



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Numbers 25:10-29:40
- Revelation 2:12-16; 3:15-16
- II Samuel 7:1-29
- Ezra 7:1-28
- Psalms 106:28-31
- Romans 10:1-13
- Leviticus 18:1-5
- Deut. 30:11-20; 34:9-12
- Genesis 1:27-28
- Ephesians 2:19-22

ZEALOUS WITH YAHWEH'S RIGHTEOUSNESS !

- The Covenant of Peace
- Righteous Zealousness
- Prophetic Fruit
- Ezra—the covenant of peace
- Ignorance of Righteousness
- The Righteousness of the law
- The Righteousness of Faith
- The Separation of Powers
- Some Authority

There is nothing wrong with being zealous. As a matter of fact, it seems that Yahweh prefers passion over neutral. "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth." (Revelation 3:15-16) The problems start when what fuels your zeal is your own righteousness rather than the righteousness of God. And sometimes the line

between the two can get pretty blurry. Join us and learn to discern the difference. Those who can draw a clear line become very powerful tools for the Kingdom.

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, **because he was zealous with My zeal** among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel **in My zeal**. Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him **My covenant of peace**; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because **he was zealous for his God**, and made atonement for the children of Israel.’ ”” Numbers 25:10-13 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness **that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge**. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and **seeking to establish their own righteousness**, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.” Romans 10:1-3 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. In this Torah portion, Yahweh makes a covenant of peace with Phinehas and his descendants, orders a second census, settles questions about inheritance, appoints Joshua to succeed Moses and lists the sacrifices for the appointed times (Feast of Yahweh).
2. **A Leader Turned Righteous:** As we review the final verses of last week's portion, we see Phinehas, Eleazar's son, in an act of righteous anger, driving a javelin through a man of Israel and his Midianite harlot at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.
3. Even after Yahweh's repeated demands that the people trust Him and stop complaining, plus the multiple testimonies and warnings that rebellious behavior invites severe consequences, still the men of Israel hook up with pagan gods and pagan women. *(For your reading pleasure, visit Psalm 106 to get a quick summary of Israel's propensity to disobey and complain, be punished, repent, be forgiven, and then REPEAT!)*
4. **Meditate on this:** The people just witnessed Korah and his rebellion, how the earth swallowed up Korah and his buddies Dathan and Abiram, their entire households and all their belongings, and then how Yahweh literally incinerated the 250 leaders who hopped on the Korah bandwagon.

5. Then they saw Moses make a grave error, and how harshly both he and Aaron were punished for it (they will not see the promised land). The people, yet again, complained after that, even calling Yahweh's supernatural provision, "worthless", and are punished with poison snakes until Moses intercedes. And now they decide that prostituting themselves with foreign woman and sacrificing to, and bowing down to Baal is a good idea! (Note coming soon we see it was Balaam who instigated this behavior: *"Look, these women caused the children of Israel, **through the counsel of Balaam**, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD."* Numbers 31:16)
6. Yahweh tells Moses to take all the leaders of this latest abomination and to **hang them in public**, and it is not until Phinehas turns one lucky couple into a shish-kabob that the latest "plague" ends, but only after twenty-four thousand are dead.
7. Phinehas has turned back Yahweh's wrath because he was zealous with the zeal of Yahweh. **Yahweh makes a covenant of peace with him because he was zealous for his God**, and made atonement for the children of Israel. Numbers 25:12-13 (see Romans 10:1-3)

8. Yahweh tells Moses to “Harass the Midianites, and attack them; for they harassed you with their schemes (seducing Israel with their gods and women).”
9. **Numbers 26 recounts the Second Census:** And again as in the first census 40 years earlier, first they are to count the tribes, other than Levi. Moses and Eleazar are told to count all the males in each tribe, twenty and over.
10. These are the numbers by tribe (current census / first census)
 - (1) The sons of Reuben: 43,730 / 46,500
 - (2) The sons of Simeon: 22,200 / 59,300
 - (3) The sons of Gad: 40,500 / 45,650
 - (4) The sons of Judah: 76,500 / 74,600
 - (5) The sons of Issachar: 64,300 / 54,400
 - (6) The sons of Zebulun: 60,500 / 57,400
 - (7) The sons of Joseph Manasseh and Ephraim:
 - (A) The sons of Manasseh: 52,700 / 40,500
 - (B) The sons of Ephraim: 32,500 / 32,200
 - (8) The sons of Benjamin: 45,600 / 35,400
 - (9) The sons of Dan: 64,400 / 62,700
 - (10) The sons of Asher: 53,400 / 41,500
 - (11) The sons of Naphtali: 45,400 / 53,400
11. These are those who were numbered of the children of Israel:
Current 601,730 / First 603,550 (1820 less this time).

12. And Israel just lost 24,000 people in the hangings for idolatry, and before that countless others who were bitten by the fiery serpents for complaining about thirst, hunger and Yahweh's lousy provision ("worthless bread"). And before that, 14,700 (non-Levites) died in addition to the deaths of Korah, Dathan and Abiram (and their entire families), plus the 250 leaders who rebelled with Korah. Yet, the people still complained by blaming those rebels' deaths on Moses and Aaron (see Numbers 16:41).

(a) **Side Note:** it would seem that we get clarity here about who was swallowed up in the earth at Korah's tent that day. It says in Numbers 26:11, "*Nevertheless the children of Korah did not die.*" God told Moses to warn the people to get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, but Moses then goes to the tents of Dathan and Abiram, who come out with their wives, their sons, and their little children. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. But it does not say Korah's family is swallowed up (just Korah).

(b) Moses is told to melt the censers used in rebellion by the 250 men who were devoured by fire, and to make a memorial for the people so they "do not become like Korah and his companions", and reading carefully in Numbers 16:40, we

see that Korah's family is not mentioned, so later in this portion (10 chapters later) when it says that Dathan and Abiram (Korah's cohorts) and their wives and children were swallowed up together with Korah, "but the children of Korah did not die" (v. 26:11), it clarifies who exactly got swallowed up in Numbers 16.

13. **Continuing in this portion:** Moses is instructed about how the promised land is to be divided according to the size of the tribes. Larger tribes get larger portions of and smaller tribes get smaller portions of land. It seems that within tribes, the allotted land will be divided into the families of that tribe by lot.

14. We are then reminded who Moses', Aaron's, and Miriam's parents are (Amram and Jochebed) and the names of Aaron's sons (Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar).

(a) Nadab and Abihu were Aaron's first and second born sons incinerated by Yahweh for offering profane fire before the LORD. We see that narrative in Leviticus 10:1-3.

Prophetically, 10:3 shows Aaron's reactions to the tragedy; it says "**Aaron held his peace**", instead of lashing out at Yahweh and Moses for what he just witnessed. We are again reminded of this incident in Numbers 3:1-4 at the first census. This very incident is why Eleazar has stepped up into

the firstborn role and why it is through his line and Phinehas (his firstborn son), that we have **the covenant of peace!**

15. Then the Levite's were counted a second time, every male a month old or above is counted. This time the Sons of Levi number 23,000. In the first census it was 22,000.

16. *But among these there was not a man of those who were numbered by Moses and Aaron the priest when they numbered the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Sinai. For the LORD had said of them, "They shall surely die in the wilderness." So there was not left a man of them, **except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.**"* Numbers 26:1-65
NKJV

17. **Numbers 27 clarifies inheritance laws:** Women will not lose their family land or family name if their father dies without sons. *"Why should the name of our father be removed from among his family because he had no son? Give us a possession among our father's brothers."* (Numbers 27:4)

(a) Moses brought their case before Yahweh and Yahweh agrees. ***"If a man dies and has no son, then you shall cause his inheritance to pass to his daughter. If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father's brothers. And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give***

his inheritance to the relative closest to him in his family, and he shall possess it. Numbers 27:8-11

- (b) Note that later in Numbers 36:1-13, Moses adds to this ruling instructing that if these daughters marry, they must marry within their tribe so that the tribal land does not change hand. *“Let them marry whom they think best, but they may marry only **within the family of their father’s tribe.**’ So the **inheritance of the children of Israel shall not change hands from tribe to tribe, for every one of the children of Israel shall keep the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.**” Numbers 36:6-7 NKJV*

18. **Joshua is appointed as the next leader:** Moses is brought high up on Mount Abarim to look over the land he will not cross into. Moses asks Yahweh to appoint the next leader so that the people are not like sheep with no shepherd. They need someone to go in before them, a man to lead them out of the wilderness and bring them into the promised land.
19. Yahweh tells Moses to: *“Take Joshua, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. **And you shall give some of your authority to him,** that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be*

obedient." (Numbers 27:18-20) **Joshua is given SOME of Moses' authority, NOT ALL of his authority. Why?**

(a) **He must parter with the priest to make a move:** *"He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, **who shall inquire before the LORD for him** by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him—all the congregation."*

Numbers 27:21 NKJV

(b) **Moses lays hand on Joshua and passes on SOME of his authority:** *"So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. **And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him**, just as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses."* Numbers 27:22-23 NKJV

20. **Numbers 28 gives details about the following:** Daily Offerings, Sabbath Offerings, Monthly Offerings, Passover Offerings, and Shavuot (Weeks) Offerings.

21. **Numbers 29 gives details about the following:** Trumpets Offerings, Yom Kippur Offerings (Day of Atonement), and Tabernacles Offerings (plus the eighth day offerings)

(a) *'These you shall present to the LORD at your appointed feasts (besides your vowed offerings and your freewill offerings) as your burnt offerings and your grain offerings, as*

your drink offerings and your peace offerings.’ ” So Moses told the children of Israel everything, just as the LORD commanded Moses.” Numbers 29:12-40 NKJV

THE COVENANT OF PEACE

1. Zealous According to Righteousness

A. Because He was Zealous with Yahweh’s Zeal

(1) Fervent, Ardent, Fiery, Passionate, Devout, Committed, Dedicated, Enthusiastic—all of these with authenticity and without pretense!

(a) The Zeal of Phinehas “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, **because he was zealous with My zeal** among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel **in My zeal**. Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him **My covenant of peace**; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because **he was zealous for his God**, and made atonement for the children of Israel.’ ”” Numbers 25:10-13 NKJV

1. **What were the people doing?** “Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit

harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people **to the sacrifices of their gods**, and the people ate and **bowed down to their gods**. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.” Numbers 25:1-3 NKJV

(I) It’s really crazy that these are the verses from last Torah portion of which the majority is about Balak’s attempt to hire Balaam to curse Israel. After the amazing prophetic blessing over Israel we see that the people go back to harlotry and idolatry. We see that it was Balaam who actually put this stumbling block before the people of God.

(II) *“Look, these women caused the children of Israel, **through the counsel of Balaam**, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.”*
Numbers 31:16

(III) *““And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful*

*martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there **those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.** Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.” Revelation 2:12-16 NKJV*

2. **What was Yahweh’s response?** “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of the people and **hang the offenders before the LORD**, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel.” So Moses said to the judges of Israel, “Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor.”” Numbers 25:4-5 NKJV
3. **What was Phinehas’ action?** “And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of

meeting. Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation **and took a javelin in his hand; and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through,** the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel.” Numbers 25:6-8 NKJV

4. **Yahweh prefers passion over neutral:** “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. **I could wish you were cold or hot.** So then, **because you are lukewarm,** and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.” Revelation 3:15-16 NKJV

5. **Summary:**

- 1) The People committed harlotry and idolatry
- 2) Yahweh has the offenders executed in public
- 3) One man activates with authentic zealousness
- 4) Yahweh halts His punishment because of it
- 5) Yahweh loves authentic passion and hates lukewarm

(2) I give to him My covenant of peace (Somehow, this violent response by Phinehas was EXACTLY what was on Yahweh’s heart.)

- (a) Yahweh makes an **everlasting covenant** with Phinehas and his descendants after him, a covenant of an everlasting priesthood. The greatest fruit of this will show up **FOURTEEN GENERATIONS later!** Can you imagine? (See part B in this section)
- (b) This stirs something prophetic in me. It speaks of a man somehow **tapping into what is on God's heart** when no one else around seems to be getting it!
- (c) It reminds me of King David many years later when he too tapped into the heart of Yahweh and made a bold move only he saw as the righteous thing to do. It was a "zealous" declaration and ultimately Yahweh loved it.
1. "Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "**See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.**" Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.'" II Samuel 7:1-3 NKJV *[Note: the ark is in a tent of curtains that David erected because when David rescued the ark from the Philistines, instead of bringing it back to the tabernacle that Moses built, he brings it to his palace*

and puts it in a tent in his courtyard. That alone is a bold move! Don't you think? But then...]

2. King David is enjoying the peace and prosperity of his kingdom. He is standing in his plush palace when something grips him. **“How can Yahweh, the creator of the universe, be dwelling in a tent made of curtains, while I live in this magnificent structure?”**
3. Something history-altering is about to happen, and it is not because Yahweh told David to do something and he obeyed. It is actually David who tells Yahweh he is going to do something that Yahweh never told him to do; and Yahweh's response is glorious.
4. If you read the rest of the narrative, II Samuel 7:4-29, you see this progression:
 - a) Nathan, David's prophet is informed by Yahweh about what David is thinking.
 - b) Through Nathan, Yahweh first asks David if at any time throughout all of history, “Has He ever told anyone to build Him such a structure?”
 - c) To the contrary, didn't Yahweh instruct Moses, in every minute detail, to build him a tabernacle of curtains? (See Exodus 25-31)

- d) It seems that David is about to be rebuked. I often picture David wincing at Nathan's words, as he prepares for fiery incineration! Yahweh often uses such on men who represent Him, but then do their own thing (think of Nadab and Abihu and the 250 leaders who backed Korah. They were turned into a pile of ashes. I can hear the clank of the fire pots these men used to make an "offering to Yahweh" hitting the ground as they are reduced to dust!)
- e) Moreover, the tent that David has such apparent disdain for, the one the ark of the covenant is now in, was built by David himself. He is the one who chose to bring the ark to his palace as opposed to restoring it to the tabernacle of Moses.
- f) But then the narrative takes a prophetic turn!
Yahweh tells David that he got it right! And that because he was able to sense what Yahweh wanted without ever being told, he would bless him and his family line forever (like Phinehas' covenant of peace). It's not just that David would build Yahweh "a house", but that Yahweh would build David a house that would last forever, and the Messiah would come from his seed!

g) David is so overtaken with joy and thanksgiving, and then acknowledges that he only knew to do so because Yahweh had first revealed it to his heart.

This type of intimacy with God is why David was called a man after Yahweh's own heart. And this is what Yahweh wants with you!

1. "For You, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed this to Your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' **Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You.**" II

Samuel 7:27 NKJV

2. This is precisely what Phinehas had done. He sensed what Yahweh truly wanted and acted as such without first being told. **And that is being zealous for Yahweh according to His righteousness.**

3. Soon you will see that in Romans 10 the Apostle Paul equates this to the righteousness of Christ! It becomes clear that this should become standard practice for all Christians as we are the ones filled with the Holy Spirit, and therefore should be able to tap into what is on God's heart.

B. The Prophetic Fruit of Phinehas' Action

(1) The Covenant of Peace

- (a) "Behold, I give to him **My covenant of peace**; and it shall be to him **and his descendants** after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.' "" Numbers 25:12-13 NKJV
- (b) Please recognize the powerful prophetic moment of this covenant of peace made with this **special priest** and his **specific line of descendants** and what it accomplishes way into the future **14 generations later!** (If there was eve a lesson in patience!)

(2) How did Phinehas become the line of promise?

- (a) First let's go way back to when Phinehas' father, Eleazar (the third son of Aaron) takes over the firstborn position.
- (b) Nadab and Abihu were Aaron's first and second born sons incinerated by Yahweh for offering profane fire before the LORD. We see that narrative in Leviticus 10:1-3. Prophetically, 10:3 shows Aaron's reactions to the tragedy; it says "**Aaron held his peace**", instead of lashing out at Yahweh and Moses for what he just witnessed. We are again reminded of this incident in Numbers 3:1-4 at the first census. This very incident is

why Eleazar has stepped up into the firstborn role and why it is through his line and Phinehas (his firstborn son), that we have **the covenant of peace!**

(3) Ezra, and his role in the restoration of Jerusalem and the Temple, **was a descendant of Phinehas**, 14 generations later! (Ezra 7:1-5)

(a) Aaron was the chief priest

(b) Eleazar was the son of Aaron (as we noted he is the third born stepping into the firstborn role!)

(c) **Phinehas** is the son of Eleazar and here are his decedents with whom is the “covenant of peace!”

1. Abishua the son of Phinehas
2. Bukki the son of Abishua
3. Uzzi the son of Bukki
4. Zerahiah the son of Uzzi
5. Meraioth the son of Zerahiah
6. Azariah the son of Meraioth
7. Amariah the son of Azariah
8. Ahitub the son of Amariah
9. Zadok the son of Ahitub
10. Shallum the son of Zadok
11. Hilkiyah the son of Shallum
12. Azariah the son of Hilkiyah

13. Seraiah the son of Azariah

14. Ezra the son of Seraiah (14 generations later peace is restored!)

- (4) How did this covenant of peace play out 14 generations later because of Phinehas' single act of righteousness?
- (a) Think about the history and the lineage of what happens as a result of this promise to Phinehas (See Ezra Ch. 1-6)
 - (b) Ezra a priest, not a prophet, refers to the fulfillment of the words of the prophets Jeremiah, Haggai and Zechariah.
 - (c) Ezra chapter one opens with the end of the Judah's and Benjamin's Babylonian Captivity
 - (d) Yahweh stirs King Cyrus to allow the Jews to rebuild the temple!
 - (e) Judah is released from captivity and heads back to Jerusalem (It was Nebuchadnezzar who carried them away with the riches from the temple!)
 - (f) Worship is restored in Jerusalem.
 - (g) The restoration of the temple begins!
 - (h) Adversaries then resist the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple.
 - (i) The opposition reminds the king of the letter issued by Ahasuerus (Esther's Husband) to kill the inhabitants of

Judah and Jerusalem and writes to Artaxerxes telling him that if he allows Jerusalem to be completed that they won't pay his taxes and that he will lose control of the region and as good Babylonians they just want to "protect their king's honor".

- (j) The King researches the accusations and realizes that Jerusalem's history is such that it convinces him that this is exactly what will happen if he allows them to complete rebuilding Jerusalem and the Temple, so he agrees and commands they STOP building!
 - (k) Then a letter is sent to King Darius explaining that it was King Cyrus who originally authorized the rebuilding!
 - (l) King Darius finds the original letter written by King Cyrus in the archives authorizing the whole thing (the letter from King Cyrus is in Ezra 6 and is so powerful, including not just permission to build, but that the King will PAY for its rebuilding with his own tax money from the region, and he commands that the articles stolen from the temple by Nebuchadnezzar be returned to their proper place!)
 - (m) So the rebuilding is resumed.
- (5) Then the temple is completed and dedicated and we arrive at Ezra chapter 7!

- (a) **Who is Ezra?** the first 5 verses contain the lineage we already spoke about. He is the seed of Phinehas and is about to be the beneficiary of the **everlasting covenant of peace!**
- (b) “— this Ezra came up from Babylon; and he was a **skilled scribe in the Law of Moses**, which the LORD God of Israel had given. **The king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.** Some of the children of Israel, the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes. And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. On the first day of the first month he began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. **For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.**” Ezra 7:6-10 NKJV
1. A skilled scribe in the Law of Moses
 2. Favor of the King because of Yahweh
 3. A heart to seek, do and teach the Laws Yahweh
- (6) The Kings Letter (you don't have more favor than this!)

(a) “This is a copy of the letter that King **Artaxerxes** gave **Ezra the priest, the scribe, expert in the words of the commandments of the LORD**, and of His statutes to Israel: **Artaxerxes, king of kings, To Ezra the priest, a scribe of the Law of the God of heaven: Perfect peace, and so forth. I issue a decree** that all those of the people of Israel and the priests and Levites in my realm, **who volunteer** to go up to Jerusalem, **may go** with you. And whereas you are being sent by the king and his seven counselors to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, with regard to **the Law of your God** which is in your hand; and whereas you are to **carry the silver and gold which the king** and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem; and **whereas all the silver and gold that you may find in all the province of Babylon, along with the freewill offering of the people and the priests, are to be freely offered for the house of their God in Jerusalem—**now therefore, **be careful to buy** with this money bulls, rams, and lambs, with their grain offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them on the altar of the house of your God in Jerusalem. **And whatever seems good** to you and your brethren to do with the rest of the silver

and the gold, do it **according to the will of your God.** Also the articles that are given to you for the service of the house of your God, deliver in full before the God of Jerusalem. And whatever more may be needed for the house of your God, which you may have occasion to provide, **pay for it from the king's treasury.** And I, even I, Artaxerxes the king, issue a decree to all the treasurers who are in the region beyond the River, that whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven, may require of you, let it be done **diligently**, up to one hundred talents of silver, one hundred kors of wheat, one hundred baths of wine, one hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribed limit. **Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it diligently be done for the house of the God of heaven.** For why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons? **Also we inform you that it shall not be lawful to impose tax, tribute, or custom on any of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, Nethinim, or servants of this house of God.** And you, Ezra, according to your God-given wisdom, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who are in the region beyond the River, **all such as know the laws of your**

God; and teach those who do not know them.

Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him, whether it be death, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or imprisonment. **Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart,** to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem, and has extended mercy to me before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes. So I was encouraged, as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me; and I gathered leading men of Israel to go up with me." Ezra 7:11-28 NKJV

1. To Ezra the priest, the scribe, expert in the words of the commandments of Yahweh, from King Artaxerxes, I issue this decree:
2. **Ezra, have PERFECT PEACE (the covenant of peace!)**
3. Anyone who volunteers to go with you may go!
4. I will even send seven of my counselors to be trained by you!
5. Take as much of my silver and gold that you can carry!
6. Plus feel free to use whatever additional silver and gold you can acquire from where you are going; plus

you can keep whatever the people want to offer you as well!

7. Use the resources for whatever you need, offerings, building projects, etc.
8. If you need more, you can use the tax money I collect from the region as well!
9. And take with you all the gold and silver articles that Nebuchadnezzar stole from the temple long ago.
10. Plus, the people with you, the priests and anyone else who goes to serve Yahweh and His house, they are free from taxation.
11. Whatever Ezra may require of the people in that region, let it be done diligently.
12. Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it diligently be done for the house of the God of heaven!
13. Ezra, according to your God-given wisdom, set up a government in the area according to the laws of your God; and teach the laws to those who do not know them.
14. Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him.

15. Ah.. and Ezra acknowledges all this is by the hand of his sovereign Lord! **“Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king’s heart.” [Yes, the prophetic fulfillment of the covenant of peace was PLACED BY YAHWEH INTO THE KINGS HEART! DO YOU SEE IT?]**

(7) Psalms (History Lesson—Psalm 106 is a history lesson)

(a) “They joined themselves also to Baal of Peor, And ate sacrifices made to the dead. Thus they provoked Him to anger with their deeds, And the plague broke out among them. **Then Phinehas stood up and intervened, And the plague was stopped. And that was accounted to him for righteousness To all generations forevermore.**” Psalms 106:28-31 NKJV

C. Zealous but...Ignorant of Yahweh’s Righteousness

(1) Operating in your own righteousness

(a) “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that **they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.** For they being **ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness,** have not submitted to the righteousness

of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” Romans 10:1-4 NKJV

1. Zealous but not with God’s righteousness
2. Ignorant of God’s righteousness
3. Seeking to establish you own righteousness
4. Christ is the goal of that righteousness.
5. This is how we can tap the heart of God regularly (for we have the mind of Christ, 1 Cor. 2:16)

(2) The Righteousness of Faith

(a) “For Moses writes about the **righteousness which is of the law**, “The man who does those things shall live by them.” But **[AND]** the **righteousness of faith speaks in this way**, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (**that is, the word of faith which we preach**):”
Romans 10:5-8 NKJV

1. The Righteousness of the law is that that true life is only available by grace-empowered-faith-based obedience to God. (See Leviticus 18:1-5 and Deuteronomy 30:11-20)

2. And that is the word of faith Paul is about to expound on!

(3) Confess and Believe

(a) “that if you **confess with your mouth** the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart **one believes unto righteousness**, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”” Romans 10:9-13 NKJV

1. You must confess... (if you confess without belief it is with your own righteousness)
2. And believe... (One believes unto God’s righteousness).
3. That is the word of faith Paul is preaching, and when you dig deep into from where Paul draws this teaching, Leviticus 18:1-5 and Deuteronomy 30:11-20, you see that the confession of faith is towards radical obedience to Yahweh’s commands.
4. This explains what a convent of peace looks like!

- (a) Ezra prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, to do it, and to teach the statutes and ordinances.
- (b) Ezra was a scribe and expert in the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of His statutes to Israel which gave him perfect peace!
- (c) Whatever Ezra required of the people it was done diligently.
- (d) Whatever was commanded by the God of heaven, it was done diligently!
- (e) Ezra, according to your God-given wisdom, set up a government in the area according to the laws of your God; and teach the laws to those who do not know them.
- (f) Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him.
- (g) And all this happened because Yahweh made a covenant of peace with Phinehas 14 generations earlier! And the only reason Phinehas was there was because his father Eleazar was the high priest, and the only reason Eleazar was now the high priest was because Aaron was dead, and**

Aaron was dead because Moses struck the rock twice, and the only reason Eleazar was next in line was because Yahweh incinerated his two older brothers (Nadab and Abihu) 40 years earlier!

(h) Anyone want to question Yahweh's plan?

THE SEPARATION OF POWERS

2. Passing the Mantle

A. Some Authority

(1) The Partial Authority of Joshua—Notice how Yahweh instructs Moses to pass on *SOME* authority and to share it with the Eleazar the priest!

(a) “Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying: “Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, **set a man** over the congregation, who may go out before them and go in before them, **who may lead them** out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd.”

Numbers 27:15-17

(b) And the LORD said to Moses: “Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; set him before Eleazar the priest

and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. **And you shall give some of your authority to him**, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. Numbers 27:18-20

(c) **He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the LORD for him** by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him—all the congregation.” So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. **And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him, just as the LORD commanded** by the hand of Moses.” Numbers 27:21-23 NKJV

1. Select a man to take my place, Moses asks.
2. Yahweh says to lay your hands on Joshua and give him SOME of your authority.
3. And then inform him that he needs to confer with the priest before he makes any major moves!

B. The Progression from Moses to Joshua (for your reading pleasure)

- (1) Moses, you’re not going over, but Joshua is.

(a) “Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. And he said to them: “I am one hundred and twenty years old today. I can no longer go out and come in. **Also the LORD has said to me, ‘You shall not cross over this Jordan.’** The LORD your God Himself crosses over before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess them. **Joshua himself crosses over before you, just as the LORD has said.** Deuteronomy 31:1-3

(2) Moses’ advice to Joshua

(a) **Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel,** “Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it. And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.” Deuteronomy 31:7-8 NKJV

(3) Call Joshua and Inaugurate him!

(a) “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, the days approach when you must die; **call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of meeting, that I may inaugurate him.**” So Moses and Joshua went and

presented themselves in the tabernacle of meeting. Now the LORD appeared at the tabernacle in a pillar of cloud, and the pillar of cloud stood above the door of the tabernacle. And the LORD said to Moses: "Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them." Deuteronomy 31:14-16 NKJV

- (4) Moses, as I said, you are not going in, so go die on the mountain
- (a) "Then the LORD spoke to Moses that very same day, saying: "Go up this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, across from Jericho; view the land of Canaan, which I give to the children of Israel as a possession; **and die on the mountain** which you ascend, and be gathered to your people, just as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people; because you trespassed against Me among the children of Israel at the waters of Meribah Kadesh, in the Wilderness of Zin, because you did not hallow Me in the midst of the children of Israel. Yet you shall see the land before you, though **you shall**

not go there, into the land which I am giving to the children of Israel.”” Deuteronomy 32:48-52 NKJV

- (b) “Then the LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ **I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.””**

Deuteronomy 34:4 NKJV

- (5) Never Again a Prophet like Moses!

- (a) **“Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses,** whom the LORD knew face to face, in all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land, and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.”

Deuteronomy 34:9-12 NKJV

- 1. From now on the prophet must team with a priest!
DO NOT OVERLOOK THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS
GOVERNING PRINCIPLE!**

- (6) Moses is Dead—Now Go!

- (a) **“After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, saying: “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.” Joshua 1:1-3 NKJV**

C. Reminder: Separation of Powers is a must for Kingdom Governance.

(1) The Trinity: The Divine Family and the Earthly Family

- (a) Father/Father
- (b) Spirit/Mother
- (c) Son/Child

1. “Then God said, **“Let Us make man in Our image,** according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God **created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, **“Be fruitful and multiply;** fill the earth and subdue it;

have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."” Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV

2. *NOTE: this is the entirety of the liberal agenda. It is an anti-Genesis, anti-God platform. There is no man, there is no woman, there is not marriage, and there need be no child!*

(2) Israel

(a) King

(b) Priest

(c) Prophet

(3) The Government

(a) Executive Branch

(b) Legislative Branch

(c) Judicial Branch

(4) The Church/Kingdom

(a) King

(b) Apostle

(c) Prophet

1. “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the **apostles and prophets, Jesus**

Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Why is it that Yahweh viewed the actions of Phinehas as zealousness for his God?**
 - D. How does Yahweh bless him for it?
 - E. Describe how the covenant of peace manifests 14 generations later.
- 2. What made the children of Israel engage in harlotry with the women of Moab and idolatry with Baal of Peor?**
 - A. How was Balaam involved?
- 3. What does Yahweh mean when He says:**
 - A. “I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”
- 4. In some ways Phinehas had to be tapped into the heart of Yahweh much like King David was on the day he declared to build a house for God.**

- A. What are the similarities between these two stories?
- 5. It seems that Ezra, the priest 14 generations from Phinehas, is the beneficiary of the covenant of peace promised to Phinehas.**
- A. How so?
- B. List all the ways Ezra found outrageous favor in the eyes of king Artaxerxes.
- 6. Compare and contrast the righteousness of the law and the righteousness of faith.**
- 7. Why was Moses instructed to lay his hands on Joshua and inaugurate him with only “some” of his authority?**
- A. What roll did Eleazar play in this transition of power?
- B. Describe the Separation of Powers and how it relates to the Trinity, Old Testament, New Testament, and Earthly Government.