



## Portion:

### SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9
- Psalms 1:1-6; 37:3-5; 139
- I Kings 2:1-4; 3:5-14; 10, 11
- Jer. 4:3-4; 31:31-34; 17:9-10
- Romans 12:1-2; 2:12-16
- Proverbs 3:7-12; 7:1-5
- II Cor. 3:1-3; 13:5-8
- Hebrews 10:16-29
- I Cor. 9:24-27; 11:27-32
- Luke 15:3-7; 1:13-17, 76-77
- I Timothy 1:18-20
- Mat. 12:31-32; 17:10-13; 3
- I Corinthians 9:19-23
- James 5:19-20
- John 8:1-12; 1:19-27
- Acts 6:8-15; 7:57-6; 3:17-23
- Isaiah 40:1-8
- Malachi 3:1-3; 4:1-6

## Title:

### WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS

- A King's Mandate
- Solomon's Legacy
- Circumcise Yourself
- The Tablet of your Heart
- Yahweh Writes on Your Heart
- What is your Fruit?
- Don't Get Disqualified
- Search My Heart O God!
- Willful Sin
- Chase You or Leave You?
- How Can You Help?
- Stand for Truth
- The Risk of False Testimony
- Righteous Judges
- A Prophet Like Moses
- Moses and Elijah
- Messenger vs. messenger
- Messenger and the Message

*There is a constant tension inside all of us who identify ourselves as “Christians.” Maybe you call yourself a “Believer” or “a follower of The Way.” Let’s just say I am addressing anyone who has had a true born-again encounter with Y’shua (Jesus). Here is the tension: “NOW WHAT?” So much pressure exists from countless directions, really all depending on “whose church” you got born-again into. I know that sounds really bad, but it happens. Your denomination will strongly influence, even dictate, your “what’s next!” Many just ask you to tow the party line. Sign up for our theology and get to work doing the work of “our church.” You’ve joined a club and clubs have membership dues and those dues come in the form of money and service. All these religious requirements that insert themselves into your new born-again life, as “doctrine”, pose a serious threat to your development as a disciple. There is, however, something I am certain Yahweh wants of you. “My son, keep my words, and treasure my commands within you. Keep my commands and live, and my law as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.” Let’s set religion aside and circumcise our hearts unto Yahweh!*

**THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE**

**“Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one**

before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, **that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law** and these statutes, **that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom**, he and his children in the midst of Israel.” Deuteronomy 17:18-20 NKJV

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

“**Blessed is the man** Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.** He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; **And whatever he does shall prosper.** The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.” Psalms 1:1-6 NKJV

# Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This portion of scripture reviews many recently written commands. But as Deuteronomy does at times, it also introduces some commands not mentioned previously. We know they must have been, as this is the second telling, yet we see them in writing for the first time. One such law is mentioned in verses 17:18-20, which commands a King of Israel, as he takes the throne, to write for himself a complete copy of the Torah in his own hand. This will be our main topic of discussion this week, but so many other important pieces are reviewed on which we will elaborate in the future:
  - (a) Justice Must be Administered
  - (b) Principles of Governing Kings
  - (c) The Portion of the Priests and Levites
  - (d) Avoid Wicked Customs
  - (e) A Prophet Like Moses
  - (f) Three Cities of Refuge
  - (g) Property Boundaries
  - (h) The Law Concerning Witnesses
  - (i) Principles Governing Warfare
  - (j) The Law Concerning Unsolved Murders

2. The commandment for the king to write a copy of the Torah for himself is prophetic of Messiah as the Word made flesh. He is the copy of the Torah in human form. The King **writes for himself** a Torah scroll just as **we are to write God's laws on our own hearts**. It is not for us to wait for God to do that work. And the Torah of King Y'shua is written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts (2 Corinthians 3:3).
3. **Justice Must be Administered:** Righteous judges and law enforcement are necessary for healthy governance. However, those placed in these positions must be just and free from the temptation to take bribes or to pervert justice. This paraphrase says it all; "A bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous." Deuteronomy 16:19
4. Then Moses specifically address pagan practices. Yahweh hates pagan images or modes of worship, and defective sacrifices, which He calls an abomination. What happens if you suspect someone of worshiping and serving other gods? First there will be a diligent inquiry. If it is indeed true that such an abomination has occurred, then capital punishment is in order.
5. However, *"Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness. The hands of the*

*witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people.” Deuteronomy 17:6-7 NKJV*

6. Lastly, in the justice department, we see what to do in difficult cases. If the decision is too complicated and there exists too much controversy over what is correct, inquire of the priests to resolve the issue. The priest will discern precisely what is right and pronounce the sentence of judgment. Do exactly according to all that they order. Do not turn aside to the right hand or to the left from the sentence which they pronounce. Anyone who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest's orders will be subjected to capital punishment.
7. **Principles of Governing Kings:** Here we have this amazing prophetic picture. God knows that the people will eventually demand to have a king rule over them as the pagan's do, so He sets some parameters in place in advance. First, He will be the one to choose the king. Then, notice the very things a king is not supposed to do. Unfortunately, this is exactly what Solomon eventually did 300 years later. **“The king shall not multiply horses for himself, neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.”** [See 1 Kings 10 which describes Solomon's

massive wealth and 1 Kings 11 which describes his hunger for women and his great fall.]

8. **The next section speaks for itself. It could be considered the single greatest duty of a righteous king. It also has prophetic implications for us as believers in THE KING:** *“Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, **that he shall write for himself** a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. **And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life**, that he may learn **to fear the LORD** his God and be careful **to observe all the words** of this law and these statutes, that **his heart may not be lifted above** his brethren, that **he may not turn aside** from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that **he may prolong his days** in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.”*

Deuteronomy 17:18-20 NKJV

9. **The Portion of the Priests and Levites:** We are reminded yet again that the Levites have no part nor inheritance with Israel; and how they are provided for by the sacrifices and offerings of the people.
10. **Avoid Wicked Customs:** Again, like we saw in Leviticus 18:1-5, the people are reminded to not learn to follow the abominations of the nations they go to dispossess. Simply do not participate in a single pagan practice! Instead be blameless!

**11. A Prophet Like Moses:** This one area in Deuteronomy might generate one of the greatest controversies in our faith. And although there seems to be almost universal agreement throughout Christianity that the prophet like Moses being prophesied about here is Y'shua Himself, I see glaring inconsistencies with that belief. Now, one might ask themselves, "If nearly everyone agrees, other than a fraction of percent, then how could it possibly be in error?" I might also ask that question about the relevance of the Torah for the Church. It was universally believed across all denominations up until 60 years ago, or so, that Y'shua fulfilled the Torah and therefore we, as Christians, are not obligated to the commandments of God, other than the 10 commandments (minus the Sabbath). This is still held as a "sacred cow" by most of Christianity today. Yet this too is dangerously inconsistent with Y'shua's words and warnings:

- (a) *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."* (Matthew 5:17-18)
- (b) *Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me."* (John 7:16)



(c) *“Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”* (John 5:45-47)

12. So with an open mind, let us consider these words: *““The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’ “And the LORD said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.”* (Deuteronomy 18:15-19)

13. And consider the following proof texts that indeed Moses is instead referring to Elijah as the prophet to come, and not Y’shua. (Acts 3:19-23; Matthew 3:1-17; Matthew 17:1-13; Isaiah 40:1-8; Malachi 3:1-3; Malachi 4:1-6; Luke 1:13-17; John 1:15-26)

14. After that, Moses warns us that prophets who presume to speak a word in Yahweh's name, which He has not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. You will know they spoke on their own when what they prophesy does not happen.

(a) *"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber."* II Peter 2:1-3 NKJV

15. **Three Cities of Refuge:** Again the cities of refuge and the parameters of who they are for are reiterated.

16. **Property Boundaries:** The great precedent for not messing with Israel's borders is next. *"You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess."* Deuteronomy 19:14

17. **The Law Concerning Witnesses:** Now we see an expansion of what we just read in Deuteronomy 17:6-7. *"One witness shall*

*not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established. If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, then both men in the controversy shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you. And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you. Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.” Deuteronomy 19:15-21 NKJV (See how Y’shua masterfully applied these laws to the woman accused of adultery in John 8:1-12 and what is says on the matter in Hebrews10:26-29)*

**18. Principles Governing Warfare:** Many important concepts are included here about going into battle.

- (a) Do not be afraid or faint of heart; for the LORD your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.’
- (b) Then there are a bunch of exceptions indicating who should not join in battle:

- (1) A man who has built a new house and has not yet dedicated it.
- (2) A man who has planted a vineyard and has not yet eaten of it.
- (3) A man who is betrothed to a woman and has not yet married her.
- (4) A man who is fearful and fainthearted.

19. What to do with an adversarial city that wishes to make peace verses one that chooses to fight back:

- (a) If they accept your offer of peace, and open to you, then all the people who are found in it shall be placed under tribute to you, and serve you. If the city will not make peace with you, then you shall besiege it, strike every male but take the women, the little ones, the livestock, and all that is in the city, as spoils.

20. However, when you are dealing with cities God gives you as an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive, lest they teach you to do according to all their abominations which they have done for their gods. Do not destroy its trees if you can eat of them. Only destroy the trees which you know are not for good for food so you can use the wood to build siegeworks.

21. **The Law Concerning Unsolved Murder:** The city closest to where the body is found is required to call the priests, make a

sacrifice, and wash their hands over the sacrificed animal as a declaration of their innocence. *“So you shall put away the guilt of innocent blood from among you when you do what is right in the sight of the LORD.”* Deuteronomy 21:9

## WHO’S DOING THE WRITING?

### 1. **Written on our Hearts**

#### A. **Write for Yourself...**

##### (1) **A King’s Mandate**

- (a) *““When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, ‘I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,’ you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. (16) **But he shall not multiply horses for himself**, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’ (17) **Neither shall he multiply wives for himself**, lest his heart turn away; **nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.** Deuteronomy 17:14-17*

NKJV

1. You will want a King and I will give you one.
2. Listen King... Don't multiply horses, wives, nor wealth for yourself.

## **(2) Write a Copy of the Law for Yourself**

- (a) "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that **he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book**, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, **that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom**, he and his children in the midst of Israel." Deuteronomy 17:18-20 NKJV

1. Make your own copy of the Torah written in your own hand.
2. This is so you stay humble in your position as king.
3. And that you stay right down the middle when it comes to obedience to Yahweh.
4. Then you will have a long lasting reign.

## **(3) Look at the Benefits**

(a) “Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.** He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; **And whatever he does shall prosper.** The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

Psalms 1:1-6 NKJV

1. When you know the law, and delight in it, whatever you do will prosper.

#### **(4) Solomon’s Legacy**

(a) “Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: “I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. **And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may**

**prosper** in all that you do and wherever you turn; that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'" I Kings 2:1-4 NKJV

1. It's time to take over Solomon, and be radically obedient.
2. If you are, whatever you do will prosper.
3. And your legacy on the throne will continue!

#### **(5) Solomon's Request**

- (a) "At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "**Ask! What shall I give you?**" And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant **David** my father, **because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You;** You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. Now, O LORD my God, **You have made Your servant king instead of my father David,** but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too



numerous to be numbered or counted. **Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil.** For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" I Kings 3:5-9 NKJV

(b) **Not a coincidence that the same indicator is a sign of a mature believer:** "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have **their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**" Hebrews 5:12-14 NKJV

1. Solomon, ask for anything and I will give it to you.
2. I want what my father had, as he walked with You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart.
3. How can I get that?
4. I got it! "Give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may **discern between good and evil.**"

5. Mature Christians have **their senses exercised to discern both good and evil!**

**(6) Solomon's Blessings**

- (a) **"The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.** Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, **behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart,** so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. **And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor [the king shall not multiply for HIMSELF, See Deuteronomy 17:14-17],** so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. **So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."** I Kings 3:10-14 NKJV
- (b) "But **seek first the kingdom** of God and His righteousness, **and all these things shall be added** to you." Matthew 6:33 NKJV

1. Solomon, that was the perfect request, says Yahweh.
2. So I have granted you a wise and understanding heart
3. Plus, because you asked for the most important things, I am adding everything else.
4. But remember: don't focus on adding those other things yourself—as that would violate the law in Deuteronomy 17:14-17.
5. Just be radically obedient (seek the kingdom) and don't worry about the other stuff.

#### **(7) Solomon's Mistakes for violating Deuteronomy 17:14-17**

- (a) See all of 1 Kings 10, which describes Solomon amassing his wealth.
  1. **Excerpt: "So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.** Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. Each man brought his present: articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules, at a set rate year by year. **And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen;** he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king at Jerusalem. **The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones,** and

he made cedar trees as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland." I Kings 10:23-27 NKJV

(b) See all 1 Kings 11 which describes Solomon's hunger for women and his great fall.

I. **Excerpt:** "But King Solomon **loved many foreign women**, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites— from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "**You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.**" **Solomon clung to these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.** For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; **and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God**, as was the heart of his father David." I Kings 11:1-4 NKJV

1. Solomon did just what he was told not to do—he multiplied horses, wives, and wealth for himself, because his heart was not loyal to God!

**B. How to avoid Solomon's error: Circumcise Yourself and Write the Law on Your Heart**

## (1) Circumcise and Sacrifice Yourself

(a) “For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: **“Break up your fallow ground,** And do not sow among thorns. **Circumcise yourselves to the LORD,** **And take away the foreskins of your hearts,** You men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My fury come forth like fire, And burn so that no one can quench it, Because of the evil of your doings.”” Jeremiah 4:3-4 NKJV

(b) “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

1. You must do some work yourself.
2. Cultivate the soil of your heart.
3. Give up your own desires.
4. Transform and renew your mind.

## (2) Write God’s Word on the tablet of your heart

(a) **“My son, do not forget my law,** But let your heart keep my commands; **For length of days and long life And**

**peace they will add to you.** Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, **Write them on the tablet of your heart,** And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man. **Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.**” Proverbs 3:1-6 NKJV

(b) **“Do not be wise in your own eyes;** Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. Proverbs 3:7-8

(c) My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; **For whom the LORD loves He corrects,** Just as a father the son in whom he delights.” Proverbs 3:11-12 NKJV

(d) **“My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you. Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye.** Bind them on your fingers; **Write them on the tablet of your heart.** Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,” **And call understanding your nearest kin, That they may keep you from the immoral woman,** From the seductress who flatters with her words.” Proverbs 7:1-5 NKJV

(e) “Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight** yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. **Commit** your way to the LORD, **Trust** also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” Psalms 37:3-5 NKJV

1. Don't forget the law; it brings peace and long life.
2. YOU write them on the tablet of your heart.
3. Treasure My Commands in your heart and make them the apple of your eye.
4. Trust Him, not your own understanding.
5. Don't be wise in your own eyes.
6. Wisdom and understanding will keep you from immoral women.
7. Accept correction when it comes.
8. Delight, commit, trust!

(3) **Show the work of the law written in their hearts**

(a) “For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when **Gentiles**, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

**who show the work of the law written in their hearts,** their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them ) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.” Romans 2:12-16 NKJV

(b) **You are our epistle written in our hearts:** “Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? **You are our epistle written in our hearts,** known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.” II Corinthians 3:1-3 NKJV

(c) REMEMBER: “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore **by the deeds of the law [legalism] no flesh will be justified** in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” Romans 3:19-20 NKJV

1. Show the law written on your hearts as a testimony.
2. You can become the very letters of God.



3. Obedience without a heart for God is legalism!

### C. Yahweh Writes on Your Heart

(1) **I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts.**

(a) “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: **I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” Jeremiah 31:31-34 NKJV

(b) “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: **I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,**” then He

adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." Hebrews 10:16-17 NKJV

(c) "And **the LORD your God will circumcise your heart** and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. Deuteronomy 30:6

1. If you don't' do it HE WILL.
2. Trust me, you're better off doing it yourself.
3. Your desire to write God's laws on your heart yourself says something about you.
4. Your desire to look for loopholes says something about you!

#### **D. If you are not sure where you stand...Examine Yourself**

##### **(1) What is your Fruit?**

(a) The Word says... "**You will know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?" Matthew 7:16 NKJV

(b) "**The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind,** Even to give every man according to his ways, **According to the fruit** of his doings." Jeremiah 17:9-10 NKJV

1. Test your heart.

2. What's the fruit?

**(2) Don't Get Disqualified**

(a) "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But **I discipline my body and bring it into subjection**, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become **disqualified**." I

Corinthians 9:24-27 NKJV

(b) "**Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.** Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—**unless indeed you are disqualified**. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified." II Corinthians 13:5-6 NKJV

(c) "Now I pray to God **that you do no evil**, not that we should appear approved, but that **you should do what is honorable**, though we may seem disqualified. For **we can do nothing against the truth**, but for the truth." II Corinthians 13:7-8 NKJV

(d) “Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. **But let a man examine himself**, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he **who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body**. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. **But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.**” 1

Corinthians 11:27-32 NKJV

1. Discipline yourself in your Christian living.
2. Examine and test yourself—are you really in the faith?
3. How would you know? Do no evil! Do what is honorable and nothing against the truth!
4. Examine yourself or you will be examined, and then hope for chastening and not condemnation.

### (3) Search My Heart O God!

(a) “**Search me**, O God, and **know my heart; Try me**, and **know my anxieties**; And **see if there is any wicked way in me**, And lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalms

139:23-24 NKJV

(b) Summary Psalms 139:1-24: "Search My Heart O God!"

1. Ask Yahweh to do a thorough search of your heart.
2. Recognize there is not one thing about you, what you think, what you will say, or how you will act, that He does not already know.
  - a) **Reminder:** "For **the word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, **and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight,** but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV
3. You are hedged in: There is no place you can go to hide from His presence!
4. He will lead you and hold you along the way.
5. You will never get lost if you stick with Him!
6. You were made by a Mighty God and He makes no mistakes and makes no junk.
7. Yahweh thinks so many great things about you that you if you numbered them they would be more than the grains of sand on the earth.

8. Meditate on these things and you will never forget  
Who He is, who you are, where you came from,  
what He has done for you, and where you are going!

**E. Why is this so important and how can you help others?**

**(1) Willful Sin**

- (a) “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, **there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment,** and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy **on the testimony of two or three witnesses.** Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?” Hebrews 10:26-29  
NKJV

1. This a is serious—when you enter sin willfully and there are witnesses to such, then you might be entering the point of no return.
2. Consequences = judgment and fiery indignation.

**(2) Should I chase you until I find you?**

- (a) “So He spoke this parable to them, saying: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, **if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?** And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘**Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!**’ I say to you that likewise there will be **more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents** than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.” Luke 15:3-7 NKJV

**(3) Or leave you to Satan?**

- (a) **To learn a lesson!** “In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.” I Corinthians 5:4-5 NKJV
- (b) **Or worse, for blasphemy!** “This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may **wage the good warfare**, having faith and a good conscience, **which some having rejected**, concerning the faith have

**suffered shipwreck**, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, **whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.**" 1 Timothy 1:18-20 NKJV

(c) "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, **but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.** Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; **but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.**" (Matthew 12:31-32 NKJV) [**Attributing Satan's voice to Yahweh's is blasphemy!**]

1. After waging warfare for the lost sheep, at some point you must give up!
2. It is a sad and sobering moment.
3. It's the moment when faith and a good conscience is rejected.
4. They have crossed the line into blasphemy of the Holy Spirit and they must be released to the enemy!

#### **(4) How Can You Help?**

(a) "For though I am free from all men, **I have made myself a servant to all**, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might



win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (**not being without law toward God**, but under law toward Christ [**radical grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience**]), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. **I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.**

Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you." I Corinthians 9:19-23 NKJV

1. Make yourself a servant to all.
2. Do everything possible that some might be saved!

**(5) Why should you try?**

- (a) "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, **let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.**" James 5:19-20 NKJV

1. THIS SAYS IT ALL!

TWO OR THREE WITNESSES

**2. Justice**

- A. **If You are willing to testify you must be willing to execute the punishment**

## (1) Be Willing to Stand for Truth

- (a) “Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of **two or three witnesses**; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness. **The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him** to put him to death, **and afterward the hands of all the people**. So you shall put away the evil from among you.”

Deuteronomy 17:6-7 NKJV [See Hebrews 10:26-29]

## (2) Y’shua masterfully applied these laws to the woman accused of adultery in John 8:1-12.

- (a) “But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, “**Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned.** But what do You say?” This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down **and wrote on the ground** with His finger, as though He did not hear. So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to

them, **“He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.”** And again He stooped down and **wrote on the ground. Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience,** went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, **“Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”** She said, **“No one, Lord.”** And Jesus said to her, **“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”** Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”**” John 8:1-12 NKJV

(b) **“O LORD, the hope of Israel, All who forsake You shall be ashamed. “Those who depart from Me Shall be written in the earth,** Because they have forsaken the LORD, The fountain of living waters.”” Jeremiah 17:13 NKJV

1. What a masterpiece: there must be at least two witnesses for every accusation.
2. And those who are the witness must be the first to initiate the punishment.

3. The woman is accused here by a multitude of scribes and Pharisees.
4. But do any of them meet the criteria of a witness?
5. Y'shua writes something in the ground as they cast their accusations.
6. And then in perfect compliance with the law in Deuteronomy 17:6-7, "**The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him,**" He tells those who are witnesses to cast the first stone.
7. All the accusers drop their stones and retreat. I'm sure they are aware of what we will see next in Deuteronomy 19:18-19. *"...if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother..."*
8. Jeremiah 17:13 gives us a clue of what He must have been writing. "**Those who depart from Me Shall be written in the earth.**"

## **B. False Witnesses**

### **(1) The Risk of False Testimony**

- (a) "One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; **by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be**

**established.** If a **false witness rises** against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, then both men in the controversy shall stand before the LORD, **before the priests and the judges** who serve in those days. And the judges shall make **careful inquiry**, and indeed, **if the witness is a false witness**, who has testified falsely against his brother, then **you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother**; so you shall put away the evil from among you. And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you. Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.” Deuteronomy 19:15-21 NKJV

## **(2) False Testimony Against Stephen**

- (a) “And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. **Then they secretly induced men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.”** And they stirred up the people, the elders, and

the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council. **They also set up false witnesses who said,** “This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us.” And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.” Acts 6:8-15 NKJV

**(3) Capital Punishment overseen by Saul (Paul) based on False Testimony!**

- (a) “Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And **the [false] witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.** And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” Acts 7:57-60 NKJV

**(4) One Small Example of many in which Paul reaped the punishment for where he had previously sown false testimony.**

- (a) “Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, **they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city**, supposing him to be dead. However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.” Acts 14:19-20 NKJV
1. Again Deuteronomy 19:18-19 state that “...if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother...”
  2. Well, the narrative about Stephen clearly says, “they secretly induced men to say... and they also set up false witnesses who said...”
  3. And the [false] witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul, who was overseeing the travesty.
  4. And look what happens to Paul, even after his conversion to the faith, “they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city!”
  5. Christians are **not immune** from reaping punishment for what they have sown in sin!

### **C. The Need for Righteous Judges**

#### **(1) Bring the matter to the Priests**

- (a) “And you shall come to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge there in those days, **and inquire of them; they shall pronounce upon you the sentence of judgment.** You shall do according to the sentence which they pronounce upon you in that place which the LORD chooses. **And you shall be careful to do according to all that they order you.** According to the sentence of the law in which they instruct you, according to the judgment which they tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left from the sentence which they pronounce upon you. **Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest** who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, **that man shall die.** So you shall put away the evil from Israel. And all the people shall hear and fear, and no longer act presumptuously.”

Deuteronomy 17:9-13 NKJV

**(2) Who should be in charge of His courts?**

- (a) “Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.” Psalms 119:18 NKJV
- (b) ““Thus says the LORD of hosts: **‘If you will walk in My ways, And if you will keep My command, Then you shall also judge My house, And likewise have charge of**



**My courts;** I will give you places to walk Among these who stand here.” Zechariah 3:7 NKJV

(c) **Justice will return to the righteous,** and all the upright in heart will follow it. Psalm 94:15

(d) “When the **righteous are in authority,** the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.” Proverbs 29:2 NKJV

1. You must abide by the decision of God’s Judges or you will be punished.
2. If you walk in His ways you will be in a position to Judge and you will have charge of His courts.
3. Justice will return to the righteous and the people will rejoice
4. The Judgment Seat will become Ruled by those practicing righteousness, and those who are fittest in their minds will be the ones in authority!

## A PROPHET LIKE MOSES

### 3. Who is the Prophet Like Moses?

#### A. What Everyone Thinks!

##### (1) It Must be Y’shua

(a) **Moses Speaking:** “The LORD your God will raise up for you a **Prophet like me** from your midst, from your

brethren. Him you shall hear, **according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb** in the day of the assembly, saying, **‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’** “And the LORD said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. **I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.** And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, **I will require it of him.**” Deuteronomy 18:15-19

1. Before we launch into the depth of this, let me point out a few key elements within the text itself!
2. The Prophet will be like Moses. How? This is a Key!
3. The people DO NOT want to hear from **the Lord** directly; they want someone else first to speak to the Lord and then to them.
4. This of itself should tell you that it IS NOT Y’shua (the Lord) who fulfills this prophecy as **the Lord is putting the Lord’s words in his mouth** so he can then speak them to the People.
5. Hold onto this as we work our way through the text.

(2) **A Prophet Like Moses:** This one area in Deuteronomy might generate one of the greatest controversies in our faith. And although there seems to be almost universal agreement throughout Christianity that the prophet like Moses being prophesied about here is Y'shua Himself, I see glaring inconsistencies with that belief. Now, one might ask themselves, "If nearly everyone agrees, other than a fraction of percent, then how could it possibly be in error?" I might also ask that question about the relevance of the Torah for the Church. It was universally believed across all denominations up until 60 years ago, or so, that Y'shua fulfilled the Torah and therefore we, as Christians, are not obligated to the commandments of God, other than the 10 commandments (minus the Sabbath). This is still held as a "sacred cow" by most of Christianity today. Yet this too is dangerously inconsistent with Y'shua's words and warnings:

(a) *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."* (Matthew 5:17-18)

- (b) *Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me." (John 7:16)*
- (c) *"Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" (John 5:45-47)*
- (d) SO KEEP AN OPEN MIND AND LET'S TAKE A JOURNEY.

**B. What the Scriptures Say!** Let's consider the following proof texts that show that Moses is, instead, referring to Elijah as the prophet to come, and not Y'shua.

**(1) The Restoration of all things**

- (a) ""Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, **so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things**, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since

the world began. **For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me** from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'" Acts 3:17-23 NKJV

(b) "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, **sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.**"

Hebrews 10:12-13 NKJV

(c) "The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, **Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.**" The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!" Psalms 110:1-2 NKJV

(d) "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. **For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption **into the glorious liberty of**

**the children of God.** For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.” Romans 8:18-22 NKJV

1. We had a time of refreshing and now Y’shua is in heaven sitting at the right hand of the Father until something happens. What is He waiting for?
  - I. His enemies to be made His footstool.
  - II. The revealing of the sons.
  - III. The restoration of all things!
2. This restoration is something God spoke about through His prophets, and...
3. The Lord will raise up a prophet like Moses to restore all things. Who can that be?

## **(2) Moses and Elijah at the Transfiguration**

- (a) “Now after six days Jesus took **Peter, James, and John** his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. **And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them**, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for **Moses, and one for Elijah.**” While

he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; **and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”**” Matthew 17:1-5 NKJV

(b) “And His disciples asked Him, saying, **“Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”** Jesus answered and said to them, **“Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.** But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.” **Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.**” Matthew 17:10-13 NKJV

(c) His Baptism by John the Baptist who had to come before the Lord: “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” **For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’ ...**” When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God

descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, **“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”**” Matthew 3:1-3, 16-17 NKJV

1. Peter, James and John join Y’shua on the mountain and he shows them what His glorified body will look like.
2. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appear (how the disciples recognized them is a wonder!)
3. The same voice appears that announced Y’shua’s coming the first time! This prophetic picture shows us it will happen again!
4. This very thing, the voice and seeing the prophets, prompts this question when they come down from the mountain: **“Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”**
5. Elijah comes first to restore all things (just like Peter later teaches in Acts 3 when he refers to Deuteronomy 18).
6. He learned the answer from Y’shua before the crucifixion in Matthew 17! The shadow was John the Baptist who came how?



7. Well, at Y'shua's baptism, John is referred to as the voice of one crying, in the wilderness prepare a way for the Lord! (That is Elijah)
8. And John the Baptist was prophesied to come in the spirit of Elijah! (Prophesied about him by his own father as we will see next!)

### **(3) John the Baptist was prophesied to come in the Spirit of Elijah**

- (a) "But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. **He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,'** and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."" Luke 1:13-17 NKJV
- (b) **Zacharias' Prophecy:** ""**And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest;** For you will go before the

face of the Lord to prepare His ways, To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins," Luke 1:76-77 NKJV

- (c) **"Now this is the testimony of John,** when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, **"What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."** Then they said to him, **"Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the LORD," ' as the prophet Isaiah said."** Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. And they asked him, saying, **"Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"** John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.'" John 1:19-27 NKJV

1. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children. (see Malachi 4)
2. The Child will be a prophet of the Most High.
3. He says he is not Elijah or the Prophet, but why? Even after he confirms that he is "The voice of one crying, in the wilderness..."
4. For he is "the spirit and power of Elijah!"
5. With that in mind let's continue to explore who that messenger is!

#### **(4) messenger vs. Messenger**

- (a) ""Behold, I send My **messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me.** And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts. "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness." Malachi 3:1-3 NKJV

(b) **““Comfort, yes, comfort My people!”** Says your God.  
“Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That  
her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For  
she has received from the LORD’s hand Double for all  
her sins.” **The voice of one crying in the wilderness:**  
**“Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the**  
**desert A highway for our God.** Every valley shall be  
exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The  
crooked places shall be made straight And the rough  
places smooth; The glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the  
LORD has spoken.” The voice said, “Cry out!” And he  
said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh is grass, And all its  
loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass  
wITHERS, the flower fades, Because the breath of the  
LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. The  
grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God  
stands forever.”” Isaiah 40:1-8 NKJV

1. The messenger prepares the way for the Messenger!

**(5) Who is the messenger and what is the message?**

(a) **““For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven,**  
And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be  
stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them

up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch. But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves. You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this, " Says the LORD of hosts. **"Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers,** Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse." Malachi 4:1-6 NKJV

1. The messenger is Elijah!
2. The message: **Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel!**
3. Remember Horeb from Deuteronomy 18: "The LORD your God will raise up for you **a Prophet like me** from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, **according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb** in the day of the assembly,

saying, **Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God.**

4. The people desired to hear someone OTHER THAN THE LORD in order to receive the Laws.
5. In the end: **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.**
6. **Elijah is the prophet like Moses!**

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. **Yahweh commanded that every King who was to sit on the throne of Israel had to write an entire Torah in his own hand.**
  - A. Why do think He did that?
  - B. What might that mean for you as a Christian today?
2. **When Kings came into power, Yahweh warned them to not do certain things:**
  - A. What did He prohibit them from doing?
  - B. What did Solomon ask for when God inquired of him, "Ask! What shall I give you?"
  - C. What did he eventually do with the blessings that came from God fulfilling his request?
  - D. What happened as a result of his actions?

- 3. How can you avoid making the mistakes that Solomon made?**
  - A. Compare and contrast circumcising yourself to the Lord and writing His laws on the tablet of your heart, and the Lord circumcising you and writing His laws on your heart.
- 4. Why is it critical that you examine yourself?**
  - A. What parameters should you use?
  - B. What does it mean to become disqualified? How does that happen?
  - C. What is willful sin and what does it lead to?
- 5. Should I chase you or should I leave you?**
  - A. Compare and contrast the Words of Y'shua in Luke 15:3-7 when He describes leaving the ninety-nine to find the one, and Paul's words in I Timothy 1:18-20 when he describes handing two men over to Satan for blasphemy.
- 6. Discuss in detail how Y'shua applied the laws of witnesses to the account of the woman accused of adultery in John 8:1-12.**
  - A. What is the penalty for bearing false witness.
  - B. How did this play out in Paul's life in light of his involvement in the death of Stephen?
  - C. How does this relate to the need for righteous judges?
- 7. A great debate exists over who Moses is referring to in Deuteronomy 18:15-19 when he says, "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst..."**

- A. Make the argument that he is referring to Y'shua
- B. Make the argument that he is referring to Elijah