with an utterly different meaning.

“You have heard that it was said...” and then Y’shua refers to Leviticus 19:12; “And you shall not swear *by My name falsely*, nor shall you *profane the name* of your God: I am Yahweh.” And the vanity reference is to point you to the third commandment in Exodus 20:7; “You shall not take the name of Yahweh your God *in vain*, for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless who takes His name *in vain*.” I’ll let you in on a little secret. Vanity is not a reference to curse words, but rather the devastating practice of forgetting His name or making it void. In other words, don’t leave His name, and your commitment to Him, out of your decisions and promises! That is why you are warned to never exclude His name from an oath!

It makes more sense now, doesn’t it? You see, what they were doing back then was swearing on

anything but His name, while they crossed their fingers behind their backs. No big deal, as long as you leave out God's name. That's how far they had fallen. And we, as the Church, just shot all the way to the other end of the deception spectrum. We simply stopped making oaths altogether!

So, let's make it simple. Just do what you say you will do, as if your entire life is dedicated to Yahweh. I like to say it like this... "Freedom is when you have no other options; when God's way is the only way, you are totally free!" Think about that the next time you make a promise!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Deuteronomy 6:13; Acts 6-8, 18:12-18, 21; Matthew 5:33-37; Exodus 20:7; Jeremiah 23:25-27; Ecclesiastes 5:2-7

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Making vows to Yahweh was an important part of life for the children of Israel:

- A. Discuss the different aspects and obligations of the Nazarite Vow in Numbers 6:1-21.
- B. Why is this consistent with Deuteronomy 6:13?

2. In Acts 21, upon arriving in Jerusalem, Paul is confronted with a significant challenge. Discuss the following ideas:

- A. Paul is accused of teaching that it is okay to forsake the laws of Moses. (Be sure to include Paul's horrible treatment of Stephen in Acts 6-8 in your answer, as to why and what he is being accused of in Acts 21.)
- B. What specific way is Paul offered to answer to the accusation of teaching against the law in Acts 21?
- C. What does he choose to do?
- D. How does this relate to the Nazarite Vow in Numbers 6?
- E. What might this insinuate about what Paul had already done as described in Acts 18:12-18?

3. Matthew 5:33-37 seems to teach that it is no longer appropriate to swear an oath to Yahweh.

- A. Why would you be led to that conclusion?
- B. What did you discover in this teaching to contrast that idea?
- C. What two key points in Y'shua's words do most English translations leave out?

4. Describe the critical relationship between Exodus 20:7 and Leviticus 19:12:

- A. What is the most accurate way to understand vanity in the context of these verses?

- B. How does this warning against vanity shed light on the true meaning of Matthew 5:33-37?
 - C. How did this vanity show up in Jeremiah 23:25-27?
- 5. What are the warnings in Ecclesiastes 5:2-7 about what increases the risk of vanity?**

WEEK 32: “FOLLOW ME”

SCRIPTURE READING: Numbers 8:1-12:15

- Follow Me, and...
- Clouds and Fire
- My Sheep Hear My Voice
- The Cost of Following

SERMON RESOURCE: [“Follow Me”](#)

Have you heard these words? “Follow Me!” Have they echoed in your heart so loudly that they drown out all other sounds? I pray they have. I remember the day like it was yesterday, almost 30 years ago. As if someone suddenly flipped on the lights and instantly the world around me became bright. No, you rarely know how dark it is until the lights go on. For me, it was the day I heard those words, “Follow Me!” I have been running hard after God ever since and I don’t regret a minute of it. I remember the words of my future wife years later, as I sat next to her on a plane in Panama, on the mission in Central America on which we met. “When I die, I want my gravestone to say, “All used up for God!” I recall thinking in that moment, “I’m going to marry this girl!”

It’s the pattern for sure; Y’shua says, “Follow Me!” And if you do, you will have joined the greatest

adventure imaginable. Peter wondered what would come of those who would join Him; “Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?” If you’ve walked with Him for any length of time, you know the answer. It will be the hardest most challenging life imaginable, one filled with daily opportunities to take up your cross and die to everything you once held dear. And it will be the most glorious and satisfying decision you will ever make! “Follow Me?” Yes, I will follow you anywhere and do anything You ask. I couldn’t imagine life any other way; how about you?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

John 1:35-51, 10:27, 12:20-26; Mark 2:13-17; Matthew 4:18-22, 8:18-22, 19:16-30; Luke 9:23-25, 57-62, 14:25-35; Galatians 2:20; I Kings 19:1-18

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. In some way or another, as in John 10:27 and Mark 2:14, if you are a follower of Y’shua, you have experienced His words, “Follow Me.”**
 - A. Describe what that was like for you.
 - B. What did you have to leave behind?
 - C. What have you gained instead?

2. There are a number of biblical accounts in which we see Y'shua direct those exact words, "Follow Me", to those He was calling. Describe each of the following instances and their reactions:

- A. Andrew, Philip and Nathanael (John 1:35-51)
- B. Matthew the tax collector (Mark 2:13-17)
- C. Peter, Andrew, James and John (Matthew 4:18-22)
- D. The scribe and disciple (Matthew 8:18-22)
- E. The rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-22)
- F. Peter (Matthew 19:27-30)
- G. Two followers (Luke 9:57-62)

3. In the Book of Numbers, it seems we are seeing the precise foreshadowing of Christ's words, "Follow Me!" Describe how this showed up in...

- A. ...the cloud by day and fire by night over the Tabernacle in Numbers 9:15-23.
- B. ...the blowing of the two silver trumpets in Numbers 10:1-10.

4. Read about Ahab, Jezebel and Elijah in I Kings 19:1-18...

- A. What did Elijah have to recognize about God's voice?
- B. Why can we be confident we will hear God's voice? (See John 10:27)

5. In the end, following Him comes with a cost, but yields immeasurable benefits:

- A. What does it take to become a disciple? (See Luke 14:25-35)
 - B. What does it mean to take up your cross daily? (See Luke 9:23-25)
 - C. What does it mean to live for Him alone? (See Galatians 2:20)
 - D. What does it mean to follow Him and never look back? (See Luke 9:57-62)
 - E. How does John 12:20-26 relate to discipleship?
- 6. Imagine your life if you were to do as the first disciples did. How did these verses play out in your life?**
- A. "When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him." (Luke 5:11)
 - B. "We have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?" (Matthew 19:27-30)
 - C. How did Y'shua answer Peter?

WEEK 33: SELF-PRESERVATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Numbers 13:1-15:41

- Sent & Assigned
- Reports & Excuses
- Presumptions & Willful Sin
- Going Deeper!

SERMON RESOURCE: [Self-Preservation](#)

Will you go forward into your destiny or do you want to go back to Egypt? We all know what “going back to Egypt” means. It remains as powerful imagery for believers today. Back in the wilderness days of Israel, the people had the tendency to complain as soon as things ahead seemed challenging or bleak. “We should return to Egypt; this was a mistake; let’s regroup and go back.”

And this was their tendency, even after all they had witnessed: the ten plagues; the annihilation of their captors; an ocean that parted; water from a rock; bread from heaven; the voice of their God on the mountain; a betrothal to the Almighty; and a cloud by day and fire by night to lead them.

Then, when they had finally arrived at their destiny, they were given a simple task. Here are your marching orders; go in and survey the Land of Promise

and come back with a report. God was looking for them to discover a few facts about their upcoming inheritance. “What is the land like? What are the people like? What are the cities like? What is the fruit like?” And here are some report guidelines: “Do not rebel against Yahweh! Do not fear the people of the land! And always remember, Yahweh is with you and against them!” Then, with all that information, make a simple choice—determine if you are able or not to take the land and receive the promises of God.

In the end we discover that there are two spirits in operation here, and one potential snag that could derail the whole thing, the strong desire to preserve ones own life. One spirit says, “we are able!” and the other, “we are not!” One is willing to lose his own life for the sake of God’s promises, the other is all about self-preservation. Which spirit is controlling you?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Matthew 10:1-28; John 12:25; Luke 9:23-24, 12:4-5;
Hebrews 3:16-19, 4:1-13, 10:26-29; Isaiah 53:1

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. One year after the Exodus, Israel had arrived at the shore of the Jordan. Before they could go into the Land of Promise, twelve spies (one leader from**

each tribe), were sent in on a reconnaissance mission:

- A. What things were they told to assess? (See Numbers 13:16-20)
 - B. What guidelines were they to keep in mind as they formulated their answers? (See Numbers 14:6-9)
- 2. How are the 12 spies similar to Matthew 10:1-28?**
- A. What promises, instructions and guidelines were given to the 12 Disciples?
- 3. When the spies returned, there was a discrepancy in their reports: (See Numbers 13:26-14:10)**
- A. Ten spies came back and said what?
 - B. Caleb and Joshua offered what differing assessment?
 - C. What did the people want to do to Caleb and Joshua because of their report
 - D. What was the reason given for Caleb's point of view? (See Numbers 14:24)
- 4. The ten spies who gave a bad report were doing so for what reasons?**
- A. What was their ultimate consequence?
 - B. How does this relate to Y'shua's teachings in: John 12:25; Luke 12:4-5; Luke 9:23-24?
- 5. After the bad report, Yahweh was ready to severely punish Israel for their complaining and desire to go back to Egypt: (See Numbers 14:11-38)**

- A. What did Moses do in response?
 - B. How did Yahweh respond to Moses?
 - C. Instead of the more severe consequence, what punishment did Yahweh issue?
 - D. How does this relate to Israel's years of wandering in the wilderness?
 - E. What was the exception for Joshua and Caleb?
 - F. What happened to the 10 spies who brought the bad report?
- 6. The people did not initially accept God's consequence:**
- A. What did they do as an end-around? (See Numbers 14:10)
 - B. How did it work out for them? (See Numbers 14:39-45)
- 7. Immediately after the people's unsuccessful attempt to subvert Yahweh's punishment, we see a lesson about presumptuous (willful) sin in Numbers 15:30-31:**
- A. Read Hebrews 10:26-29
 - B. Discuss sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth.
 - C. How does willful sin "trample on the blood of Y'shua and insult the Spirit of grace?"
- 8. Going deep! Isaiah 53:1 says "Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"**

- A. Relate those who gave a bad report in Numbers 13 and 14 to Hebrews 3:16-19.
- B. How does the warning about believing a bad report extend to us as Christians? (See Hebrews 4:1-13)

WEEK 34: THE BEST OF THE BEST

SCRIPTURE READING: Numbers 16:1-18:32

- The Giving Shadow
- A Covenant of Salt
- The Giving Reality
- Reasonable Service
- Choose this Day

SERMON RESOURCE: [The Best of the Best](#)

When I was a new believer, almost 30 years ago, I was fascinated while listening to sermons, and wondered how those pastors knew so much about the Bible and how they were able to extract such amazing messages from the Scriptures. Through those early years, I listened to sermon after sermon with keen interest. But, as the years passed I noticed something. Call it discernment or maybe it was being judgmental. I know each gift that God gives us has its equal, but opposite counterpart. So, I have to be careful here to not cross into judgmental.

I noticed over the years that more and more of these sermons began to sound canned. They seemed almost mechanical in nature, as if they were part of some obligatory statement a lawyer must give, commenting on his client's position. I think in politics

you'd call it the "party line." There seemed to be no life in them, no freshness in the messages, no abundance. It was as if these sermons were downloaded by robots and repeated, flavored only by various charismatic personalities. I realized that for a message to have real power, it could not just follow some formulaic model of "best sermon techniques," but instead needed to be inspired by an overflow of what was happening in "that man's life!" For the truth to pour out, there needed to be an overflow of the Spirit within.

This discovery has resurfaced in my mind in recent weeks, as I look back at the last few devotions. You do realize that these devotions are modeled after weekly sermons preached over a year, don't you? Sure I believe they are true. A few weeks ago it was "Follow Me." You have to give it all up, no matter what, lay it all down, and run after Y'shua with all you've got, from that moment He called you, and every day since. And then in "Self-Preservation" last week—you better be ready to give your very life for your faith. If you think you can preserve your way of life, or life itself, you will lose it. Again, all-in is the only way. And now this week, "The Best of the Best." Do you think you can offer God anything other than your absolute best? Do you think anything less than making your faith walk your top priority is acceptable? You'd be wrong.

So, why these messages, why now? I believe we have reached a turning point in history. Never before has the following option been more critical. “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve with your entire being, the gods of this world, or Yahweh and His Son.” I know the choice I’ve made, what about you?

BONUS READING FOR ADDED CLARITY

Paraphrase of Numbers 18:25-32: As you know, you will receive tithes from the children of Israel as your inheritance. You are to take a tenth of the tithe and make a heave offering of it to Yahweh. In other words, from the totality of tithes to the Levites, the tenth of all of Israel’s increase, the Levites must take a tithe (a tenth) of that and give it to Aaron, the high priest. On behalf of Yahweh, Aaron will receive *the best of the best of the whole tithe*, what Yahweh considers the consecrated part. Once the tenth of the tenth, the best of the best, is offered, the rest shall be accounted to the Levites for their own use as their inheritance. Remember, the Levites will not take part in a land inheritance. Once they have given the best of the best to Yahweh, they will no longer be at risk of the sin of holding back the consecrated part, and freed to enjoy the ninety percent that remains. But, be warned, if you try to keep back the tithe of the tithe due to Yahweh, what He would consider as “profaning the holy gifts,” you will suffer!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Hebrews 4:15-16, 8:1-6; Leviticus 2:13; II Chronicles 13:4-5; II Samuel 7:13-16; Matthew 5:13-16; Romans 12:1-2; Revelation 3:14-22; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:12-16; II Corinthians 5:17; Psalms 103:12; II Peter 1:9; I John 3:9, 5:18; Joshua 24:14-27

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Why is it important to recognize that Y’shua is our High Priest? (See: Hebrews 4:15-16, 8:1-6)

A. How might this explain why a heave offering made to Yahweh and given to Aaron is relevant to Christians today?

2. Numbers 18:8-32 describes some important attributes and regulations about the heave offering:

- A. What is the heave offering derived from?
- B. Why does Yahweh call it the “consecrated part” of the overall tithe?
- C. Why might we consider the heave offering the best of the best?
- D. Compare the heave offering to the wave offering as it relates to Yahweh’s rulership.

3. Numbers 18:19 teaches us that the ordinance of the heave offering is a “covenant of salt.”

- A. Read Numbers 18:19 again and then the origin of the salt covenant in Leviticus 2:13. What is the important symbolism about salt? (Hint: think of all the reasons why salt was essential back then!)
 - B. How does this relate to Abijah's words in II Chronicles 13:4-5? (Think duration!)
 - C. How might this relate to Nathan's words about David in II Samuel 7:13-16? (Think duration!)
 - D. Now, relate this to Y'shua's words in Matthew 5:13-16.
- 4. Yahweh expects us to give Him our best:**
- A. Compare the heave offering in Numbers 18 to God's desired commitment of His people as taught by Paul in Romans 12:1-2.
 - B. Contrast your answer with the warnings against the lukewarm church in Revelation 3:14-22.
- 5. You cannot sell your car to someone and keep the keys for yourself at the same time. Relate this statement to:**
- A. Paul's words in Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:12-16; II Corinthians 5:17
 - B. Psalms 103:12
 - C. Peter's words in II Peter 1:9
 - D. John's words in I John 3:9, 5:18
- 6. Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve: the gods of this world or Yahweh and His Son. (Refer to Joshua 24:14-27)**

- A. Do you think you can offer God anything other than your absolute best? Explain!
- B. Do you think anything less than making your faith walk your top priority is acceptable? Explain!
- C. How is Joshua's warning that once a commitment is made to God, He will use your own words as a witness against you, applicable to your walk as a Christian today?

WEEK 35: WATCH YOUR ANGER!

SCRIPTURE READING: Numbers 19:1-22:1

- The Death of a Loved One
- Leadership Under Duress
- In Your Face
- The Consequences of Anger
- Repent and be Healed

SERMON RESOURCE: [Watch Your Anger!](#)

Anger is a huge problem in modern culture. And it seems to be on the rise. One need not look any further than the local news to see how uncontrolled anger affects everyone. But, in the midst of the Church, the assembly of Yahweh's people, what should we say to one another when anger rises from the hearts of believers in the same way we witness in the world? Is there a place for such? Without hesitation, the answer is a resounding NO, and I pray you all would agree.

Yahweh has much to say regarding the subject of anger. And sometimes it takes looking intently into historical biblical narratives, for us to notice the patterns in our own lives. Without recognizing how those narratives speak to our own issues, it's easy to miss how the stories often point directly at us. We might even enjoy the lesson, then simply walk away without

considering its personal application. So, our theme this week poses this very difficult question; would you prefer to simply feel validated in your own anger, rage, and bitterness, the same muck and mire that slimes the world, or would you rather change?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Exodus 17:1-7, 2:11-14, 32:19; Philippians 2:6-8, 4:6-7; Ephesians 4:26-31; Colossians 3:8; II Timothy 1:7; James 1:20; John 3:14-18

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Leaders often face difficult situations. Consider Numbers 20:1-12:

- A. What difficulty was Moses facing for the second time? (See Moses' first time in Exodus 17:1-7.)
- B. What was his response?
- C. It is obvious that Moses was frustrated and angry; how did his response affect his future?
- D. How might have his response been related to his recent loss?
- E. How have you responded in similar fashion?
- F. How has it affected your life?

2. Moses was under extreme duress in Numbers 20:2-5...

- A. How do each of the following Scriptures admonish and encourage you to act when you face extreme pressure? (See: Philippians 4:6-7; Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8; Ephesians 4:26; II Timothy 1:7)
- 3. Whenever we are faced with circumstances involving a confrontation of any kind, we should seek the Face of Yahweh!**
- A. What did Aaron and Moses do? (Hint: Numbers 20:6-9)
- B. How do you typically react to confrontation?
- C. How does it work for you?
- D. What changes do you need to make?
- 4. Has uncontrolled anger caused difficulty in your life?**
- A. How did Moses pay dearly for his anger? (See Numbers 20:10-13)
- B. It is no secret that Moses has struggled with anger before. How so? (See: Exodus 2:11-14, 32:19)
- C. In what ways has anger caused problems in your life?
- D. Are you in the habit of making excuses instead of changes? If so, in what ways?
- E. Again refer to Ephesians 4:26, 31; and Colossians 3:8. How do they help?

- F. How can you use James 1:20 to help guard your anger?
- 5. Discuss the prophetic significance of Moses “lifting up the serpent in the wilderness” in Numbers 21:4-9.**
- A. How does this relate to repentance?
 - B. How does this relate to John 3:14-18?
 - C. When we consider how Y’shua was lifted up for us, without becoming angry, how does that make you feel?
- 6. As Y’shua was being lifted up on the cross, He had within His power to do anything He wished. Instead He submitted to His Father’s will.**
- A. Would you consider that weakness or meekness?
 - B. Define meekness in light of Philippians 2:6-8.

WEEK 36: THE INSIDIOUS PROPHET

SCRIPTURE READING: Numbers 22:2-25:9

- Temptations
- Wish-washy Convictions
- Pretense
- Yahweh's Intervention
- Changed Behaviors
- Accountability

SERMON RESOURCE: [The Insidious Prophet](#)

This is a true story, but it can be anyone's story. I walked down the aisle toward my redemption that day. I can remember that moment my salvation was secure as if it was yesterday. Maybe you were alone when God called you; maybe you were in an intimate setting with others; or maybe, like with me, there were many people together in a Church building or other public venue. Where, and how, and why, and with whom it happened are the minor details. That it happened—is what matters most! And the story told by all these questions, and their answers, becomes your testimony.

For me, the evening prior to my born-again experience, I had an encounter with an older gentleman who challenged me with questions regarding my eternity. I had weak answers, if any at all, mostly in the

form of more questions. I recall waking the next morning as if I had been boxing with the heavy-weight champ, and getting my head pummeled. I was spinning! But, one thing was evident that morning; I knew something about my life was off and I could not shake it. I had to get to know the character of the God to whom this gentleman was referring. Can you see yourself in this story? In many ways, this is all of us!

My particular background was that I grew up as a Catholic. My view of God was of one who would become easily angered and who would readily use intimidation in an attempt to bend me to His own will. And this God would inspire fear, as a tactic. I also believed that God was confined either within the walls of the Church or in Heaven. I was supposed to be afraid that if I stepped out of line, He could, at any moment, strike me with lightning and I'd be burnt toast. This was a God I had no interest in following. I came to learn that my view of God was very inaccurate. Again, this is many peoples' story, but I retell mine, not to draw attention to my life, but to introduce this week's main character, the insidious prophet, Balaam.

Balaam had a similar problem; he too had a very wrong view of Yahweh! In his case, he thought that Yahweh was malleable, a god who could be bribed or tempted. Balaam believed that he could convince God to change His mind, even break His covenant with

Abraham and, instead, fulfill Balaam's own greedy desires.

Like me, boy was he wrong!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Leviticus 20:26; Romans 13:13-14; 2 Peter 2:15-16; Jude 1:11-16; Revelation 2:14

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Balaam was tempted to do something he knew was wrong...

- A. How were flattery and riches used to tempt him?
(See Numbers 22:6-7)
- B. Why might that approach have been used by Balak?

2. Everyone can be tempted by something?

- A. What tempts you?
- B. What should be your approach when those temptations come near?

**3. How was Balaam wish-washy with his conviction?
(See Numbers 22:14-21)**

- A. Are you wish-washy when facing temptation?
- B. How convincing are you in turning down temptations?

- C. Do you leave wiggle room when the answer should be a resounding “No!”? Do you dance on the edge of wrong? Please explain.
- D. When Yahweh says “*You Shall Not...*”, how do you respond? Do you continue to seek your own desires instead of submitting to His Word? (See Numbers 22:12-19)

4. Balaam really seems to be seeking the Lord! (See Numbers 23:1-3)

- A. What is really going on with Balaam? Has God given him any indication that he should keep asking when He has already answered the question?
- B. What does Balaam do that seems so spiritual to appear very authentic?
- C. What things do you do in front of others that appear to make you look as if you have a solid relationship with the Lord?
- D. What would we really find if we peeled back the layers of the onion?

5. Do you believe that Yahweh’s intervention tramples on your free will?

- A. Look at to what lengths God went to direct Balaam in Numbers 22:22-40. How did God’s intervention prove to benefit him?
- B. Have you had any donkey experiences in your own life? Please explain.

- 6. Had Balaam been able to apply Leviticus 20:26 and the words of Paul in Romans 13:13-14 to his decision-making, what might have been different?**
- A. If you heeded this same advice, how would it contribute to advancing the Kingdom of God vs. your own agenda?
- 7. It is always so much easier to recognize ungodly behaviors in someone else's life, rather than our own.**
- A. Why is that?
- B. The errors Balaam are so easily duplicated; can you recognize a similar pattern of behavior in your own life?
- C. Use these three New Testament passages that refer to Balaam to guide your answer. (See: 2 Peter 2:15-16; Jude 1:11-16; Revelation 2:14)
- D. Describe you unwanted behaviors; decide what you will change; and name who you will ask to hold you accountable!

WEEK 37: MY PEACE I GIVE YOU

SCRIPTURE READING: Numbers 25:10-29:40

- The Covenant of Peace
- Authentic Zeal
- Perfect Peace

SERMON RESOURCE: [My Peace I Give You](#)

Do not let your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Fear can be a paralyzing emotion, the birth place of every type of anxiety. But, it should have no place in the Christian's life. Be anxious for nothing...let the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Fear and anxiety are literally the opposite of peace, and thus are the antithesis of the Christian life. So, how can you access this peace at all times, especially in the midst of difficult circumstances?

Phinehas found himself in a tough spot that threatened the peace of God's people, and he made a radical choice to stand on the side of righteousness, "because he was zealous for his God." And for that Yahweh made to him this amazing promise. "I give to him My covenant of peace; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him." Why such a blessing for such a

man? The psalmist might just give us the best explanation.

“Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; for the future of that man is peace.” Psalms 37:37

“Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.” Psalms 119:165

If we amalgamate these thoughts it becomes clear. The blameless and upright man is he who is zealous for Yahweh, loves to obey Him, and experiences His peace. Y’shua promised it this way; “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you...let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.” Y’shua implanted in us the desire to be blameless and upright. Walking out a blameless and upright life is exactly how you guard your heart and mind, cast out fear, and experience a peace that surpasses all understanding!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Leviticus 10:1-3; Numbers 3:1-4; Ezra 1-7; Romans 5:1-2, 8:5-6, 12:17-21, 10:1-8, 14:16-19; Psalms 1:1-2, 37:37, 119:165; John 14:25-31, 16:33; I John 4:18; Philippians 4:6-9; Psalms 119; Galatians 5:22-23; I Peter 3:10-12; James 3:17-18; Luke 1:78-79; Hebrews 12:14-15; Ephesians 2:14-16; Colossians 3:14-15; II Thessalonians 3:16; II Corinthians 13:11

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

**1. Why was Phinehas promised a Covenant of Peace?
(See Numbers 25:10-13)**

A. What made his zeal authentic?

**2. How did Phinehas become the line of promise
through Aaron? (See: Leviticus 10:1-3; Numbers
3:1-4)**

A. What had Nadab and Abihu done to lose their positions?

B. What happened to them?

C. What is the prophetic significance that Phinehas stepped into the firstborn position? (Hint: He is the first born son of Aaron's third born son. Think of all you have learned thus far about firstborns losing their position: Ishmael, Esau, and Manasseh)

D. Suggestion: Pursue the Sermon Resource for this Devotion. The video and notes will be a great help.

**3. The fruit of the Covenant of Peace made with
Phinehas can be seen in the life of Ezra, 14
generations later. (Read Ezra 7 for specific answer,
however I suggest you read Ezra 1-6 as well.)**

A. What was it about Ezra that made him find such favor with Yahweh and the king?

- B. List all the ways Ezra found outrageous favor in the eyes of king Artaxerxes.
- 4. Zeal is not always a good thing. It depends on the underlying motivations.**
- A. Compare and contrast the zeal of Phinehas in Numbers 25:1-13 to that of Israel as described in Romans 10:1-8.
- 5. Relate the following to one another:**
- A. The Covenant of Peace with Phinehas
 - B. The perfect peace of Ezra (See Ezra 7:11-12)
 - C. The future peace of the upright man in David's Psalms (See: Psalms 37:37, 119:165)
 - D. The peace that Y'shua and John promised (See John 14:25-31; I John 4:18)
- 6. How do you attain a peace that surpasses all understanding? (See Philippians 4:6-9)**
- A. How does authentic zeal relate to fear and anxiety?
 - B. Name seven things Paul teaches us upon which to meditate.
 - C. Discuss the Peace of God and the God of Peace.
 - D. Challenge: Psalms 1:1-2 teaches us to meditate on Yahweh's law day and night. In your quiet time read 119 and contemplate how David extols all the virtues of God's law.

7. There are many scriptures about pursuing peace, the promise of peace, the importance of peace, and the blessing of peace...

- A. Read: Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 5:1-2, 8:5-6, 12:17-21, 14:16-19; I Peter 3:10-12; James 3:17-18; Luke 1:78-79; Hebrews 12:14-15; Ephesians 2:14-16; Colossians 3:14-15; John 16:33; II Thessalonians 3:16; II Corinthians 13:11
- B. With all this talk about peace, explain the words of Y'shua's from Matthew 10:34.

WEEK 38: DISSIPATION OR THE SPIRIT

SCRIPTURE READING: Numbers 30:1-36:13

- Instructions for Living
- Pagan, Israel, Christian
- Self-Assessment

SERMON RESOURCE: [Dissipation or the Spirit](#)

When you were saved into your new life, it was required (not recommended) that you leave your old life behind. Many times along their wilderness journey, Israel was given specific warnings about entering their new life, the Promised Land. Destroy every remnant of pagan worship, idolatry and sexual temptation, or IT WILL come back to haunt you. They were ordered to remember Egypt, from where they came, and to consider Canaan, to where they were going. The mandate: “DO NOT do what those nations do in any way!”

For Christians, the mandate is the same! You should no longer run with the pagans in the same flood of dissipation, as in your past life. You must “no longer live the rest of your new life in the lusts of the flesh, but for the will of Yahweh. In other words, you have spent

enough of your old life in doing the will of the Pagans—so, since you have now escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Y’shua, if you are again entangled in them and overcome by them, the final outcome will be worse for you than had you never known the truth in the first place.

To seal this into your brain, think of it like this; you would have been better off not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then turned away from it! And the “it” according to Peter are God’s holy commandments, of which you have now become intimately aware. Now, pick a life—go back to the same flood of dissipation or live by the Spirit!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

I Peter 1:13-16, 4:1-4; II Peter 2:20-22; Ephesians 2:11-18, 5:15-21; Romans 1:18-32, 8:6-7, 8:1-11; Galatians 5:16-26; Leviticus 18:1-5; Deuteronomy 12:1-5; Hebrews 10:26-29; Plus self-assessment Scriptures

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Have you spent enough of your past lifetime living like a pagan? (See: I Peter 4:1-4; II Peter 2:20-22; Ephesians 5:15-21)**
 - A. What were the benefits and costs?

- B. Define dissipation. Were you living a life of dissipation?
 - C. What does it mean to walk circumspectly?
- 2. As a Christian, you now have the option to live by the flesh or live by the Spirit: (See: Romans 8:1-11: Galatians 5:16-26)**
- A. What does it mean to set your mind on things of the flesh?
 - B. What does it mean to set your mind on things of the Spirit?
 - C. Why is the carnal mind enmity against God and His laws?
 - D. Contrast walking in the Spirit and fulfilling the lusts of the flesh.
- 3. Israel was instructed and warned about not becoming involved in anything Pagan when they entered the Promised Land: (See Numbers 33:51-56; Leviticus 18:1-5; Deuteronomy 12:1-5)**
- A. What were they told to do to guard against becoming enticed by pagan ways?
 - B. Compare the laws of Egypt from where they came and the laws of Canaan to where they were going to Yahweh's laws.
 - C. What was Israel told Yahweh would do to them if they did not demolish all remnants of Pagan worship when they entered the Land.

D. Discuss the warning from Numbers 33:55-56 in light of Paul's teaching in Romans 1:18-32.

4. Why are Christians considered “once Gentiles in the flesh?” (See Ephesians 2:11-18)

- A. If you are no longer a Gentile, what are you?
- B. What was abolished: the law or the hatred of the law? Please explain. (Also see Romans 8:6-7 to assist your answer.)

5. Are you still dabbling in the pollutions of the world?

- A. What does it mean in II Peter 2:18-22 when Peter warns us that if we are dabbling, “*the latter end is worse for them than the beginning?*”
- B. What does Peter refer to as “obedient” in I Peter 1:13-16?
- C. When does “dabbling” become willful sin? (See Hebrews 10:26-29)

6. It's time for an honest Self-Assessment: Which describes you best?

***Check one after each Scripture reading:**

A. See I Peter 2:11-12

- Fleshly Lusts
- Honorable Conduct

B. See I Peter 3:15-17

- Suffering for doing good
- Suffering for doing evil

C. See I Peter 4:1-6

- Living for the will of God
- For the will of Gentiles

D. See Luke 14:25-35

- Salted
- Unsalted

E. See Ephesians 4:17-24

- Walking as a Gentile old man
- Walking as a righteous new man

F. See Ephesians 5:1-13

- Sons of disobedience
- Children of light

G. See Colossians 3:1-11

- Old man and his deeds
- New man in His Image

H. See Ephesians 5:15-21

- Walking circumspectly
- Walking in dissipation

I. See I John 2:15-17

- The love of the world
- The love of the Father

J. See I Thessalonians 4:3-8

- Uncleaness
- Holiness

K. See Philippians 3:7-16

- Looking back
- Reaching ahead

L. See Galatians 2:20

- You living through you
- Christ living through you

M. See I John 3:4-9

- Practicing righteousness
- Believing sin is inevitable

N. See I Corinthians 5:9-13

- Tolerating sin
- Judging sin

O. See I Corinthians 6:9-11

- Washed Clean
- Fornicating and idolizing

P. See Hebrews 4:1-13

- Resting
- Disobedient

Q. See I Peter 4:7-11

- Good Stewards of the grace of God
- Grumbling and complaining

R. See Ephesians 2:11-18

- A Gentile
- Israel

7. Seriously consider the self-assessment...

- A. How did you do?
- B. What needs to change?
- C. What will you change?
- D. Who can hold you accountable?
- E. Get with an accountability partner now and discuss your commitment!

SECTION FIVE: DEUTERONOMY

WEEK 39: ENOUGH ALREADY!

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

- Fear Nothing
- Lack Nothing
- Promised Everything

SERMON RESOURCE: [Enough Already!](#)

Enough already? Or, enough already! Have you learned your lesson yet, or do you need to be reminded of Yahweh’s faithfulness—again? Do you still get fearful when your faith is tested, or do you quickly remember His faithfulness? As we enter the book of Deuteronomy, Moses takes a trip down memory lane. Listen people, Yahweh has made good on His word EVERY TIME, so, when He tells you to have no fear as you enter the Promised Land, you can trust Him. “He will go before you and fight for you.” Remember, “Yahweh carried you, as a man carries his son, everywhere you went, until you came to this place.” “He has blessed everything you’ve touched for the last forty years in the wilderness, and you have lacked nothing.” “Your eyes have seen all that Yahweh has done.” Do you think He will fail you now? And by the way, here’s a sneak peak; the whole thing was a test! “God led you all the way

these forty years in the wilderness to test what was in your heart, whether you would obey Him or not.”

In Y’shua, the Father makes the same promises to you. The prophetic patterns are striking! “Let not your heart be troubled; I go to prepare a place for you; where I am, there you may be also.” Yes, through various trials, as in your own personal wilderness, your faith is tested, and in the end, you will have lacked nothing. Y’shua also uses the same heart test; whereas Moses revealed, “God tested you to see if you would obey Him,” Y’shua so elegantly affirms, “If you love Me, you’d obey Me!”

So, enough already? Or, enough already! It should be obvious; it’s enough already!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Isaiah 41:10-13, 51:12; James 1:2-4; John 14:1-4; II Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:15; Proverbs 29:25; Psalms 27:1, 34:4, 56:3-4, 118:6-12; Matthew 6:25-34, 10:28, 11:28-30; Philippians 4:6-7; I Peter 5:6-7; I John 4:17-18, 16:33; II Peter 1:1-15

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. How has the Lord carried you in times of great trials? **Fill in the blanks...***

- A. You must not _____⁽¹⁾ them, for the Lord your God Himself _____⁽²⁾ for you. (See Deuteronomy 3:21-22)
 - B. Yahweh carries you as a man carries his _____⁽³⁾. (See Deuteronomy 1:29-31)
 - C. What is Yahweh's consistent reminder when it comes to the fear of man?
 - D. What does He tell us to do when we are afraid? (See: Deuteronomy 1:32-33, 3:21-22; Isaiah 41:10-13)
- 2. Compare Deuteronomy 2:7 with James 1:2-4 and then Deuteronomy 1:29-31 with John 14:1-4:**
- A. What are the obvious commonalities?
 - B. Why should you be confident that you already have all you need at your disposal?
- 3. In Deuteronomy 31:6-8, Moses makes a bold declaration about fear. Describe in your own words what that means for your life.**
- A. Now, take your time to do this next assignment. Use each of the following scriptures to guide you to write your own personal vision statement against fear.
 - B. "When I am afraid..."
 - C. Resources: II Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:15; Proverbs 29:25; Psalms 56:4; Psalms 27:1; Isaiah 51:12; Matthew 10:28; Psalms 118:6-12; John 16:33

- 4. Now, finish your vision statement by adding a strategy at the end.**
- A. What will you do when you are tempted by fear?
 - B. “When I am tempted by fear, I will...”
 - C. Resources: Matthew 11:28-30; Matthew 6:25-34; Philippians 4:6-7; Psalms 56:3-4; I Peter 5:6-7; Psalms 34:4; I John 4:17-18
- 5. Moses takes us on a historical journey of reminders and promises in the book of Deuteronomy:**
- A. Extract and describe six promises of Yahweh in Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22 (Hint: Deuteronomy 1:8, 1:10-11, 2:15, 2:25, 2:36, 3:21-22)
- 6. Moses reminds the people in Deuteronomy 2:7 that on their wilderness journey they have lacked nothing. James and Peter do the same (James 1:2-4; II Peter 1:3). Use Peter’s second letter as a reminder of God’s promises to His people. (See II Peter 1:12-15):**
- A. What is everything built upon? (Hint: verse 1)
 - B. Extract and describe at least six promises of Yahweh (Hint: verses 3-11)
 - C. What are the seven steps to receiving those promises? (Hint: verses 5-7)
 - D. What is the one thing that will get in the way every time? (Hint: verse 9)

****Blanks in question one: fear⁽¹⁾ fights⁽²⁾ son⁽³⁾***

WEEK 40: THE NEXT GENERATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

- Stop Blame Shifting
- Examine Your Character
- Passing the Baton!
- Don't Get Disqualified?

SERMON RESOURCE: [The Next Generation](#)

On the world stage, during the Olympics, athletes compete for medals that bring recognition to their sport, their nations, and to themselves. In Track and Field, one type of event is the “relay race.” Runners must pass the baton to their teammate who continues the race. A clean exchange helps the next runner keep the momentum. Making all clean exchanges gives the team the best chance of winning. From time to time, a poor exchange will result in the baton being dropped. It's severe, but that team is instantly disqualified.

It is evident in Deuteronomy that Moses is passing the baton to Joshua, although it does not always appear to be a “clean exchange. Nevertheless, he charges, encourages and strengthens Joshua as the one who would bring the Nation of Israel into the promised land. Each generation thereafter has had to pass the baton to the next generation in a sort of

spiritual relay race. Some exchanges have not been so clean and, can we say that there have even been a few “dropped batons” resulting in disqualifications? I think you can imagine what I mean.

We have a task at hand. We must run the race well and make a clean exchange as we pass the the baton to the Next Generation. May I paraphrase what Paul said on the matter...? “All the runners run, but only one receives the prize. So run that you may obtain it. I discipline myself and stay under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”

Don’t drop the handoff! Don’t be disqualified!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 3:12-13; Philippians 4:13; Hebrews 3:7-14;
Ephesians 5:15-16; I Corinthians 9:24-27

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. When Moses was talking with Joshua and he blamed him for not being able to bring the Nation of Israel into the promised land...

- A. Do you sympathize or disagree with him? (See Deuteronomy 3:23-28)
- B. How might this be similar to Adam’s behavior in Genesis 3:12-13?

- C. Are you accustomed to bypassing your responsibility and blaming others for your mistakes? Please explain.
 - D. How does that type of behavior reflect a person's character?
- 2. It is one thing to “know” something and it is altogether different to allow that knowledge to change your behavior... (See Deuteronomy 4:5-9)**
- A. What does Moses reiterate to the people?
 - B. What character traits does he equate to allowing what you know to influence your actions?
 - C. What two privileges does God bestow on Israel?
 - D. What are they then commanded to do with those privileges?
- 3. How would it affect the following areas of your life if you possessed the character to receive and pass on those privileges?**
- A. Marriage, Relationships, Finances, Children, Health
 - B. If it seems difficult to live with such character, refer to Philippians 4:13. How does it help?
- 4. What do you feel is your involvement in “Passing the Baton?” (See Deuteronomy 3:28)**
- A. How important do you believe is your participation?

- B. How can you Charge, Encourage and Strengthen the Next Generation? (Use Hebrews 3:7-14 to guide your answer.)
- 5. In Deuteronomy 4:9, Moses encourages us to “keep your soul diligently.”**
- A. What are some ways of “Soul Keeping”? (Hint: Ephesians 5:15-16)
- B. How often are you taking inventory of your walk with God?
- C. What measures are you taking today to “diligently keep your soul”?
- 6. The obedience we are called to do is not just about us. As we have seen, we are commanded to “Make it known to your children and your children's children.”**
- A. How ardent is your commitment of knowing and observing Yahweh’s commands?
- B. Do you believe the next generation will be affected more by your knowing or your doing? Please explain.
- C. Describe how the life you live will either legitimize or disqualify your ministry? (See I Corinthians 9:24-27)
- D. Engage in conversation with your peers and the next generation about how they experience you. Would they say you are legitimate or disqualified? Please explain.

WEEK 41: WHO WHAT WHEN WHERE HOW & WHY?

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?
- How?
- Why?

SERMON RESOURCE: [Who, What, When, Where, How, and Why?](#)

I was reminded this week about an important concept. I'd like you to meditate on this idea. "The quality of your life is only as good as the quality of your questions!" I know that is a loaded statement that we can literally take in a thousand directions, but play along with me here. And let me add, "If you don't like your life, ask better questions!" Moreover, to both of these provocative statements, might we affirm that having the correct answers to life's all-important questions is as essential as asking the questions in the first place. In other words, asking the right questions, but getting the

wrong answers, is as detrimental as asking the wrong questions or asking no questions at all.

Let me give you a simple example. Can't we all agree that asking where we will spend eternity is a critical question? Additional essential questions would be, "What determines where, and how do we know?" Getting these answers wrong is as damning as not asking them in the first place!

In our Scripture readings this week there are many answers. And I think we can safely infer that they are the answers to these questions: who, what, when, where, how, and why?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

James 1:27; Matthew 13:18-23, 16:13-19, 18:18; John 6:67-69, 14:2-4, 14:15, 16:4-15; Exodus 15:2; Psalms 118:14-15; Isaiah 12:2-5; Jeremiah 4:3-4; Romans 2:12-16, 25-29; II Corinthians 3:12-18; I Corinthians 13:11-12; Joshua 1:2-5; Luke 6:46, 10:19; Ephesians 2:8-10

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Who?

- A. In Deuteronomy 8:11-17, what was Israel warned about regarding to whom they give credit?
- B. Who gives you power to get wealth? (See Deuteronomy 8:18-20)

- C. Who goes before you in the face of your enemies? (See Deuteronomy 9:1-3)
- D. Who is Yahweh to the fatherless, widow and stranger? (See Deuteronomy 10:17-21) What does James teach us about true religion? (See James 1:27)
- E. Y'shua asked His disciples, "Who do men say that I am? What would people say about you if you asked that same question? (See Matthew 16:13-19)
- F. Y'shua asked His disciples, "Do you also want to go away?" What was Peter's response? What is your response to the same question? (See John 6:67-69)
- G. Explain how the Scriptures infer that Yahweh has become Y'shua from Exodus 15:2, Psalms 118:14-15, and Isaiah 12:2-5.

2. What?

- A. It did not take God's people much time to forget what He requires. (See Deuteronomy 9:15-18).
- B. What does the Lord require as per Deuteronomy 10:12-13?
- C. What does it mean to have a circumcised heart? (See: Deuteronomy 10:14-16; Jeremiah 4:3-4; Matthew 13:18-23; Romans 2:12-16; Romans 2:25-29)

3. When?

- A. Why did Yahweh drive out the nations little by little, as opposed to all at once? (See Deuteronomy 7:22)
- B. How does the idea of “little by little” relate to how Y’shua reveals things to us and our sanctification process? (See: John 16:4-15; II Corinthians 3:12-18; I Corinthians 13:11-12)

4. Where?

- A. Discuss: the good place, that lacks nothing, that God cares for, from Deuteronomy 11:6-12.
- B. Discuss the passing of the baton in Joshua 1:2-5.
- C. How does the promise to Israel that “Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours” in Deuteronomy 11:22-25 compare to the authority granted to the church in Luke 10:19 and Matthew 18:18?
- D. Compare Yahweh’s promise of the Promised Land for Israel to Y’shua’s promise in John 14:2-4.

5. How?

- A. Discuss how God will deal with our enemies from Deuteronomy 7:16-26.
- B. How does obedience affect Yahweh’s promises? (See Deuteronomy 8:1)
- C. How do you provoke God? (See Deuteronomy 9:7-9)

- D. Discuss the relationship between grace, faith, obedience and our salvation. (See Ephesians 2:8-10)
- E. What are the hows of your deliverance? (Use: II Peter 1:1; Romans 5:8; Matthew 26:28; I Peter 2:24-25; I John 2:2; John 10:27)

6. Why?

- A. Why did Yahweh move on behave of His people? (See Deuteronomy 7:12)
- B. Why did Yahweh lead Israel for forty years in the wilderness? (See Deuteronomy 8:2)
- C. Why did Yahweh bring them into the wilderness in the first place? (See Deuteronomy 8:14-16)
- D. What was not a reason why Yahweh kept His promise? (See Deuteronomy 9:4-6)
- E. Why is obedience and love connected? (See: Deuteronomy 11:13-21; Luke 6:46; John 14:15)

WEEK 42: EASY ENTANGLEMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

- Past Idolatries
- False Prophets and False Teachers
- A Deceived Heart
- Deceiving Spirits
- Mature Believers

SERMON RESOURCE: [Easy Entanglements](#)

How tempted are you to become enmeshed with the things of the world? Do you feel yourself drawn to your old life? Are you still enticed by the pleasures of your past? We are warned throughout the Holy Scriptures that we should not even entertain the thoughts of our past idolatries because we can become so easily ensnared by them! Enticed and ensnared speak of desire; enmeshed and entangled paint the picture of a sticky spider web that easily ensnares its prey and leaves them defenseless.

Now, there are two possible ways you can guard yourself from becoming trapped in your past temptations. One is the self-discipline approach. This involves your body and soul. Become strong and practice self-control and fight against those desires. That's not a terrible idea, but there is an even better

way, the spirit-discipline approach! “Fix your eyes on Y’shua, the author and finisher of your faith!” This approach gives your spirit top billing. I’d like to encourage you to make your spiritual disciplines your first priority, without neglecting your self-discipline.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Leviticus 18:3-5; Jeremiah 10:1-12, 13:10, 17:5-10; Jeremiah 23; Deuteronomy 29:14-20; Romans 1:21-31; John 17:20; Hebrews 4:11-13, 5:12-14, 6:1-3, 12:1-2; I Timothy 4:1-6; II Peter 1:16-21; James 1:14-15; I Thessalonians 5:23

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. What does it mean to “go after other gods?”**
 - A. According to Deuteronomy 12:29-32, is it acceptable to use past pagan practices, even if you are not doing them to acknowledge the pagan gods from which they originated? Why or why not? (Also see Leviticus 18:3-5)
 - B. To what current Christian practice might Jeremiah 10:1-12 be referring?
- 2. We are warned throughout the Holy Scriptures that we should not even entertain the thoughts of our past idolatries because we can become easily ensnared by them! (See Hebrews 12:1-2)**

- A. How tempted are you to become enmeshed with the things of the world?
 - B. Do you feel yourself drawn to your old life? If so how?
 - C. Are you still enticed by the pleasures of your past? If so how?
- 3. Why are false prophets and false teachers so dangerous? (See Jeremiah 23)**
- A. How do they deceive people?
 - B. Who gets punished for their deception?
 - C. Who are the false prophets and false teachers today? How do you know?
- 4. Study the risks of following the dictates of your own heart. (See: Deuteronomy 12:8-9; Jeremiah 13:10; Deuteronomy 29:14-20)**
- A. Discuss the dangers of following the dictates of your own heart, against God, yet still believing He will bless you.
 - B. Why is the heart prone to deception? (See Jeremiah 17:5-10)
 - C. Use Deuteronomy 29:14-15 and John 17:20 to show how this teaching was not just for those standing with Moses.
 - D. How does Paul weigh in on heart matters? (See Romans 1:21-31)
 - E. Can anyone hide what is truly in their heart? (See Hebrews 4:11-13)

- F. What is the severe warning in James 1:14-15?
- 5. Are deceiving spirits still active today? If so, how so?**
- A. How can we distinguish the Holy Spirit from deceiving spirits? (See: Deuteronomy 13:1-5; I Timothy 4:1-6; II Peter 1:16-21)
- B. What is the common admonition in Deuteronomy 12:29-30, Deuteronomy 13:5, and Hebrews 12:1-2?
- 6. Discuss what is expected of a mature believer. (See: Hebrews 5:12-14; Hebrews 6:1-3)**
- A. How are we supposed to live according to 1 Thessalonians 5:23?

WEEK 43: THE JUSTICE LEAGUE

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

- The Return of Justice
- Matters of Controversy
- An Unchanging God

SERMON RESOURCE: [The Justice League](#)

Throughout human history, has there ever been a time when those in power DID NOT intend to manipulate and deceive the unsuspecting masses? First instigate division among the people and help them develop a goodly amount of contempt for one another. Then control them like puppets. Divide and conquer! There's nothing new under the sun and, no surprise, it's happening even now. Could there be more deception, more division?

The question I want you to ponder today is this; has this insidious problem ever been remedied by revealing the truth behind the curtain? Does exposing the corruption ever bring justice? Or, instead does it further the twisted deception? Simply observe what is happening. The louder the truth-tellers scream, the harder the deceivers dig in and the more bizarre their stories become. And if the truth is just too difficult to

twist, censor it, or delete it, or just re-write history altogether and publish a new narrative.

I don't write this to depress you or make you afraid, quite the contrary. And I'm not saying there is no value in screaming the truth from the rooftops. People do need to hear the truth. What I am saying is this...there is a better way. The solution is spiritual! The Church must act like the Church. God's righteous elect are the remedy, if we would just take our proper seat of authority!

Let me paraphrase the prophetic Psalmist. God will not tolerate corrupt rulers who kill the innocent and make injustice legal forever. True justice will indeed return to courts governed by righteous men.

It's time for the *Justice League* to arise. No, not a lineup of fictional superheroes. "Justice" is righteous judgment. And a "League" is a collection of people who collaborate, cooperate, align, and conspire for a particular purpose. Sure, keep shouting the truth for the few who will listen, but more importantly, become a people through whom Yahweh can administer *His Justice!*

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Psalms 94:15-23, 58:11, 125:3-5; I Corinthians 6:1-5; II Timothy 2:22-26, 3:12-17; I John 2:3-6, 2:29, 3:4-10; Genesis 4:6-7; Malachi 3:6-7, 16-18; Hebrews 5:12-14;

Isaiah 30:20-21, 5:20; Romans 14:16-18; Jeremiah 5:1-6;
Ephesians 6:10-12; Job 17:9; Deuteronomy 5:31-33;
Proverbs 4:18-27; Bonus: John 5:30, 41-47, 7:16-19,
8:42-47, 12:47-50, 14:10

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Explain in your own words what the Psalmist means by:

- A. “Justice will again be found in the courts, and all righteous people will support it.” (Psalms 94:15)
- B. “Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?” (Psalms 94:16)
- C. Suggestion: Look up Psalms 94:15-16 in at least five translations to appreciate it even more!
- D. “Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, have fellowship with Yahweh?” (Psalms 94:20)
- E. “Workers of iniquity gather together against the life of the righteous, and condemn innocent blood.” (Psalms 94:21)
- F. In what ways is Psalms 94:21 playing out today?
- G. Relate Deuteronomy 16:18-20 to Psalms 94:15-23.
- H. What does it mean to pervert justice and twist the words of the righteous?

2. Matters of controversy:

- A. If you have a matter to settle, go to a righteous man of God and He will tell you exactly what to do! Who is that? (See Deuteronomy 17:8-9)
- B. How were they supposed to judge the people?

3. What protocols were to be used in matters of controversy?

- A. Who made the final determination? How are you supposed to view their decision? (See Deuteronomy 17:10-11)
- B. Describe in your own words the significant warning for ignoring a ruling. (See Deuteronomy 17:12-13)
- C. How might you fit into this protocol as a mature Christian? (See I Corinthians 6:1-5)

4. How do you become a “man-of-God” worthy of “judge status” as indicated I Corinthians 6:1-5? Provide an answer for each category.

- A. Pursue righteousness (See II Timothy 2:22-26, 3:12-17)
- B. Practice righteousness (See I John 2:29, 3:7-10)
- C. Discern righteousness (See: Genesis 4:6-7; I John 3:4-5; Malachi 3:16-18; Psalms 125:3-5; Hebrews 5:12-14)
- D. Bonus: In your pursuit of righteousness, you will come up against wicked forces who wish to

pervert the truth. How so? (See: Isaiah 5:20; Romans 14:16-18)

5. With all the iniquity in the world...

- A. Why should you expect zero to limited results when dealing with man to restore justice? (See Jeremiah 5:1-6)
- B. Who then are we really fighting against? (See Ephesians 6:10-12)

6. What does it mean to...

- A. Walk in the ways of Yahweh? (See Deuteronomy 5:31-33)
- B. Not turn to the left or the right? (See: Proverbs 4:18-27; Isaiah 30:20-21)
- C. Walk just as Y'shua walked? (See I John 2:3-6)
- D. What is the reward for righteousness? (See: Psalms 58:11; Job 17:9)

7. Bonus section for going really deep! Malachi 3:6-7 teaches us that God does not change...

- A. Use the following scriptures from John's Gospel to compose a narrative in your own words proving that Y'shua walked and talked, knowing that His Father does not change. (See: John 5:30, 41-47, 7:16-19, 8:42-47, 12:47-50, 14:10)

WEEK 44: PROPHETIC IMPLICATIONS

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

- The Levitate Marriage
- The Uriah Story
- Endless Genealogies
- Royal Bloodlines
- Heavenly Encounter
- See Related Devotion Week 30, My Redeemer Lives

SERMON RESOURCE: [Prophetic Implications](#)

What does it mean to be “duty bound?” And what does Yahweh do when one is not willing or aware of the need to fulfill that duty? I pray you realize there are no idle words in the Bible and every historical event has implications, well beyond the narrative itself. In other words, the history of what actually took place is important, but what it means prophetically is far more significant.

The best way to investigate what is the deeper message hidden in biblical narratives is to consider the Scriptures as a type of divine web of interconnections and revelations. For instance, in one area of Scripture Yahweh gives a command; in another we read a

seemingly unrelated historical account. Then, in yet a third area, He reveals the prophetic nature in which that command was fulfilled in that story. To appreciate it, you must become a student of the Scriptures.

And what is most fascinating is that when man is not willing to fulfill his commanded duty, or not even aware of it, Yahweh steps in and makes it happen. He simply will not be denied. Good thing for us, as you will certainly see shortly!

And could we agree on one final point? If we can weave together a few fibers of this divine tapestry, might we then become more useful in bringing the Kingdom to earth? We can do so by recognizing the prophetic significance of God's Laws. Let me defer to the words of Y'shua to describe what I'm saying; "Every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old." Now, if a scribe, who by definition is a legal expert in the Scriptures, or in other words, a biblical Lawyer, needs to be "instructed concerning the kingdom", what about you?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Revelation 3:5; Numbers 1:2, 16-18; I Samuel 11-12; Matthew 1:1-6, 13:51-52, 22:29; Psalms 51:1-19; I Timothy 1:3-8; Galatians 3:15-18, 26-29; I Peter 2:9-10; Romans 8:18, 10:9-13; Genesis 2:16-17, 5:5; I Corinthians 15:35-54

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Describe in detail the Law of the Levirate marriage. (See Deuteronomy 25:5-10)**
 - A. What is done to a man who refuses to fulfill his biblical duty.
 - B. How might Revelation 3:5 relate to the Law of the Levirate marriage?
- 2. Samuel dedicates two entire chapters to the narrative about David, Bathsheba and Uriah: (See I Samuel 11-12)**
 - A. How do we know King David is at the wrong place at the wrong time? (See II Samuel 11:1-5)
 - B. Describe what David does in an attempt to cover up his sin? (See II Samuel 11:6-17)
 - C. What are the consequences of his and Bathsheba's actions? (See II Samuel 12:10-15, 12:15-23)
 - D. How does Yahweh view the birth of Solomon? (See II Samuel 12:24-25)
 - E. What does Psalms 51:1-19 tell you about David's ultimate outlook on the events of his life as recorded in I Samuel 11-12?
- 3. Matthew intentionally begins his Gospel with the genealogy of Y'shua: (See Matthew 1:1-6)**

- A. What best demonstrates God’s insistence on fulfilling the Law of the Levirate Marriage? (Hint: Matthew 1:6; II Samuel 12:9)
- 4. The first census of Israel:**
- A. Why is it significant that the ancestry of each family is recited according to the father’s house? (See Numbers 1:2, 16-18)
- 5. Distinguish the warning against heeding talk of endless genealogies in I Timothy 1:3-7 from the importance of properly recognizing bloodlines. How does this relate to:**
- A. Timothy’s clarification in the next verse? (see I Timothy 1:8)
- B. Y’shua’s admonition in Matthew 22:29?
- C. ...all believers being “sons of God and Abraham’s seed?” (See Galatians 3:15-18, 26-29) Bonus: How is Uriah, the Hittite, Abraham’s seed, and heir according to the promise?
- D. ...all believers being a “chosen generation?” (See I Peter 2:9-10)
- E. ...there being “no distinction between Jew and Greek?” (See Romans 10:9-13)
- 6. Describe why it was to our ultimate advantage that Adam sinned?**
- A. What type of body would Adam have had, and us by extension, had he not sinned? (See Genesis 2:16-17, 5:5)

- B. What type of body will we have into eternity because Adam did sin? (See. I Corinthians 15:35-54)

7. Contemplate what a heavenly encounter between David and Uriah would look like.

- A. Would Uriah curse David and call him a lying, adulterous murderer, or would he thank David?
- B. Hints: First, think like a scribe instructed in the kingdom (Matthew 13:51-52). Next, consider Romans 8:18, then reread Deuteronomy 25:5-6, Revelation 3:5 and Matthew 1:6.
- C. Explain the reasoning for your answer!

WEEK 45: SELF-INFLICTED WOUNDS

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8

- One Common Denominator
- Curses and Current Events
- Prophetic Warnings
- The Fate of Counterfeits
- Pick a Side

SERMON RESOURCE: [Self-Inflicted Wounds](#)

Do you honestly think you will get away with that? You could ask this of anyone who is openly, or even unknowingly, mocking Yahweh's truth and justice. If you further inquired about their beliefs and practices, I bet you would sense one or more of these sentiments in a majority of them:

- They don't consider God because they don't even believe He exists.
- They openly deny Yahweh in favor of some false god.
- They don't consider God because what is perceived as beneficial today far outweighs the unknown consequences of tomorrow.
- They do consider a god, but they are completely deceived; they worship a false god, while believing they serve Yahweh.

- They do consider a god, but for expedience, they have changed who He is to fit their own beliefs.

What we are seeing today, in many instances, are those who proclaim to follow Jesus, while they simultaneously violate so many of His teachings. And worse yet, they actually believe they will escape His judgment.

As the psalmist warns, “Yahweh laughs at the wicked, for He sees that his day is coming; their own sword shall enter their heart.” Oftentimes, that “sword” consists of the very people and institutions who once supported the mocker. In other words, the deceived person carries on unhindered, and then one day the very people who partnered with them and shared in their blasphemy, turn on them!

I like to say it like this; “Satan has no allegiance to those who worship him. He will chew them up and spit them out once they are no longer effective for him.” Well, look no further than the current events of today and you will witness the destruction coming upon those who mock God, by their own swords. Their usefulness for Satan has run its course and Yahweh is laughing.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Ephesians 2:8-10; Habakkuk 2:5-17; Amos 5; Psalm 37; Matthew 5:17-20, 7:13-27, 13:24-30; Isaiah 59:1-19, 60:1-18; I Timothy 4:1-2

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**1. Yahweh proclaimed both that He would be Israel's God and that they would be His people.**

- A. What was the common requirement in both claims? (See Deuteronomy 26:16-19, 27:1, 8, 10)
- B. What would happen if the people would not confirm that requirement? (See Deuteronomy 28:15)
- C. What do you see in Ephesians 2:8-10 that appears consistent with these Deuteronomy scriptures?

2. Deuteronomy 28 is all about blessings and curses:

- A. Discuss how curses are being displayed, in the present day United States, in each of these verses: (See: Deuteronomy 27:19, 24-25, 28:20, 25, 28-29, 33, 43, 49-50, 63-64)
- B. Contemplate that there are 14 verses of blessings for obedience and 54 verses warning about curses for disobedience in Deuteronomy 28. Explain your thoughts.

3. Habakkuk 2:5-17 seems to be a prophetic warning regarding Deuteronomy 28:37:

- A. Describe in detail how this seems to play out in the modern geopolitical scene.

4. Both Amos 5 and Psalm 37 depict the fate of those who pervert Yahweh's justice: (Read both!)

- A. What does Amos 5 indicate will happen to those who think they got away with it? (Hint: Amos 5:12-24)
- B. What is the fate of the wicked according to Psalm 37? (Hint: Psalms 37:12-15)

5. God clearly hates counterfeits...

- A. Use the following scriptures to write a short essay describing how God views counterfeits. (See: Matthew 5:17-20, 7:15-27, 13:24-30)

6. Compare and contrast nations of darkness with nations of light. (See Isaiah 59:1-19, 60:1-18)

- A. How does this relate to the current times in which we live? (Help: I Timothy 4:1-2)
- B. What might Isaiah 60:14 mean today, in relationship to those who openly declare themselves as enemies of the church?
- C. We are told to pick a side. Use Matthew 7:13-14 to describe the two sides.

WEEK 46: CRITICAL ROOTS THEORY

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20

- One Root
- Israel and the Church
- No Loopholes

SERMON RESOURCE: [Critical Roots Theory](#)

There are a few perspectives that can explain ignorance of almost any matter. The first, and most obvious, is that you know what you don't know. The other, which is more insidious, is that you don't know what you don't know. So, as we launch into this devotion, pay attention, not only to what you are certain you don't know, but be on the lookout for things you didn't even know that you didn't know.

I called this devotion "Critical Roots Theory", obviously to play off the controversial Critical Race Theory. I would venture to say that regarding the latter, there might be some things you don't know that you don't know about it. It's much like the inflammatory movement called Black Lives Matter. That organization cares about many things, but about for which it is named, it has no authentic concern. Nevertheless, most people don't even know that, nor do they know that they don't know that.

And that leads us to our current topic at hand. You may not actually know the Hebrew roots of your faith, and you may not have even realized you don't know them. Moses looked forward and said it like this. "This covenant that was made between you and Yahweh, it's not just for you. It is also for everyone who will come after you." That's you! That's a powerful idea. And Y'shua made a similar promise at His last meal before He was betrayed and crucified. "My prayers today are for all these men sitting before Me, as well as everyone else who will ever come to faith in the future because of what they are about to bring into the world." That's you!

There is an unbroken link between Christians today, and those who came before us, all the way back to Abraham. Paul even told the Corinthians that all of their forefathers passed through the sea, even though they were clearly of Greek origin and not Hebrews. What connected them? And why is it appropriate to say we are all from the same root? Did you even know we were; or better yet, did you even know that you didn't know how critical it was that you should know? And more so, what controversies have arisen over the centuries because of this ignorance? Hence, "Critical Roots Theory."

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

I Corinthians 10:1-4; John 17:20-21; Romans 9:6-8, 10:1-13, 11:1-36; Matthew 5:17-18, 7:13-14; Galatians 3:5-29; Ephesians 2:11-18; II Peter 2:4-6; Jeremiah 9:13-16, 16:12-13, 18:12-17

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Discuss your connection to those who came before you:**
 - A. Those who passed through the sea and wandered in the wilderness... (See I Corinthians 10:1-4)
 - B. Those with whom the covenant at Sinai was made... (See Deuteronomy 29:9-15)
 - C. Those who sat at the Last Supper table with Y'shua... (See John 17:20-21)
 - D. How does this make Romans 10:12-13 more understandable?
- 2. Explain using Y'shua's words in Matthew 5:17-18 how are you connected to the Law and the Prophets.**
 - A. If the Law is NOT abolished, then explain what it means that Y'shua came to fulfill the Law.
- 3. What does it mean that God had to blind Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in? (Read Romans 11)**

- A. Explain why Gentiles can become part of the covenant with Israel. (See Romans 11:11-15)
- B. What does it mean that you do not support the root, but the root supports you? (See Romans 11:16-18)
- C. Why does everyone need to be grafted in? (See Romans 11:19-24)
- D. Explain: They are not all Israel who are of Israel. (See Romans 11:25-27, 9:6-8)
- E. Relate the seed of Abraham to the Root! (See: Romans 9:6-8; Galatians 3:5-9, 16, 27-29)

4. Explain the following:

- A. You, as a Christian, were once aliens to the Commonwealth of Israel and the covenants of promise, but in Christ you are now part of them. (See Ephesians 2:11-13)
- B. Christ has abolished the enmity of the Law. (See Ephesians 2:14-18)
- C. Again: How does this make Romans 10:12-13 more understandable?

5. Explain why the following will cause a root bearing bitterness.

- A. I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart. (See Deuteronomy 29:16-20)

- B. What warnings were there in both Deuteronomy 29:21-23 and II Peter 2:4-6 if you decide to follow the dictates of your own heart?
 - C. Jeremiah writes extensively about following the dictates of your own heart. What is the outcome every time? (See: Jeremiah 9:13-16, 16:12-13, 18:12-17)
- 6. Bonus: For those who want to dive all the way in. Stop looking for loopholes!**
- A. Which gate has the loopholes? (See Matthew 7:13-14) Which will you walk through?
 - B. Moses teaches us that something happens when our hearts are circumcised (See Deuteronomy 30:6). The outcome is summarized in Deuteronomy 30:11-14. Compare that to Paul's teaching in Romans 10:6-8.
 - C. Moses says (Deuteronomy 30:14), "The word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it." Paul says (Romans 10:8), "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach)"
Relate obedience to God's commandments to what comes next in Romans 10:9 (the Sinner's Prayer).
 - D. Why is Paul preaching that message?
 - E. Paul makes the quintessential argument that your confession of faith, as a born-again Christian,

includes the declaration that “Yahweh’s Laws are in my heart to do them!” Why are so many Christians looking for loopholes to that message, instead of desiring to be radically obedient to God? Are you?

WEEK 47: INEXCUSABLE!

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 31:1-30

- Witnesses
- A Scroll and a Song
- No Excuses
- Ignorance is NOT Bliss

SERMON RESOURCE: [Inexcusable!](#)

A good friend once taught me that once you become good at making excuses, you will never become good at anything else—ever again! The Holy Scriptures are replete with warnings against straying from Yahweh’s ways. But, He is a gracious God who provides every resource for us to be successful. He doesn’t just mention His expectations and then leave us to figure it out. And He could never be accused of being vague. I mean, He literally repeats Himself over and over again, reiterating His requirements and expectations in so many different ways, as to speak to the hearts of every type of personality. I believe He does this so we are left with no viable excuse for why we disobey Him. “I didn’t know!” is not an option. “Ignorance of the law is no excuse,” was as true then as it is today. And to be certain, ignorance is NOT by any means bliss!

For sure, the people of Israel could have no excuse; Moses wrote down the law and it was read to every person every seven years. He also composed a song for the people to sing—so they would remember. Even the kings of Israel were required, each individually, to write a copy of the law for himself, in its entirety, and to read it all the days of his life. This was to insure he would neither become prideful nor stray from God’s commands. Neither the people nor the king have any excuse to disobey! What excuses are you making?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Deuteronomy 17:14-20, 19:15; Psalms 119; II Kings 22–23; I John 5:6-8; Hebrews 4:11-13, 10:26-31; II Corinthians 13:1-2; Isaiah 55:8-11, 59:12-13; Revelation 11:3-6, 12:17, 14:12; II Kings 1:9-12; I Kings 17:1-7; Exodus 7:14-21; Romans 1:18-25, 2:1-13, 3:5-8, 3:31, 5:20-21, 6:1-2; Mark 3:28-30; Ephesians 4:29-32; I John 5:16-17; Psalms 103:11-12; II Peter 1:9; Philippians 1:19-26

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. The Scriptures say, “by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.”**
 - A. What were the two witnesses in Deuteronomy 31:19-26 used to establish multi-generational accountability to Yahweh’s commands?

- 2. What were the two things required of each king of Israel regarding Yahweh's laws, as soon as he took the throne of his kingdom? (See Deuteronomy 17:14-20)**
- A. What were the three reasons he was required to do so?
 - B. What was King David's heart on the matter? (See Psalms 119:9-11)
 - C. King Josiah reinstates governing Israel according to the Torah after his high priest Hilkiah discovers the lost Torah Scrolls during the early stages of Temple renovation. What did he do in II Kings 23:1-3 that aligns with Deuteronomy 31:10-11?
 - D. Bonuses: King David wrote Psalm 119 extolling the virtues of Yahweh's laws. Read all 176 verses! Read the narrative of King Josiah's testimony in II Kings 22–23.
- 3. John mentions three witnesses: (See I John 5:6-8)**
- A. Name the three that bear witness in heaven and in earth.
 - B. Relate these witness to Deuteronomy 19:15; Hebrews 10:28; and II Corinthians 13:1-2.
- 4. Discuss what Isaiah means when he says "our sins testify against us." (See Isaiah 59:12-13)**
- A. Relate Isaiah's words to Deuteronomy 31:20-27
- 5. Discuss how we might conclude that the two witness of Revelation 11:3-6 are Elijah and Moses.**

- A. Hint: See Elijah in II Kings 1:9-12 and I Kings 17:1-7; and Moses in Exodus 7:14-21.
 - B. How might this relate to the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-3?
 - C. What are the two witnesses on Revelation 12:17, 14:12? How is this consistent with Deuteronomy 31:19-26?
- 6. In Romans 1:18-25, what specifically insures that no one has a viable excuse for rejecting Yahweh?**
- 7. How can we be sure that ignorance of God's laws, even being unaware of their existence, is not an acceptable excuse for disobeying them? (See Romans 2:1-13)**
- A. Explain what Paul means when he emphasizes that God's grace will never be an acceptable excuse for sin! (See Romans 3:5-8, 3:31, 5:20-21, 6:1-2)
- 8. Relate willful sin from Hebrews 10:26-31 to Mark 3:28-30, Ephesians 4:29-32, and then the sin that John instructs us not to pray about in I John 5:16-17.**
- A. How can you be assured that it is impossible to hide your sin from God? Explain your answer using Hebrews 4:11-13 and Isaiah 55:8-11.
- 9. Discuss the tragic results of going back to your old sins.**

- A. Discuss what it means that Yahweh has removed our transgressions as far as the east is from the west. (See Psalms 103:11-12)
- B. Why does Peter call it shortsighted to forget you were already cleansed from your past sins? (See II Peter 1:9)
- 10. Bonus: Relate Paul's words in Philippians 1:19-26 with Shakespeare's in Hamlet's famous soliloquy.**

*To be, or not to be, that is the question:
 Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
 The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
 Or to take arms against a sea of troubles
 And by opposing end them.
 To die—to sleep,
 No more; and by a sleep to say we end
 The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks
 That flesh is heir to: 'tis a consummation
 Devoutly to be wish'd.
 To die, to sleep;
 To sleep, perchance to dream—ay, there's the rub:
 For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,
 When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
 Must give us pause—there's the respect
 That makes calamity of so long life.*

WEEK 48: HULA-HOOPS & YO-YOS

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 32:1-52

- Gray is the Original Google
- New Arrivals
- Sold Out

SERMON RESOURCE: [Hula-Hoops & Yo-Yos](#)

Everybody's into it! Have you read...Did you know... You should see...We should go...You gotta hear...My entire church is doing it! If there is anything more cringeworthy than Christians getting carried away with the newest arrival to the Christian scene, I don't know what it is.

Have you noticed it? Walk into any popular, seeker-friendly church these days and you will see the same set-up: a dark theatre, flashing lights, smoke machines, popular sounds, and a lot of motivational talk in lieu of teaching the Bible. Leaving inspired by persuasive words takes precedent over God's wisdom. I call this "G-rated Entertainment." And no doubt, the louder the preacher and the more emotional his shouting, the more hypnotized his audience!

Outside the sanctuary there's an entire marketplace catering to the evangelical nature of "Christians". Why wouldn't you go after that segment of

consumer? They love to spread information. In the Church it's called evangelism, but in the marketplace they call it word-of-mouth advertising. You see it all the time. It's the latest Christian book, devotional, program, diet, prayer technique, Bible study, seminar, or itinerant preacher, maybe better called a traveling salesman. The newest arrival spreads like wildfire and predictably fades—those benefiting the most being the progenitors of the latest fad. Don't buy in!

Now, we can't move on until we address the obvious "elephant in the room!" You have in your hands (or device) a Christian book: a devotion, Bible study and discipleship journal. Is this one of those "new cringeworthy arrivals"? You tell me; you had to spend almost an entire year to get to this place in the book. Was it a passing fad that benefited the author, instead of you? Do you even know who the author is? I think we can safely say that your radical growth as a disciple makes the answer self-evident.

These fads are always short lived and produce nothing of any lasting value, neither here on earth nor in eternity. If everyone is "doing it," that in itself should be a red flag. Think of the amount of work this devotional required of you? Can you see "everyone" doing it? Of course there are valuable materials for Christians in the marketplace, only let your truth-meter be dialed in to spot the gimmicks. Unfortunately, conforming to the

ways of the world, cloaked behind a thin veneer of Christianity, is the sad direction the modern seeker-friendly Church has chosen. Don't conform; there's a more excellent way!

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Job 12:12-13; Leviticus 19:32; Proverbs 1:7, 4:5-7, 9:10, 10:8, 11:14, 13:10, 15:5, 22, 33, 16:31, 20:28-29, 22:15; Psalm 19:7; James 3:13, 4:1-3; Colossians 4:5-6; I Timothy 1:18-20; II Timothy 1:1-2; I Corinthians 2:1-16, 4:14-17; I John 2:15-17; I Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 7:24-29; II Corinthians 12:9-10

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Consider the elders of our society...

- A. According to the Scriptures, how are we supposed to view the gray-haired generation? (See: Deuteronomy 32:7, 28-29; Job 12:12-13; Leviticus 19:32; Proverbs 15:5, 16:31, 20:28-29)
- B. With that in mind, what might it mean that gray is the original Google?

2. Contrast a child-centric society from an elder-centric society.

- A. Compare elder-wisdom to the wisdom of a child. (See Proverbs 22:15)

- B. Why should we be seeking wise counsel? (See: Proverbs 10:8, 11:14, 13:10, 15:22)
- 3. Define wisdom according to the Bible. (See: Psalm 19:7; Proverbs 1:7, 4:5-7, 9:10, 15:33)**
- A. Discuss wisdom in action according to James 3:13 and Colossians 4:5-6
- 4. What does it mean to be or have a spiritual father? (See: I Timothy 1:18-20; II Timothy 1:1-2; I Corinthians 4:14-17)**
- A. Why does Paul teach that not many men qualify for spiritual fatherhood?
- 5. Why is it risky to buy into the latest Christian fad?**
- A. Discuss some of the more cringeworthy Christian fads that you have come across.
- B. How can we equate modern-day Christian fads to what Deuteronomy 32:16-18 calls, “new gods, new arrivals, and forgetting the God who fathered you?”
- C. How can the “world” creep into you faith? (See: I John 2:15-17; James 4:1-3)
- 6. How can you spot if you are being played?**
- A. How can you distinguish the fancy persuasive words of man from the power of God? (See I Corinthians 2:1-16)
- B. How should church elders act? (See I Peter 5:1-4)

- 7. Discuss the difference between being sold out for Yahweh or sold out by Yahweh. (See Deuteronomy 32:30-31)**
 - A. How do Moses' words about pagans, "For their rock is not like our Rock" relate to Y'shua as the Rock? (See Matthew 7:24-29)
- 8. What does it mean that "our strength is made perfect in weakness"? (See II Corinthians 12:9-10)**
- 9. List at least five benefits from our study when you choose to be "sold out FOR Yahweh."**
 - A. What is the profound difference between building your house on a rock and building your house on THE ROCK?

WEEK 49: SECOND CHANCES

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12

- A Second Chance to Enter
- God's Laws as a Heritage
- A King's Second Chance
- Your Second Chance
- A Love Letter to God's Children

SERMON RESOURCE: [Second Chances](#)

Everyone wants a second chance. The question is, what will you do with yours? The first time Israel arrived at the shore of the Jordan, one year after they left Egypt, they made horrible choices. The second time, 39 years later, they were given a second chance. As they prepared to enter, Moses reminded them that they have the words and laws of their Heavenly Father as a heritage.

Many years later we see King Hezekiah, who also gets a second chance in life. He knows the reason is so he can make the truth of His Heavenly Father known to the children. You are the child of God with the heritage of Yahweh's words, His laws, and His truths, and you were given a second chance. What will you do with it?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Numbers 3:8, 13:26-33, 14:6-10, 14:20-35; Genesis 6:3; 41:38-52; Isaiah 38:1-20; 1 John 1-5; Romans 6:1-23, 8:12-19

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Discuss the circumstances leading up to Israel's first opportunity to cross into the Promised Land:

- A. What was the bad report? (See Numbers 13:26-33)
- B. What was the good report? (See Numbers 14:6-10)
- C. What were the consequences for those who brought the bad report and for those who believed it? (See Numbers 14:20-35)
- D. What was the blessing for Joshua and Caleb for bringing the good report?

2. Forty years after the Exodus Israel had a second chance to cross into the Promised Land:

- A. What does Moses do as the day approaches to cross over? (See Deuteronomy 33:1-5) What is its ultimate pronouncement? (See Deuteronomy 33:28-29)
- B. What is Moses reminded of on the mountain on which he is about to die? (See Deuteronomy 34:4)

- C. What is interesting about the state of Moses' health when he dies? (See Deuteronomy 34:7)
 - D. What is fascinating about Moses' age when he dies? (See Genesis 6:3)
- 3. Joshua and Joseph (the 11th son of Jacob) have some things in common:**
- A. What family line do they share? (Hint: See Genesis 41:50-52; Numbers 3:8)
 - B. What important character trait do they share? (Hint: Genesis 41:38-41; Deuteronomy 34:9)
- 4. In Deuteronomy 33:3-4, Moses reminds the people that they have received Yahweh's words (laws) as a heritage:**
- A. Compare Moses' declaration with what King Hezekiah declared in Isaiah 38:19, after Yahweh gave him a second chance, and answered his prayers to rescue him from a life cut short.
 - B. Read Isaiah 38:1-20 to get a full scope of King Hezekiah's circumstances. Describe in your own words his situation; his prayer; God's supernatural sign; and the words and sentiments of a man given a second chance.
 - C. Pray and meditate on verse 19. Then rewrite that verse in your own words.
 - D. Describe how you were given a second chance and what you will do with it!

5. Bonus: Read 1 John 1-5.

- A. Who is John addressing? (I John 2:1-2)
- B. What are his instructions? (I John 2:3-6)
- C. What are the different maturity levels of his audience? (I John 2:12-14)
- D. What is his warning? (I John 2:15-17)
- E. What does he warn us about the enemy and what will guard us from deception? (I John 2:18-23)
- F. What is available to us because we abide in the anointing of God? (I John 2:24-27)
- G. What do we learn about our responsibility regarding righteousness? (I John 2:28-29; also I John 3:7 and I John 3:10)
- H. What does he reveal to us about what is coming? (I John 3:1-3; see also Romans 8:12-19)
- I. What do we learn about sin that is exactly like what we've heard from Moses? (I John 3:4-6)
- J. What do we learn about our ability to overcome our propensity to sin? (I John 3:7-9; see also Romans 6:1-23)
- K. What is revealed about any thoughts that we are free to sin and still claim we are a children of God? (I John 3:7-9)
- L. What can we expect for our obedience? (I John 3:18-22)
- M. What is the value of obedience? (I John 3:24)

- N. What do we learn about overcoming and the spirit of truth and the spirit of error? (I John 4:4-6)
- O. How do we know we are the children of God? (I John 5:1-3)
- P. How are we protected from the wicked one? (I John 5:18-21)
- Q. How does his letter seemingly fulfill the words of Moses in Deuteronomy 33:3-4 and the words of Hezekiah in Isaiah 38:19?

SECTION SIX: PROPHETIC CALENDAR

BONUS: THE FEASTS OF YAHWEH

Throughout the ancient Torah reading cycle that we followed to format this devotional, there would normally be weeks in which we would divert from the regular reading schedule to give our attention to the Biblical Feasts that are celebrated in the Spring, Summer and Fall. In the Spring we have Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits. In the Summer we have Pentecost. And in the Fall we have Trumpets, Yom Kippur and Tabernacles. It is a worthy separate study for you to explore the Feasts, how they actually represent God's calendar, and their immense prophetic significance. Visit the [Feasts of Yahweh](#) section of our website for teachings about the the Feasts of the Lord.

For our purposes and to keep continuity as you worked your way from Genesis through Deuteronomy, we decided to save the Feast portions to the end. The annual Torah cycle is not the same every year for a number of reasons that we will not explore here. Some years in God's reckoning of time there is a thirteenth month added to the calendar. To create a 52-week devotional, we used the Torah reading schedule, for the year, without the Feasts portions inserted, which was 49 weeks. Then we added three Feast devotions at the end.

WEEK 50: WHERE IT ALL BEGINS...

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 10:1-13:16

- The Preparation Day
- And then the END will come
- The Revealing of Sons
- The Restoration of All things
- The Gospel of the Kingdom

SERMON RESOURCE: [Passover—Where it all Begins...](#)

Over the years, I have learned that asking questions is the most powerful way to engage someone's mind. When I was younger, and much more impetuous, I thought riddling people with a machine gun full of information would be the way to convince them of my argument. But, as I've grown older, and my hair has become filled with silver, I've come to realize there's a much better way.

“Who do men say that I am?” was one of those provocative questions, as Y'shua challenged Peter to come to a conclusion. “The Son of God...the Messiah,” he was forced to conclude. “Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but by the Spirit,” Y'shua offered in return. It's a classic and a lesson for us all. Let's try this on you.

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” Y’shua declared. My questions are these. “What is the Gospel of the Kingdom?” and “What is the end?” Don’t be too quick to answer please. Give it some serious thought. Consider that I’d not likely be asking if the answer was so simple. And lastly, consider the subject matter of this sermon and—think Passover.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

John 13-17, 3:16-17, 19:19-37; Matthew 17:1-13, 22:29, 24:13-14, 24:45-51, 26:17-19, 26:27-29; Mark 14:12-15; Luke 22:9-13; Exodus 6:6-7, 14:27-30; Colossians 1:15-18; Romans 8:16-29; Psalms 89:26-27; Revelation 1:5; Hebrews 12:18-24; Ephesians 4:13 Acts 3:17-23; Genesis 41:37-44; Ezekiel 29:9-16

REFERENCE NOTES: UPPER ROOM DISCOURSE (JOHN 13-17)

(1) Preparation...

- (a) Matthew, Mark, and Luke all mention the preparation for Passover! But, only John tells us what that preparation look like.
- (b) The last supper meal is the preparation for Passover. In all three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) we see these entries:
 - 1. Break Bread
 - 2. Pour Wine

3. Mention the Kingdom
 4. Mention a betrayer
 5. Peter's denial
 6. And then they leave for Gethsemane
- (c) Yet they each record very few details of the PREPARATION SERMON we read in the Upper Room Discourse found in John 13-17!
- (2) John 13
- (a) Y'shua knew it was time and washes His disciples' feet. (13:1-17)
 - (b) His betrayer identified. (John 13:18-30)
 - (c) A new commandment—love like I loved. (John 13:31-35)
 - (d) Peter's predicted denial. (John 13:36-38)
- (3) John 14
- (a) I am the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:1-6)
 - (b) If you know Me you know My Father; I don't speak on My own authority. (John 14:7-11)
 - (c) Greater works you will do and anything you ask in My name you will have. (John 14:12-14)
 - (d) The Promised Helper will come; the Spirit of truth. (John 14:15-18)
 - (e) If you love Me, keep My commandments. (John 14:15)
 - (f) If you love Me you'll keep My words, which are really the Father's words, and My Father will love you. (John 14:19-24)

- (g) The promise of peace and the Helper Holy Spirit will teach you all things, even as the ruler of this world comes who has nothing to do with Me. (John 14:25-31)
- (4) John 15
 - (a) Abide in Me, I am the true vine. (John 15:9-17)
 - 1. Love and Joy Perfected.
 - 2. Keep His commands. This how you abide in His Love.
 - 3. Greater Love—lay down your life.
 - 4. We are now friends.
 - (b) I chose you to bear much fruit. (John 15:1-8)
 - (c) The World's Hatred: they hated Me; they will hate you. (John 15:18-25)
 - (d) The Spirit bears witness—you will bear witness. (John 15:26-27)
- (5) John 16
 - (a) The coming persecution—so you recognize it when it comes. (John 16:1-4)
 - (b) The work of the Holy Spirit; to guide you into all truth. (John 16:5-15)
 - (c) Sorrow will turn to joy. (John 16:16-24)
 - (d) The Messiah has overcome the world. (John 16:25-33)
- (6) John 17 (the Prayers)
 - (a) Y'shua for Himself—O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself... (John 17:1-5)

(b) Y'shua for His disciples! (John 17:6-19)

1. I pray for them, not the world.
2. I've lost none except the son of perdition.
3. They are not of the world as I am not of the world.
4. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

(c) Y'shua for all believers! (John 17:20-26)

1. I do not only pray for my disciples, but for all those who will believe because of them.
2. They may be perfect in one as We are one.
3. That they may have glory like Mine.
4. That they may be with Me.
5. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

(7) Kingdom Alls—Prophetic Passover Promises
declared in the Upper Room Discourse:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| (a) All Knowledge | (h) All Joy |
| (b) All Servanthood | (i) All Peace |
| (c) All Truth | (j) All Promises |
| (d) All Power | (k) All Requests |
| (e) All Authority | (l) All Unity |
| (f) All Love | (m) All Perfection |
| (g) All Obedience | (n) All Glory |

REFERENCE NOTES: THE FATE OF FIRSTBORNS AND NON-FIRSTBORNS

- (1) The Story of Two Firstborns:
 - (a) Firstborns who applied the blood and lived: They had faith to believe and applied the blood of the lamb to live. (faith + blood = temporal salvation and eternal redemption)
 - (b) Firstborns who did not apply the blood and died: They had no faith to believe and did not apply the blood of the lamb to live. (no faith + no blood = temporal and eternal damnation)
- (2) I'm not a firstborn. I was never at risk; what about me? A mixed multitude left Egypt with Israel.
 - (a) Non-firstborns who came out of Egypt with Israel and lived: They had faith to believe, but did not require the blood of the lamb. (faith + no blood = temporal salvation but no eternal redemption)
 - (b) Non-firstborns who stayed Egypt and died: They did not have the faith to believe and no blood of the lamb (no faith + no blood = temporal and eternal damnation)
- (3) As you can see there are three potential destinies.
 - (a) faith + blood = temporal salvation and eternal redemption
 - (b) faith + no blood = temporal salvation but no eternal redemption
 - (c) no faith + no blood = temporal and eternal damnation

Questions & Discussion

1. **Contemplate the Upper Room Discourse from John 13-17:**

- A. In Matthew, Mark and Luke the narrative is that the disciples are asked to go make preparations for the Passover (See: Matthew 26:17-19; Mark 14:12-15; Luke 22:9-13). John's Gospel does not mention the preparation, because it is the preparation!Why?? (See Reference Notes for Upper Room Discourse)
- B. Why is the Last Supper NOT the Passover meal? (See John 19:17-31)
- C. Who was being addressed at the table? (See John 17:20-26)
- D. What was being promised? (Read John 13-17 and review Reference Notes)

2. **There are four cups of wine shared at the traditional Passover table modeled after the four time God says "I will" in Exodus 6:6-7. In order they are the: Cup of Sanctification; Cup of Judgment; Cup of Redemption; and Cup of the Kingdom.**

- A. Which cup of wine was shared by Y'shua at the Last Supper? Which cup was withheld, and why? (See Matthew 26:27-29)

- 3. Even with the little you've just learned about Passover, why might the Feasts of Yahweh be relevant to Christians today?**
 - A. How will knowing them help you better understand the New Testament writings?
(Consider Matthew 22:29 and John 19:36-37 in your answer.)
- 4. The warning to firstborns in Egypt can be seen in Exodus 11:4-5 and 12:12-30.**
 - A. Who was at risk of dying?
 - B. Who was not at risk of dying?
 - C. Contemplate and journal about the possibility of three potential destinies: (See Reference Notes for Firstborns)
- 5. The concept of firstborns is ubiquitous in Scripture:**
 - A. Discuss Y'shua as firstborn: (See: John 3:16-17; Colossians 1:15-18; Romans 8:29; Psalms 89:26-27; Revelation 1:5)
 - B. Discuss the Church of the firstborn: (See: Hebrews 12:18-24; Romans 8:16-17; Ephesians 4:13)
 - C. After all you have learned about Passover revealing true firstborn sons, contemplate and journal how Romans 8:18-22 is referring to Passover.

6. Now consider Romans 8:18-22 again and add Matthew 17:1-13 and Acts 3:17-23...

- A. How does the restoration of all things relate to Elijah
- B. How does the revealing of the sons of God relate to Elijah?
- C. How does the revealing of the sons of God relate to the restoration of all things?

7. Relate the Gospel of the Kingdom and the End to Passover. (See Matthew 24:13-14)

- A. Why is Passover considered the end? (Hint: Consider the prophetic view of what the first Passover did to Egypt immediately (Exodus 14:27-30) and permanently Ezekiel 29:9-16).
- B. Describe how preparation relates to the wise and faithful servant. (See Matthew 24:45-51; Genesis 41:37-44)

WEEK 51: ONE ACCORD IN ONE PLACE

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 19:1-20:23

- Doctrine is Important
- The Day of Pentecost
- Prophetic Ignorance
- Former and Latter Rain
- New Testament Feast Keepers

SERMON RESOURCE: [One Accord in One Place!](#)

Why are so many of God’s children perfectly content to celebrate Hallmark holidays and, with complete dedication, willing to commemorate pagan man-made traditions, while completely ignoring the Biblical Festivals gifted to us and commended to keep by Yahweh? In this devotion we will explore the relevance and magnificent imagery of Pentecost. It would seem that while we live in a world inundated with lies and wrapped in chaos, the Church has bowed to a lower authority.

Have church leaders been deceived because they are prophetically ignorant and untrained about the times and seasons? And how has this evolved into other and increasingly bad doctrines? Paul strongly urged Timothy to stay behind to handle “church affairs” in the prominent Greek city of Ephesus. Keep the doctrine

pure and unadulterated, he insisted! Paul had planted a church in this most important trading center in the Mediterranean region, and he was certainly concerned that pagan Greek influence could shipwreck the burgeoning church plant.

Fast forward into the present day and might I admonish you in the same way? I strongly urge you to pay close attention to church affairs and that you don't stray from purity in your doctrine. The complication, I fear however, is that this warning comes too late. The modern-day church has already suffered inculturation. Pagan influences are endemic in the church, so much so that what would have, in the past, been considered an abomination, has become status-quo. Let's try to restore a bit of sobriety in a church that seems drunk on cultural acceptance, bent on political correctness, and intent on "Can't we all just get along?". Let's take a deep dive into the Festival of Truth and Spirit.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

I Timothy 1:3, 18-20; II Timothy 3:14-17; Acts 2:1-47, 17:11, 20:16; Leviticus 23:15-21; Deuteronomy 16:16; I Thessalonians 5:1-6; Luke 12:54-56; Colossians 2:16-17; Joel 2:1-32; II Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14; John 7:1-19

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Let's rewind and review the excellent precedent set by the Apostle Paul, as he instructs his spiritual son Timothy on how to handle church affairs...**
 - A. What does he tell him to stay in Ephesus to do?
(See I Timothy 1:3, 18-20)
 - B. What does he warn Timothy will happen to those who reject it?
 - C. Why is knowing the Word of God so important?
(See II Timothy 3:14-17)
- 2. In Acts 2, was it Pentecost because the Holy Spirit fell on mankind, or did the Holy Spirit fall on mankind because it was Pentecost?**
 - A. You must take some time here to integrate a number of scriptures to really appreciate what was going on in the first century and to correctly answer this question.
 - B. This is the commandment to count 50 days from the feast of First Fruits, which would put us in the third month of the biblical year. Note: Pentecost means fiftieth! (See Leviticus 23:15-21)
 - C. This is when Israel arrived at Mount Sinai in the third month after the Exodus. (Exodus 19:1-2)
 - D. This is when Israel was told to prepared themselves because God was coming down for a visit! (See Exodus 19:10-11)

- E. This is what it was like when He came down.
(See Exodus 19:16 right before the Ten Commandments, and Exodus 20:18-19 right after the Ten Commandments.)
- F. This is what happened in the first century. Can you connect the dots!?! (See Acts 2:1-5)
- G. This why “there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.” (See Deuteronomy 16:16)
- H. Now, in your own words, describe the prophetic timing of Pentecost; why it happened on that precise day in the first century; and why all those people were there. Was it Pentecost because the Holy Spirit fell on mankind, or did the Holy Spirit fall on mankind because it was Pentecost?
- I. Prophetic Insight: The Commandments of God were given (codified) and the Holy Spirit was given on the same Festival!

3. The modern church has become quite ignorant of understanding the prophetic value of the Biblical Feasts...

- A. How might Paul’s words in I Thessalonians 5:1-6 and Y’shua’s words in Luke 12:54-56 relate to modern-church ignorance of how the Feasts point to times and seasons and God’s prophetic timeline.

- B. Considering what you have learned, why would Paul say that the Feasts are shadows of things to come? (See Colossians 2:16-17)
- 4. In Acts 2:14-21, Peter taught from Joel’s prophecy. (See Joel 2:28-32)**
- A. **Note:** it was common practice in the first century for teachers to make incomplete references to Scripture, with the expectation that their students would either, already know what surrounded that reference, or would search it out. Y’shua and Paul did this so often that it is safe to say you can not grasp the fullness of what they were teaching if you are ignorant of this fact. This is precisely why the Bereans “received the word of Paul with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find if what he was saying is true.” (Acts 17:11)
 - B. Read Joel 2:1-27, the verses preceding Peter’s reference! What is curious about Joel’s prophecy regarding the former rain and latter rain, and how might it relate to the events of Pentecost in the first century?
- 5. Joel 2:23 states, “He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you—the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.”**

- A. How might what took place in the first century be a fulfillment of the Former Rain, but not the Latter Rain?
- B. How might this relate to the idea that the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost as a deposit on the rest that is still coming? (See: II Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14)
- C. If this is true, what should we be looking forward to today?

6. What did Paul do during his mission trip in Acts 20:16, as it relates to the command to go to Jerusalem for Pentecost?

- A. In John 7:1-19, even when Y'shua knew his life was in danger, at a time when He also knew that His "time had not come yet", He made sure He was in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. Why do you think that He did that?
- B. How might both Paul's and Y'shua's insistence on keeping the Feasts relate to Deuteronomy 16:16?
- C. What should this indicate to you relative to the importance of Christians practicing the Feasts of Yahweh?

WEEK 52: SHADOW OF THINGS TO COME

SCRIPTURE READING: Leviticus 16:1-34, 23:26-32

- The Feasts and Y'shua
- Our Common Fathers
- Our High Priest
- Shadows and Patterns
- Two Sacrifices

SERMON RESOURCE: [Yom Kippur: Shadow of Things to Come](#)

Once and for all means once and for all, doesn't it? If there is one Feast of Yahweh, more than any other, that Christians believe no longer has any relevance for them, it has to be Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. "The blood of Christ has paid for our sins past, present, and future. So, why do I need to pay attention to a holiday that foreshadowed the sacrifice needed to cover the sins of the world, when that sacrifice is already finished?"

It's a worthy question and one worth exploring, especially in light of the following scriptures, which are very difficult to explain for those who hold to such a belief system. They were written decades AFTER the

death, burial and resurrection of Christ, so to simply dismiss this Feast, or any other for that matter, seems a bit premature. Or, might I say immature? Let me say it again before you read them. These Scriptures were written decades AFTER the resurrection!

“The Feasts of the Lord are shadows of things to come.”

“Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come.”

“The Law, has shadows of the good things to come.”

The Feasts, the High Priest, and the Law, all cast shadows of good things yet to come. Hadn't they already come? How is it remotely possible they hadn't, decades after Christ's death, burial and resurrection? These are mysteries worth exploring, essential to unlock. They hold secrets with discoveries relevant to every Christian serious about discipleship and the future of their faith. And it is precisely why the Feasts of the Lord are commanded to be practiced each year, so those hidden secrets can be discovered.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS:

I Corinthians 10:1-13, 15:3, 31; Ephesians 1:7-14, 2:11-13, 4:7-10, 5:25; Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 6:19-20, 7:14-17, 8:1-5, 9:6-28, 10:1-22; Exodus 25:9, 40, 26:30; Revelation 5:5, 6:9-11; Numbers 18:6-7; I John 2:1-2; I Peter 2:24; II Corinthians 5:21; Matthew 5:48, 16:24, 27:46-53; Romans 6:5-6; 12:1; John 15:13; Galatians 2:20-21; Luke 14:27; Isaiah 53:3-7

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Discuss the relationship between the Feasts of Yahweh and the ministry of Y'shua?

- A. Why can Paul address Christians, with a Greek heritage in I Corinthians 10:1-13, as if they are all also related to his Israeli ancestors who made the exodus from Egypt, crossed the Red Sea, drank water from a rock, ate manna, and followed the clouds and fire in the wilderness?
- B. Is it possible for Christians to still be Gentiles in light of Ephesians 2:11-13?
- C. What does it mean that the Feasts of the Lord are shadows of things to come? (See Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 9:11, 10:1)
- D. Why was Yahweh adamant that Moses build all things according to the pattern shown him on the mountain? (See: Exodus 25:9, 40, 26:30; Hebrews 8:1-5)

2. Consider the following: (Hebrews 7:14-17; 8:1-5; 9:6-12; Revelation 5:5; Numbers 18:6-7; Leviticus 16:2)

- A. Compare and contrast Y'shua and Aaron as the High Priests.
- B. Discuss the family line of the priesthood (Levi vs. Judah).

- C. Describe what it takes to enter beyond the veil (for Aaron, Y'shua, You).
 - D. Talk about the sacrifice for the sins of the priest (for Aaron, Y'shua, You).
 - E. Who makes the sacrifice for the sins of the people in each case?
- 3. These are quite difficult concepts to grasp. Please do not be discouraged by their complexity. It will come into focus over time. Read the following scriptures in order, maybe even two or three times...(See: Hebrews 8:1-5, 9:6-12, 9:23-28, 10:1-4, 10:11-14, 10:19-22)**
- A. Who is our High Priest?
 - B. Why did He need to make an offering?
 - C. What sacrifices were required of the High Priest of the Levitical priesthood?
 - D. What sacrifice did our High Priest require?
 - E. Which is the copy and which is the real?
 - F. Why was it necessary that the copy be a perfect replica?
- 4. In Hebrews 9:25-28 it shows who Christ's sacrifice was for. He made one sacrifice for the sins of "many" and He will appear again, "apart from sin." Then in Hebrews 10:1-4 it says, "worshippers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins."**
- A. Who are those worshippers?

- B. What does it mean to have no more consciousness of sins?
 - C. What does it mean in Hebrews 10:11-14 that “He sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool?”
 - D. Who makes His enemies His footstool?
 - E. What does it mean in Hebrews 10:19-22 that we now have the duty to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus? (Hint: the Holy of Holies was behind the veil.)
 - F. Do we then have priestly duties as such?
 - G. If the sacrifice of Christ covers us, as the “new priesthood,” is there another sacrifice needed for the sins of the world?
- 5. Yom Kippur requires two sacrifices, one for the High Priest, so he could be cleansed of sin and then enabled to enter the Holy of Holies to then make the second sacrifice for the sins of the people. It should be crystal clear by now that Y’shua did NOT need to make the sacrifice for the sins of the priest.**
- A. What sacrifice then does Y’shua fulfill for Yom Kippur? (See: I John 2:1-2; Ephesians 1:7-14; I Peter 2:24; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21)
 - B. Bonus: Consider the Scapegoat (See: Leviticus 16:5-10, 21-22). How is Y’shua our scapegoat?

(See: Isaiah 53:3-7; Ephesians 4:7-10; Matthew 27:46)

6. If Christ was only one of the sacrifices needed on Yom Kippur, and He did so to tear the veil so we can enter as “High Priests” (Read Matthew 27:50-53; Hebrews 6:19-20, 10:19-22)...

- A. What future role might the Church play as a sacrifice for the sins of the world? (See: Matthew 5:48; Hebrews 10:2; Romans 6:5-6; 12:1; John 15:13; Ephesians 5:25; Take special note of Revelation 6:9-11)
- B. What does your sacrifice look like? (See: I Corinthians 15:31; Galatians 2:20-21; Matthew 16:24; Luke 14:27)

CLOSING SALUTATION

*“The living, the living man, he shall
praise You, as I do this day; The
father shall make known Your truth
to the children.” Isaiah 38:19*

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***“So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”
Luke 14:33***