



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8
- Joshua 24:14-15; 1:1-3
- Deut. 30:19; 11:22-24
- Matthew 11:28-30; 13:14-17
- Jeremiah 9:13-16
- Judges 2:11-15
- Isaiah 6:5-10
- Romans 11:8-10; 8:18-21
- Psalms 69:18-28; 1:1-6
- Matthew 23:1-36; 13:24-30
- Joshua 4:1-11; 20-24
- I Timothy 4:1-16
- Isaiah 59:1-19; 60:1-22
- Revelation 21:1-3; 22-24

Title:

LOOKING GOOD

- What's at Stake?
- Whom Will You Serve?
- Life or Death
- Handed Over to the Ba'als
- Horror of Choosing Death
- Your Ba'als
- Whitewashed Tombs
- Wheat and Tares
- If You Cannot See or Hear
- Look Good on the Outside
- Actually Dead on the Inside
- Good Ministers
- The Great Divide
- Dark and Light Nations

Do you think Yahweh is joking? Do you take His grace for granted? Maybe there is no better way to put how serious this is into words than to simply state it the way the Scriptures do in Hebrews

10:26-29. *“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?**”* Maybe, however, there is one thing even worse than willful sin. Faking it! Y’shua described these counterfeits as whitewashed tombs, all bright and Christian-like on the outside, but on the inside filled with rotting and decaying bones. Pretty harsh words for gentle Jesus! What I am sure about is this; by obeying God you surround yourself with His blessings, and living in disobedience is worse than a horror story!

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“And it shall be, on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, that you shall set up for yourselves large stones, **and whitewash them with lime.** You shall **write on them all the words of this law**, when you have crossed over, that you may enter the land which the LORD your God is giving you, ‘a land flowing with milk and honey,’ just as the

LORD God of your fathers promised you. Therefore it shall be, when you have crossed over the Jordan, that on Mount Ebal you shall **set up these stones**, which I command you today, **and you shall whitewash them** with lime." Deuteronomy 27:2-4 NKJV

""But it shall come to pass, **if you do not obey the voice of the LORD** your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that **all these curses will come upon** you and overtake you:" Deuteronomy 28:15 NKJV

""Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.** Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are **full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.**" Matthew 23:27-28 NKJV

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

""Now it shall come to pass, **if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD** your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And **all these blessings shall come upon you** and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:" Deuteronomy 28:1-2 NKJV

“If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. But reject profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.” ... **“Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine.** Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” I Timothy 4:6-7, 15-16 NKJV

Let’s Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This Torah portion begins with laws regarding first fruits and tithes. It goes on to discuss covenant renewal, after which Moses recites the blessings guaranteed to Israel for covenant obedience and warns of the curses for apostasy.
2. **Offerings for Firstfruits and Tithes:** Moses reminds Israel what they must do when they come into the land. Offer the first of all your produce to Yahweh. Make this declaration to the priest so you never forget. **“I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the country which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.”** Deuteronomy 26:3

3. The people must have on their lips, at all times, how they arrived in Egypt few in numbers, became a great nation, were mistreated and afflicted, and then were delivered by Yahweh's power through signs and wonders. They must always remember that they have arrived in the land of promise!
4. Every third year lay aside all the tithe of your increase. Take care of the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, so that they may eat within your gates and be filled (and you will be blessed abundantly for obeying this!)
5. **A Special People of God:** the people have declared that Yahweh is their God and that they will obey Him, and Yahweh has declared that Israel is His special people.
6. **The Law Inscribed on Stones:** as Israel crosses into the promised land, they are to set up memorial stones and to whitewash them with lime, and *"write very plainly on the stones all the words of this law. (v. 8)"* Also build an altar out of whole stones and offer burnt and peace offerings. *"Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the LORD your God. Therefore you shall obey the voice of the LORD your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today."* Deuteronomy 27:9-10
7. **Pronouncements after you cross over the Jordan—Blessings from Mount Gerizim and Curses from Mount Ebal:**

- (a) **These shall bless the people:** Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin
- (b) **These shall curse the people:** Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. And the Levites shall speak these warnings to all the men of Israel: It is noteworthy that the people, in marriage-worthy fashion, say “I do” to each of these warnings.
- (1) Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image.
 - (2) Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.
 - (3) Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor’s landmark.
 - (4) Cursed is the one who makes the blind to wander off the road.
 - (5) Cursed is the one who perverts justice.
 - (6) Cursed is the one who lies with his father’s wife.
 - (7) Cursed is the one who lies with any kind of animal.
 - (8) Cursed is the one who lies with his sister.
 - (9) Cursed is the one who lies with his mother-in-law.
 - (10) Cursed is the one who attacks his neighbor secretly.
 - (11) Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person.
 - (12) Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them.

8. Up next is Deuteronomy Chapter 28, likely the most famous chapter in the Bible when it comes to Yahweh's definitive statement about His blessings for obeying Him and curses for disobeying Him. **Noteworthy:** The blessings encompass the first **fourteen verses**; the curses, the next **fifty-four verses**, something to really think about!
9. **Blessings for Obedience:** NOTE VERSE 14: *“Don't turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.”* THAT WOULD BE REALLY BAD! But, if you diligently obey the voice of Yahweh, and carefully observe all His commandments, then He will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you: (Deuteronomy 28:1-2) **Blessed you will be:**
- (1) In the city and the country.
 - (2) In the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your livestock.
 - (3) In your basket and your kneading bowl.
 - (4) In your coming and going.
 - (5) As He will cause your enemies to be defeated; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.
 - (6) In your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand.

- (7) As a holy people to Himself.
- (8) As all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of Yahweh, and they shall be afraid of you.
- (9) With plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground.
- (10) As Yahweh will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season.
- (11) In all the work of your hands.
- (12) As lenders to many nations and not borrowers.
- (13) As the head and not the tail; as above and not be beneath.

10. **Curses for Disobedience:** *But, if you do not obey the voice of Yahweh, to observe carefully all His commandments, **these curses** will come upon you and overtake you:* Deuteronomy 28:15

11. Strap yourself in; the curses are so awful that some of the descriptions create a mental picture and certainly conjure up the feelings of what you might imagine hell is like! **Cursed you will be:**

- (1) In the city and the country.
- (2) In the fruit of your body, the produce of your land, and the increase of your livestock.
- (3) In your coming and going.
- (4) In confusion and rebukes of all that you set your hands to do.

- (5) With plagues that will cling to you until you are consumed.
- (6) And stricken with consumption, fever, inflammation, severe burning fever, the sword, scorching, and with mildew; until you perish.
- (7) As the heavens over your land shall be as powder and dust and the land will produce as if it were iron!
- (8) And defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them.
- (9) As you become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth.
- (10) As your carcasses become food for birds and the beasts, and no one shall frighten them away.
- (11) With the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.
- (12) And stricken with madness, blindness and confusion.
- (13) As you grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness.
- (14) As all your ways will be unprosperous.
- (15) As you are oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you.
- (16) You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her.
- (17) You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it.
- (18) You shall plant a vineyard, but shall not gather its grapes.
- (19) Your ox will be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will not eat of it.

- (20) And your donkey will be violently taken from you.
- (21) And your sheep given to your enemies.
- (22) And your sons and your daughters given to another people.
- (23) Your eyes shall look and fail and there shall be no strength in your hand.
- (24) When a nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be oppressed and crushed continually.
- (25) As you are driven mad because of what your eyes witness.
- (26) While you are stricken with severe boils which cannot be healed, from the sole of your feet to the top of your head.
- (27) You and your future king will be sent to a nation, which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods.
- (28) And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you.
- (29) You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it.
- (30) You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.

- (31) You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off.
- (32) You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity.
- (33) Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land.
- (34) The alien who is among you shall rise higher and you shall come down lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.
- (35) These curses shall pursue you and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of Yahweh.
- (36) The curse shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever because you did not serve Yahweh.
- (37) You shall serve your enemies.
- (38) You will be in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything.
- (39) As Yahweh puts a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.
- (40) Nations from afar shall take from you every resource, all livestock, and all your produce, grain, wine and oil.
- (41) They shall besiege you at all your gates and starve you out.

- (42) In complete desperation, you shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters in the siege.
- (43) The sensitive and very refined man among you will turn hostile toward everyone as he consumes the flesh of his own children in desperation!
- (44) The tender and delicate woman among you will refuse her husband and children and consider only herself in her desperation.
- (45) If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law and fear the glorious and awesome name of Yahweh, then He will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses, including all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid.
- (46) Even sicknesses never written in the Book of the Law will come upon you until you are left few in number, in contrast to the stars of heaven.
- (47) *“And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.”*
- Deuteronomy 28:63 NKJV

(48) Then you will be scattered from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, and you shall find no rest, but instead a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.

(49) *“Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.”* Deuteronomy 28:66 NKJV

(50) In the morning you’d wish it were evening, and in the evening you’d wish it were morning because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of what your eyes have witnessed.

(51) Back to Egypt you will go! And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies.

12. **The Covenant Renewed:** *“These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb.”* Deuteronomy 29:1

13. Moses reminds the people all that happened in Egypt and yet they still have no eyes to perceive the magnitude.

14. *“Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.”* Deuteronomy 29:4 NKJV

15. **Reminder:** Your clothes and sandals never wore out. And your food and wine were provided for supernaturally, so you knew it was Yahweh who provided for you continuously.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

1. Choose Whom You Will Serve

A. The Deuteronomy 28 Blessings and Curses

(1) If you will obey....

- (a) ““Now it shall come to pass, **if you diligently obey** the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. **And all these blessings shall come upon you** and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:” Deuteronomy 28:1-2 NKJV
- (b) **SAMPLE:** “And the LORD will make you the **head and not the tail**; you shall be **above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God**, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.” Deuteronomy 28:13 NKJV
- (c) **13 BLESSINGS ARE DESCRIBED:** In the city and the country, In the fruit of your body; the produce of your ground and the increase of your livestock; In your

basket and your kneading bowl; In your coming and going; As He will cause your enemies to be defeated; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways; In your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand; As a holy people to Himself; As all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of Yahweh, and they shall be afraid of you; With plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground; As Yahweh will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season; In all the work of your hands; As lenders to many nations and not borrowers; As the head and not the tail; as above and not be beneath.

(2) If you would rather disobey...

- (a) ““But it shall come to pass, **if you do not obey the voice of the LORD** your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that **all these curses will come upon you** and overtake you:” Deuteronomy 28:15 NKJV
- (b) **Over 50 CURSES are described:** Some are so disturbing they read like a horror movie!

- (c) **SAMPLE:** “The LORD will send on you **cursing, confusion, and rebuke** in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me.” Deuteronomy 28:20 NKJV
- (d) **SAMPLE:** “The LORD will make the **plague cling to you until** He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess. The LORD will strike you with **consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew;** they shall pursue you until you perish.” Deuteronomy 28:21-22 NKJV
- (e) **SAMPLE:** “You shall **eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters** whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you. The sensitive and very refined man among you will be hostile toward his brother, toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the rest of his children whom he leaves behind, so **that he will not give any of them the flesh of his children whom he will eat,** because he has nothing left in the siege and desperate straits in which your

enemy shall distress you at all your gates.”

Deuteronomy 28:53-55 NKJV

- (f) **SAMPLE:** “And it shall be, that **just as the LORD rejoiced over you** to do you good and multiply you, **so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing;** and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.” Deuteronomy 28:63 NKJV

1. Summary of Blessings and Curses
2. Obedience bring blessings.
3. Disobedience brings curses worse than any horror story.
4. Note: The New Testament equivalent of the blessings and curses of Deuteronomy 28 is the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. The narrative climaxes with the same encouragement and the same admonition:
5. ““Therefore whoever **hears these sayings of Mine, and does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. “But everyone who **hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them**, will be like a foolish

man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”” Matthew 7:24-27 NKJV

B. Life and Death

(1) Choose!

(a) “I call heaven and earth **as witnesses** today against you, that I have set before you **life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live;” Deuteronomy 30:19 NKJV

(b) ““Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**”” Joshua 24:14-15 NKJV

C. Choosing Death

(1) Choosing the Ba’als (other God’s)

(a) ““Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, **and there you shall serve other gods**, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone. And among those nations **you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place;** but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.” Deuteronomy 28:64-65 NKJV

1. **Opposite of no Rest**

a) ““**For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do**—to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him— then the LORD will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves. **Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours:** from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory.” Deuteronomy 11:22-24 NKJV

b) “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) **You will find rest...** “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, **and I will give you rest.** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”” Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV

(b) “And the LORD said, “Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it, (14) **but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts and after the Baals**, which their fathers taught them,” therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Behold, I will feed them, this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. **I will scatter them also among the Gentiles**, whom neither they nor their fathers have known. And I will send a sword after them until I have consumed them.”” Jeremiah 9:13-16 NKJV

(c) **“Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; and they forsook the LORD** God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and **they bowed down to them;** and they provoked the LORD to anger. (13) **They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.** And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So **He delivered them into the hands of plunderers** who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed.” Judges 2:11-15 NKJV

1. Summary of choosing life or the death of serving other gods!
2. When you choose other gods you will never find rest nor will you walk in the promised authority over where you place your feet.
3. Going after the other Ba’als of your life is equal to forsaking Yahweh, you can’t have both!

4. **“No one can serve two masters;** for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” Matthew 6:24 NKJV

D. Handed over to the Ba’als (other God’s)

(1) The horror that comes from choosing death

- (a) “And you shall become an **astonishment**, a **proverb**, and a **byword** among all nations where the LORD will drive you.” Deuteronomy 28:37 NKJV

1. **An Astonishment:** an object of horror, waste, horror, appalment
2. **A Proverb:** parable, proverbial saying, aphorism
3. **A Byword:** ridicule, sharp word, sharp (cutting) word, taunt, gibe, perfect example of, classic case of, model of, embodiment of, incarnation of, personification of, epitome of, typification of...
4. See [this article](#) about what happens when the church is weak and ineffective.

- (b) “Your **life shall hang in doubt** before you; **you shall fear day and night**, and have no assurance of life.”

Deuteronomy 28:66 NKJV

1. **Perfect Love:** “**There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear**, because fear involves torment.

But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.
We love Him because He first loved us." I John
4:18-19 NKJV

(2) What Ba'als is the Church serving?

- (a) Ba'al 501c3
- (b) Ba'al Mega Church Aspirations
- (c) Ba'al Denominationalism
- (d) Ba'al Fame and Fortune
- (e) Ba'al G-rated entertainment
- (f) Ba'al Loophole Christianity
- (g) Ba'al Government Approval
- (h) Ba'al Lies and Manipulation
- (i) Ba'al Weakness and Fear
- (j) Ba'al Expedience and Inclusion
- (k) Ba'al Seeker Friendly Doctrine
- (l) Ba'al Building Projects and Expansion
- (m) Ba'al Common Culture
- (n) Ba'al Tolerance
- (o) Ba'al Political Correctness

(3) What Ba'als are you serving?

- (a) Ba'al drugs and alcohol
- (b) Ba'al food
- (c) Ba'al pornography

- (d) Ba'al sexual impurity
- (e) Ba'al video games
- (f) Ba'al money
- (g) Ba'al fame
- (h) Ba'al the dictates of your own heart
- (i) Ba'al etc.
 1. Summary of a life handed over to other gods.
 2. Has your Christian life become a cliché?
 3. Who are we truly serving, as the church and you personally?
 4. What gods are you serving?
 5. Has your life become a Christian platitude or have you become a classic case of Christianese with no substance on the inside?

WHITEWASHED TOMBS

2. **Bad Things Happen when You Cannot see Nor Can you Hear**

A. **Dull Hearts**

- (1) Yet the LORD has not given you a **heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear**, to this very day."

Deuteronomy 29:4 NKJV

- (a) **Y'shua Knew:** "And in them **the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled**, which says: '**Hearing you will hear and shall**

not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull.

Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.' **But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;** for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."

Matthew 13:14-17 NKJV

1. **Isaiah saw it coming!** "So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, **And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.**"

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged." Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "**Here am I! Send me.**" Isaiah 6:5-8 NKJV

2. “And He said, **“Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ ‘Make the heart of this people dull,** And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.”” Isaiah 6:9-10 NKJV

(b) **Paul recognized what was happening!** “Just as it is written: **“God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear,** To this very day.” **And David says:** “Let their **table become** a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them. Let their **eyes be darkened,** so that they do not see, And bow down their back always.”” Romans 11:8-10 NKJV

1. **David prayed about those who were God’s enemies!** **“Let their table become a snare before them,** And their well-being a trap. **Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see;** And make their loins shake continually.” Psalms 69:22-23 NKJV

2. **EXPANDED:** “Draw near to my soul, and redeem it; Deliver me because of my enemies. You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; My

adversaries are all before You. Reproach has broken my heart, And I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none. They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. (22-24) **Let their table become a snare before them, And their well-being a trap. Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see; And make their loins shake continually. Pour out Your indignation upon them, And let Your wrathful anger take hold of them.** Let their dwelling place be desolate; Let no one live in their tents. For they persecute the ones You have struck, And talk of the grief of those You have wounded. Add iniquity to their iniquity, And let them not come into Your righteousness. **Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, And not be written with the righteous."**

Psalms 69:18-28 NKJV

1. Summary of bad things that happen when you cannot see nor can you hear.
2. Yahweh's wrathful anger will take hold of them!
3. Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, And not be written with the righteous!

B. Looking Good on the Outside but NOT so Good on the Inside

(1) On the Outside—Whitewashed Stones commemorating Yahweh’s promises and our call to obedience!

- (a) “Now Moses, with the elders of Israel, commanded the people, saying: **“Keep all the commandments which I command you today.** And it shall be, on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, that you shall **set up for yourselves large stones, and whitewash them with lime. You shall write on them all the words of this law,** when you have crossed over, that you may enter the land which the LORD your God is giving you, ‘a land flowing with milk and honey,’ just as the LORD God of your fathers promised you. Therefore it shall be, when you have crossed over the Jordan, that on Mount Ebal you shall set up these stones, which I command you today, **and you shall whitewash them with lime. ””**

Deuteronomy 27:1-4NKJV

(2) But on the Inside—Full of extortion and self-indulgence, dead men’s bones and uncleanness.

- (a) **““Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside**

they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.” Matthew 23:25-26 NKJV

(b) ““Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.** Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.” Matthew 23:27-28 NKJV

(c) **Full Narrative: Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** “Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: **“The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works;** for they say, and do not do. For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the marketplaces, and to be

called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. **"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. **Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. **"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. **"Woe to you, blind guides,** who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it. ' **Fools and blind!** For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but

whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it. ' **Fools and blind!** For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it. "**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. **Blind guides,** who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! "**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of **extortion and self-indulgence.** Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. "**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you are like **whitewashed tombs** which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, **but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.** Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of **hypocrisy and lawlessness.** "**Woe to you, scribes**

and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' "Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. **Serpents, brood of vipers!** How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation." Matthew 23:1-36 NKJV

(3) Wheat and Tares: All good on the outside until it's time to put forth some fruit!

- (a) "Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and

sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. **But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.** So the servants of the owner came and said to him, **'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'** He said to them, **'An enemy has done this.'** The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. **Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers,** "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' "" Matthew 13:24-30 NKJV

1. Summary: What does it look like when what is on the outside does not match what is on the inside?
2. Woe to you, hypocrites; Pretense and condemnation; Blind guides; Extortion; Self-indulgence; Whitewashed tombs; Dead man's bones; Uncleanness; Lawlessness; Serpent, Brood of vipers.
3. Wheat and Tares look the same until the end when the tares bare no fruit!

C. Stones of Remembrance

(1) **It was common of Yahweh to have His people set up memorial stones to commemorate important events! The stones of Deuteronomy 27 are for a memorial to the children of Israel forever, as Yahweh instructed Joshua!**

(a) “And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying: “Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, and command them, saying, ‘**Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet stood firm.** You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.’ ” Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; and Joshua said to them: “Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and **each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder**, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, ‘**What do these stones mean to you?**’ Then you shall answer them **that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of**

the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. **And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.**” And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and **took up twelve stones** from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. **Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan,** in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day. So the priests who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over. Then it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the LORD and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people.” Joshua 4:1-11 NKJV

- (b) “**And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal.** Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: **“When your children ask their**

fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?' then you shall let your children know, saying, 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land'; for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.'"
Joshua 4:20-24 NKJV

1. Summary: Stones of Remembrance
2. Why Set up memorial stones?
3. When your children ask ..."What are these stones?" say this: Yahweh dried of the waters so we could pass on dry ground...so all the peoples of the earth would know it was the hand of the LORD, and how mighty He is, and that you should fear the LORD your God forever.
4. If you are a stone on which is written the commands of Yahweh, and you are obedient (whitewashed), you become a testimony to the whole world.

5. If you are a stone on which is written the commands of Yahweh, and you are disobedient (a whitewashed tomb), you become a hypocrite to the whole world!

GOOD MINISTERS

3. Keep the People on Track

A. Deceiving Spirits and Doctrines of Demons

(1) More Hypocrisy Prophesied

- (a) “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy**, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.” I Timothy 4:1-5 NKJV

B. Our Job—Instruct the Brethren in good doctrine!

- (1) Good ministers nourish the people in words of faith and good doctrine!

(a) “If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. But reject profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.” I Timothy 4:6-7 NKJV

(2) How to prepare to do so—Meditate on the Word!

(a) “Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” I Timothy 4:15-16 NKJV

(b) “O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge— by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.” I Timothy 6:20-21 NKJV

(c) “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. Summary of what it looks like to be a “good minister”!
2. Good ministers nourish the people in words of faith and good doctrine.
3. Good ministers guard and practice good doctrine themselves.
4. Good ministers do so by delighting in the law of the LORD and meditating on it day and night.
5. Good ministers avoid profane and idle babblings and contradictions as they have an acute awareness of deceiving spirits, doctrines of demons, lies and hypocrisy.

THE GREAT DIVIDE—PICK A SIDE!

4. A Prophetic Picture of Today’s World—The Great Divide of Two Nations

A. The Rise of a Nation of Darkness!

(1) Isaiah's Prophetic Picture about which Timothy was warned:

- (a) "Now the Spirit expressly says that **in latter times** some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving spirits** and **doctrines of demons**, speaking lies in **hypocrisy**, having their own **conscience seared** with a hot iron," I Timothy 4:1-2 NKJV
- (b) "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But **your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity. No one calls for justice**, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; **They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.** They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; He who eats of their eggs dies, And from that which is crushed a viper breaks out. Their webs will not become garments, Nor will they cover themselves with their works; **Their works are works of iniquity**, And the act of violence is in their hands. **Their**

feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; **Wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they have not known, And there is no justice in their ways;** They have made themselves crooked paths; **Whoever takes that way shall not know peace.**

Therefore justice is far from us, Nor does righteousness overtake us; We look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness! We grope for the wall like the blind, And we grope as if we had no eyes; **We stumble at noonday as at twilight; We are as dead men in desolate places. We all growl like bears, And moan sadly like doves; We look for justice, but there is none; For salvation, but it is far from us. For our transgressions are multiplied before You, And our sins testify against us; For our transgressions are with us, And as for our iniquities, we know them: In transgressing and lying against the LORD, And departing from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.** Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; **For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter. So truth fails, And he who departs**

from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; **Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him;** And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, **And a helmet of salvation on His head;** He put on the **garments of vengeance** for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak. According to their deeds, accordingly **He will repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies;** The coastlands He will fully repay. So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; **When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.**” Isaiah 59:1-19 NKJV

B. The Rise of a Nation of Light!

- (1) **The glory of the LORD is risen upon you:** The sons of those who afflicted you Shall come bowing to you, And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet...” Isaiah 60:14
 - (a) **“Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.** For behold, the darkness

shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. **The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.** “Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. **Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.** The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, The rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; **They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, And I will glorify the house of My glory.** “Who are these who fly like a cloud, And like doves to their roosts? Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first, To bring your sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them, To the name of the LORD your God, And to the Holy One of Israel, **Because He has glorified you.** “The

sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, And their kings shall minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, But in My favor I have had mercy on you.

Therefore your gates shall be open continually; They shall not be shut day or night, That men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, And their kings in procession. For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, And those nations shall be utterly ruined. "The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, The cypress, the pine, and the box tree together, To beautify the place of My sanctuary; And I will make the place of My feet glorious. (14) Also the sons of those who afflicted you Shall come bowing to you, And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; And they shall call you The City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. "Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, So that no one went through you, I will make you an eternal excellence, A joy of many generations. You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, And milk the breast of kings; You shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. "Instead of bronze I will bring gold, Instead of iron I will bring silver, Instead of

wood, bronze, And instead of stones, iron. I will also make your officers peace, And your magistrates righteousness. Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, Neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; But you shall call your walls Salvation, And your gates Praise.” Isaiah 60:1-18 NKJV

(2) The Glory of His People

(a) “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.**” Romans 8:18-21 NKJV

1. Summary: Pick a side; a Nation of Darkness or a Nation of Light!
2. A Nation of Darkness:
 - 1) Deceiving spirits, doctrines of demons, lies and hypocrisy, a seared conscience.
 - 2) Your hands are defiled with blood, your fingers with iniquity.

- 3) Your lips have spoken lies; your tongue has muttered perversity.
- 4) No one calls for justice; nor does any plead for truth.
- 5) They trust in empty words and speak lies.
- 6) They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.
- 7) The act of violence is in their hands.
- 8) Their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed innocent blood. Wasting and destruction are in their paths.
- 9) The way of peace they have not known, and there is no justice in their ways.
- 10) We look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness!
- 11) We are as dead men in desolate places [Dead men's bones!]
- 12) And our sins testify against us; in transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.
- 13) For truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

14) As truth fails, he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.

3. Then the turn...

1) Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice.

2) He saw that there was no man to intercede, so His own arm brought salvation for Him.

3) And His own righteousness [Y'shua's righteousness], it sustained Him. For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head [that is why we do the same, See Ephesians 6:10-24 and corresponding videos Shadow [Boxing Part 1](#) and Shadow [Boxing Part 2](#)].

4) He will repay, fury to His adversaries, recompense to His enemies;

5) So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.

4. The Rise of a Nation of Light!

1) The glory of the LORD is risen upon you.

2) Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.

- 3) The darkness shall cover the earth.
- 4) And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
- 5) Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy.
- 6) The abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.
- 7) Because He has glorified you. "The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you;
- 8) Therefore your gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day or night, that men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles,
- 9) And I will make the place of My feet glorious.
- 10) The sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you, And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet.
- 11) Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, so that no one went through you, I will make you an eternal excellence.
- 12) You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles.

- 13) Instead of bronze I will bring gold, instead of iron I will bring silver, instead of wood, bronze, and instead of stones, iron.
- 14) **I will also make your officers peace, and your magistrates righteousness. Violence shall no longer be heard in your land!**
- 15) The Glory of His People
- 16) 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.
- 17) Creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

C. **The Final Fulfillment**

- (1) **Isaiah Prophecy—But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light!**
- (a) **“The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory. Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the LORD will be your everlasting light, And the days of your mourning shall be ended. Also your people shall all be righteous; They**

shall inherit the land forever, The branch of My planting,
The work of My hands, That I may be glorified. A little
one shall become a thousand, And a small one a strong
nation. I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time.”” Isaiah
60:19-22 NKJV

(2) **John’s Prophecy—the city had no need of the sun or the
moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it.**

(a) “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first
heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there
was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, **New
Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven** from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I
heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “**Behold, the
tabernacle of God is with men,** and He will dwell with
them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will
be with them and be their God.

(b) But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and
the Lamb are its temple. **The city had no need of the
sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God
illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.** And the nations of
those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings
of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.”

Revelation 21:1-3, 22-24 NKJV

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Consider Deuteronomy 28:

- A. Relate obedience and disobedience to blessings and curses.
- B. Discuss the horror story of the worst curses.

2. What does it mean to choose life or death?

- A. Relate choosing death to the worship of “other gods”.
- B. What does it mean to be handed over to the Ba’als.
- C. What Ba’als are you in relationship with?
- D. What Ba’als are the church at risk of being entangled with?

3. What is a whitewashed tomb?

- A. Relate the words of Y’shua when He called some of the Scribes and Pharisees whitewashed tombs to the stones of remembrance that Israel was to set up with the crossing of the Jordan.
- B. Relate whitewashed tombs to the parable of the Wheat and Tares.

4. What is the role of a “good minister”?

- A. Why is knowing and teaching good doctrine so important?

5. Compare and contrast nations of darkness with nations of light.

- A. How does this relate to the times we live in in 2020?

B. What might this Scripture mean today, in relationship to those who openly declare themselves as enemies of the church? “The sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you, and all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet...” Isaiah 60:14