



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Leviticus 1:1-6:7
- Amos 5:18-21
- Malachi 1-4
- Deuteronomy 18:15-19

WITHOUT BLEMISH OR APOSTATE RELIGION

- Preserved Blameless
- Apostate Religion
- The Prophet like Moses

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

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

And yes, another pattern shows us what it looks like when rebellion is afoot. Instead of a lamb without blemish, lets go ahead and offer blind and lame animals, or worse yet, stolen animals. Can

you imagine how far from God you must be to think you can offer Him a sacrifice that you heisted? It's preposterous! In the New Testament, these apostates are called "spots in our love feasts." Today they don't look like Christians dragging lame or stolen animals before the Lord; instead, it's a whole movement of people who call themselves Christians, while they remain fully entrenched in the world.

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

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

"If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male **without blemish**; he shall offer it of his own **free will** at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD." Leviticus 1:3 NKJV

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

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**; for it is God who works in

you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, **that you may become blameless and harmless**, children of God **without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation**, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.” Philippians 2:12-16 NKJV

“Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you completely**; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be **preserved blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.” I Thessalonians 5:23-24 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. Leviticus describes the sacrificial service and the duties of the priests. It also introduces ritual purity, the biblical diet, the calendar of appointed times, laws of holiness and laws relating to redemption, vows and tithes. In addition, Leviticus teaches on ethical instruction and holiness. This portion introduces the sacrificial service and describes five different types of sacrifices.
2. **Please note:** In Jewish Bibles the first seven verses of Chapter Six are included in Chapter Five, hence you might notice that in

your Bible there are only 19 verses in Chapter Five, whereas in Jewish Old Testaments, or in the Complete Jewish Bible, there are 26 verses in Chapter Five. The verse content is exactly the same; the only difference is where those seven verses are located. For our purposes, we include those verses as part of Chapter Six.

3. EVERY ANIMAL TO BE OFFERED MUST BE PERFECT, WITHOUT BLEMISH.
4. **The Burnt Offering:** bring your offering of the livestock—of the herd and of the flock, a male **without blemish**; of his own **free will**; sprinkle the blood all around on the altar that *is by* the door of the tabernacle of meeting. And the priest **shall burn all** on the altar as a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord.
5. **The Grain Offering:** fine flour, pour oil on it, and put frankincense on it; take from it his handful and burn *it as* a memorial. The rest of *shall be* Aaron's and his sons'. *It is* most holy of the offerings to the Lord made by fire. It can also be backed as unleavened cakes in an oven or on a pan. No grain offering which you bring to the Lord shall be made with leaven, for **you shall burn no leaven nor any honey in any offering**.
6. The offering of the firstfruits shall not be burned on the altar for a sweet aroma; offer for the grain offering of your firstfruits

green heads of grain roasted on the fire, grain beaten from full heads; burn the memorial portion: *part* of its beaten grain and *part* of its oil, with all the frankincense.

7. Every offering of your grain offering **you shall season with salt.**
8. **The Peace Offering:** sprinkle the blood all around on the altar. Burn the fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that *is* on the entrails, the two kidneys and the fat that *is* on them by the flanks.
9. The fatty lobe *attached* to the liver above the kidneys, he shall **remove**; and Aaron's sons shall **burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice.**
10. This offering may be male or female. It decries all the fat that is to be burned on the altar *as food*.
11. **The Sin Offering:** If a priest sins unintentionally, offer to the Lord a young bull. Take some of the bull's blood the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of the blood seven times before the Lord, in front of the veil of the sanctuary.
12. The priest shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of sweet incense; and he shall pour the remaining blood of the bull at the base of the altar of the burnt offering.
13. Remove all the fats as in the peace offering and burn them on the altar of the burnt offering.

14. But the bull's hide and all its flesh, with its head and legs, its entrails and offal—the whole bull he shall carry outside the camp to a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and burn it on wood with fire; where the ashes are poured out it shall be burned.
15. If the whole congregation of Israel sins unintentionally, and the thing is hidden from the eyes of the assembly, and are guilty; when the sin which they have committed becomes known, then the assembly shall offer a young bull for the sin, and do the same as of a person or priest sinned unintentionally.
16. When a ruler has sinned, and done *something* unintentionally and is guilty, or if his sin which he has committed comes to his knowledge, he shall bring as his offering a kid of the goats, and do the same thing with the blood, but he shall burn all its fat on the altar, like the fat of the sacrifice of the peace offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him concerning his sin, and it shall be forgiven him.
17. If any of the common people sins unintentionally and is guilty, or if his sin which he has committed comes to his knowledge, do the same as for a ruler.
18. If he brings a lamb as his sin offering, he shall bring a female without blemish.

19. So the priest shall make atonement for his sin that he has committed, and it shall be forgiven him.
20. **The Trespass Offering:** If a person sins in hearing the utterance of an oath, and *is* a witness, whether he has seen or known of *the matter*—if he does not tell *it*, he bears guilt.
- (a) If a person touches any unclean thing, whether *it is* the carcass of an unclean beast, or the carcass of unclean livestock, or the carcass of unclean creeping things, and he is unaware of it, he also shall be unclean and guilty.
 - (b) If he touches human uncleanness—whatever uncleanness with which a man may be defiled, and he is unaware of it—when he realizes *it*, then he shall be guilty.
 - (c) If a person swears, speaking thoughtlessly with *his* lips to do evil or to do good, whatever *it is* that a man may pronounce by an oath, and he is unaware of it—when he realizes *it*, then he shall be guilty in any of these *matters*.
21. When he is guilty in any of these *matters*, that he shall confess that he has sinned in that *thing*; and he shall bring his trespass offering to the Lord, a female from the flock, a lamb or a kid of the goats as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him concerning his sin.
- (a) If he is not able to bring a lamb, bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons: one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt

offering. The priest, who shall offer *that* which *is* for the sin offering first. And he shall offer the second as a burnt offering according to the prescribed manner, and it shall be forgiven him.

- (b) If he is not able to bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons, then he who sinned shall bring for his offering one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a sin offering. He shall put no oil on it, nor shall he put frankincense on it, for it *is* a sin offering. The priest shall take his handful of it as a memorial portion, and burn *it* on the altar and the priest shall make atonement for him and it shall be forgiven him. *The rest* shall be the priest's as a grain offering.

22. **Offerings with Restitution:** If a person commits a trespass, and sins unintentionally he shall bring to the Lord as his trespass offering a ram, with your valuation in shekels of silver according to the shekel of the sanctuary, as a trespass offering. And he shall make restitution for the harm that he has done, and shall add one-fifth to it and give it to the priest. So the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him.

23. If a person sins, and commits any of these things which are forbidden, though he does not know *it*, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity. He shall bring to the priest a ram without

blemish from the flock, with your valuation, as a trespass offering. The priest shall make atonement for him regarding his ignorance in which he erred and did not know *it*, and it shall be forgiven him.

24. Laws About the Burnt Offering, the Grain Offering, and the Sin Offering: If a person sins by lying to his neighbor about what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or about a pledge, or about a robbery, or if he has extorted from his neighbor, or if he has found what was lost and lies concerning it, and swears falsely—in any one of these things that a man may do in which he sins:

- (a) He shall restore what he has stolen, or the thing which he has extorted, or what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or the lost thing which he found, or all that about which he has sworn falsely. He shall restore its full value, add one-fifth more to it, *and* give it to whomever it belongs, on the day of his trespass offering.
- (b) Do all that and then bring his trespass offering to the Lord, and the priest shall make atonement for him before the Lord, and he shall be forgiven for any one of these things that he may have done in which he trespasses.

PRESERVED BLAMELESS

1. Without Spot or Wrinkle

A. **A Clear Pattern:** when you bring an offering to Yahweh, it must be perfect (without blemish)!

(1) Eleven times in our Torah Portion this week, Yahweh tells Moses... *“When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering...”* (Leviticus 1:2) And it must be **without blemish!**

(a) “If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male **without blemish**; he shall offer it of his own **free will** at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD.” Leviticus 1:3 NKJV

(b) “If his offering is of the flocks—of the sheep or of the goats—as a burnt sacrifice, he shall bring a male **without blemish.**” Leviticus 1:10 NKJV

(c) “When his offering is a sacrifice of a peace offering, if he offers it of the herd, whether male or female, he shall offer it **without blemish** before the LORD.” Leviticus 3:1 NKJV

(d) “If his offering as a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD is of the flock, whether male or female, he shall offer it **without blemish.**” Leviticus 3:6 NKJV

- (e) “if the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, then let him offer to the LORD for his sin which he has sinned a young bull **without blemish** as a sin offering.”
Leviticus 4:3 NKJV
- (f) “When a ruler has sinned, and done something **unintentionally** against any of the commandments of the LORD his God in anything which should not be done, and is guilty, or if his sin which he has committed comes to his knowledge, he shall bring as his offering a kid of the goats, a male **without blemish.**” Leviticus 4:22-23 NKJV
- (g) “If anyone of the common people sins **unintentionally** by doing something against any of the commandments of the LORD in anything which ought not to be done, and is guilty, or if his sin which he has committed comes to his knowledge, then he shall bring as his offering a kid of the goats, a female **without blemish**, for his sin which he has committed.” Leviticus 4:27-28 NKJV
- (h) “If he brings a lamb as his sin offering, he shall bring a female **without blemish.**” Leviticus 4:32 NKJV
- (i) “If a person commits a trespass, and **sins unintentionally** in regard to the holy things of the LORD, then he shall

bring to the LORD as his trespass offering a ram **without blemish** from the flocks, with your valuation in shekels of silver according to the shekel of the sanctuary, as a trespass offering.” Leviticus 5:15 NKJV

(j) “If a person sins, and commits **any of these things** which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD, **though he does not know** it, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity. And he shall bring to the priest a ram **without blemish** from the flock, with your valuation, as a trespass offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him regarding his ignorance in which he erred and did not know it, and it shall be forgiven him. It is a trespass offering; he has certainly trespassed against the LORD.”” Leviticus 5:17-19 NKJV

(k) “And he shall bring his trespass offering to the LORD, a ram **without blemish** from the flock, with your valuation, as a trespass offering, to the priest.” Leviticus 6:6 NKJV

1. **Trespass Offering—Leviticus 6:2-5:** for lying to a neighbor about what was put in his safekeeping; a pledge; a Robbery; or if he extorted his neighbor; or found what was lost and lied about it; or swears falsely; or anything else which caused sin against his

neighbor...He is guilty and shall restore—full value
PLUS one fifth more!

(2) **Note:** how the offerings were required even for
unintentional sins—

(a) See last year's teaching notes on this topic 03-27-2020:
["Sins and Salt"](#)

B. The New Testament teaches that WE ARE to be the offering
"without blemish"!

(1) We are a Living Sacrifice!

(a) "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

(2) Sanctified Completely!

(a) "Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you completely**; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be **preserved blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it."
I Thessalonians 5:23-24 NKJV

(b) **The Wholistic Gospel:** when you consider how you are called to be set-apart, you must take all facets of life into consideration—spirit, soul, and body! **Spirit:** (the human spirit now having access to the Holy Spirit); **Soul:** (mind, will, emotions, intentions, inspirations, motivations, etc.); **Body:** (the physical body, the temple of the Holy Spirit)!

1. *Rest:* leisure time and recovery; time to smell the roses; no striving; a true sabbath
2. *Relationships:* excellent connections between you and your innermost circle all the way out to your outer circle of acquaintances and professional affiliations.
3. *Faith:* spiritual practices (devotions, prayer, worship, etc.) and/or living life with a greater sense of purpose and destiny.
4. *Finances:* excellent stewardship of all of your resources (giving, saving, spending, investing, sowing and reaping)
5. *Work:* your chosen vocation or deepest calling to impact the world and leave it a better place.
6. *Ministry:* your call to serve mankind beyond what you get in return; charity; philanthropy

7. *Health*: without which all the above come to nothing.
A balanced approach to wellbeing, fitness, energy, fulfillment, sustainability; considering all the aspects of being human—spirit, soul, and body.
- (3) No spot or wrinkle or blemish, like a husband should present his bride—
- (a) “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, **not having spot or wrinkle** or any such thing, but that she should be holy and **without blemish.**” Ephesians 5:25-27 NKJV
1. “For no one ever hated his own flesh, **but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.** For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”” Ephesians 5:29-31 NKJV
- (4) But of course, this presentation of a wife **WITHOUT BLEMISH** is a picture of Christ and His Bride—

- (a) "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning **Christ and the church.**" Ephesians 5:32 NKJV
- (b) **Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife...**
1. "For your Maker is **your husband**, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth."
Isaiah 54:5 NKJV
 2. "For as a young man marries a virgin, So shall your sons marry you; **And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.**" Isaiah 62:5 NKJV
 3. "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.**" And to her it was granted to be arrayed in **fine linen, clean and bright**, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." Revelation 19:7-8 NKJV
 4. "Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**" Revelation 21:2 NKJV
 5. "Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me

and talked with me, saying, "**Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.**"" Revelation 21:9 NKJV

(5) Remain blameless while you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ...

(a) "I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, **eagerly waiting for the revelation** of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, **that you may be blameless** in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

I Corinthians 1:4-9 NKJV

(6) Without offense until the day of Christ...

(a) "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and **without offense** till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:9-11 NKJV

(7) Work out your own salvation (temporal well-being) by being—blameless, harmless, and without fault...

(a) “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, **that you may become blameless and harmless**, children of God **without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation**, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.”

Philippians 2:12-16 NKJV

(b) “Now to Him who is able to **keep you from stumbling**, And to **present you faultless** Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.” Jude 1:24-25 NKJV

(8) We should be holy and blameless...

(a) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **has blessed us with every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him

before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and without blame** before Him in love,” Ephesians 1:3-4 NKJV

- (b) “And you, who **once were alienated and enemies** in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to **present you holy, and blameless**, and above reproach in His sight— if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.” Colossians 1:21-23 NKJV
- (9) Be diligent to be found without spot and blameless...
 - (a) “Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, **without spot and blameless**; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—**as also our beloved brother Paul**, according to the wisdom given to him, **has written to you,**” II Peter 3:14-15 NKJV
 - 1. See all about the wisdom given to Paul, which he wrote about, in the teaching called: [Face Coverings](#)

Summary: PRESERVED BLAMELESS

1. It was required that all sacrifices brought before Yahweh be perfect, without a blemish.
2. This was a shadow of the call for the Church to be the perfect living sacrifice, the spotless bride.
3. And this call to be sanctified completely is wholistic, as it includes all facets of life: spirit, soul and body.

APOSTATE RELIGION

2. Spots in Your Love Feasts

A. Apostate Feasts and Assemblies

- (1) Blemished Love! Without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots...
 - (a) “Woe to them! For they have gone in **the way of Cain**, have run greedily in **the error of Balaam** for profit, and perished in **the rebellion of Korah**. These are **spots in your love feasts**, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are **clouds without water**, carried about by the winds; **late autumn trees without fruit**, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; **wandering stars** for whom is **reserved the blackness of darkness** forever.” Jude 1:11-13 NKJV

1. Clouds without water: NO LIVING WATER

a) “Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.” The woman said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. **Where then do You get that living water?** Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?” Jesus answered and said to her, “**Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,** but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. **But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water** springing up into everlasting life.”” John 4:10-14 NKJV

b) “On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. **He who believes** in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow **rivers of living water.**”” John 7:37-38 NKJV

2. Trees without fruit: NO TRUE TESTIMONY

a) ““Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. **You will know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, **every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.** A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. **Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.** Therefore **by their fruits you will know them.**” Matthew 7:15-20 NKJV

b) “Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now **the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**” Matthew 3:8-10 NKJV

3. Wandering stars without light: NO LIGHT IN THEM

a) “To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is **no light in them.**” Isaiah 8:20 NKJV

b) **“You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **Let your light so shine before men,** that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV

(2) Despised feasts and unsavory sacred assemblies...

(a) **“Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!** For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him! Is not the day of the LORD **darkness, and not light?** Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it? **“I hate, I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.”** Amos 5:18-21 NKJV

1. What people in the earth are “desiring the Day of the Lord”?

a) Is it not the Church?

2. What will that day be like to some of them and why?

a) It will be darkness and not light because of their **feast days** and **sacred assemblies.**

- 1) Christians the world over have adopted, in many cases unknowingly, pagan practices. They have become a regular part of Christian culture. Holidays like Easter and Christmas have nothing to do with authentic Christianity, but have been borrowed from pagan traditions of sun god worship (simple research will easily reveal such to you). Most Christians become horrified when they discover from where these pagan feast days originated. **“I despise your feast days...”**
- 2) It’s not too late! Millions of Christians around the world are now rejecting these pagan practices and returning to their Hebrew Roots. Yahweh has given us many Feast Days that we should participate in, as we reject those He calls an abomination. Please refer to the teachings about the Biblical Feasts on our website: [The Feasts of Yahweh](#)
- 3) Also, most “sacred assemblies,” now known as “church services,” have become nothing more than a brand of G-rated entertainment. Yahweh is not pleased! **“I do not savor your sacred assemblies.”**

b) Refer to prophecy of Malachi below, about lawlessness, in points **C, D & E** (Apostate Sacrifices, Practices and Determinations).

1) **“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. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”** Matthew 5:17-20 NKJV

B. Apostates: This is what “spots in your love feasts” look like!

Notice: the three examples used by Jude cover all the bases — the Son, the Prophet and the priest!

(1) The way of Cain—a murderer who becomes a fugitive and a vagabond...

(a) “Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the LORD.” Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. **And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering.** And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, **that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.** Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” And He said, “What have you done? **The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.** So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s

blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. **A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.**”” Genesis 4:1-12
NKJV

- (b) **In the End—My punishment is greater than I can bear!**
“And Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! Surely **You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face;** I shall be a **fugitive and a vagabond** on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.” And the LORD said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.” Genesis 4:13-15
NKJV

(2) The error of Balaam—Balaam is tempted by a bribe to prophesy against God’s people. In the end he is killed for his greed! (Full story in Numbers 22-24)

- (a) “Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. And Moab was exceedingly afraid of the people because they were many, and Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel. So Moab said to the elders of Midian, “Now this company

will lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field.” And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time. Then he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying: “Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me! Therefore **please come at once, curse this people for me**, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.”” Numbers 22:2-6 NKJV

(b) **In the end—DEAD:** “The children of Israel also **killed with the sword Balaam** the son of Beor, the soothsayer, among those who were killed by them.” Joshua 13:22 NKJV

(3) The rebellion of Korah—Korah is jealous of Moses and accuses him of assuming authority of his own, beyond what God has given him. In the end all those involved are brought to severe judgment by Yahweh. (Full story in Numbers 16:1-40)

(a) “They **gathered together against Moses** and Aaron, and said to them, “ **You take too much upon yourselves**, for

all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"

Numbers 16:3 NKJV

- (b) **In the end—DEAD:** “Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, and the earth opened its mouth and **swallowed them up, with their households** and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly. Then all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, “Lest the earth swallow us up also! ” **And a fire came out from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.**” Numbers 16:31-35 NKJV

C. Apostate Sacrifice

(1) Where is My honor? Where is my reverence? In what way have we despised Your name? ‘In what way have we defiled You?

- (a) ““A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, **Where is My honor?** And if I am a Master, **Where is My reverence?** Says the LORD of

hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say,
'In what way have we despised Your name?'" Malachi
1:6 NKJV

(b) **Blind, Lame, Sick Sacrifice:** ""You offer **defiled food** on My altar, But say, **'In what way have we defiled You?'** By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.' And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? **And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?"** Says the LORD of hosts." Malachi 1:7-8 NKJV

(c) ""But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, **Will He accept you favorably?"** Says the LORD of hosts."
Malachi 1:9 NKJV

1. Do you think you can bring damaged goods to Yahweh and that He will just accept them!?
2. He will NOT..as a matter of fact, not only will HE NOT accepted them, but...

(2) Cursed be the deceiver and his descendants!

(a) ""**But cursed be the deceiver** Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, **But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished**— For I am a great King," Says the LORD of

hosts, “And My name is to be feared among the nations.” Malachi 1:14 NKJV

- (b) ““And now, O priests, this commandment is for you. If you will not hear, And if you will not take it to heart, To give glory to My name,” Says the LORD of hosts, “**I will send a curse upon you, And I will curse your blessings.** Yes, I have cursed them already, Because you do not take it to heart.” Malachi 2:1-2 NKJV
- (c) ““Behold, **I will rebuke your descendants** And spread refuse on your faces, The refuse of your solemn feasts; And one will take you away with it.” Malachi 2:3 NKJV

D. Apostate Practices

- (1) In what way have we despised Your name?
 - (a) ““You offer **defiled food** on My altar, But say, ‘In what way have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of the LORD is contemptible.’” Malachi 1:7 NKJV
 - (b) ““But you **profane** it, In that you say, ‘**The table of the LORD is defiled**; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.’” Malachi 1:12 NKJV
 - (c) “You also say, ‘Oh, what a weariness!’ And you sneer at it,” Says the LORD of hosts. “**And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick**; Thus you bring an offering!

Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD."

Malachi 1:13 NKJV

(2) In what way have we defiled You?

(a) "And when you offer the **blind** as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the **lame and sick**, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?"

Says the LORD of hosts." Malachi 1:8 NKJV

(3) You have corrupted the covenant of Levi.

(a) "But you have departed from the way; You have caused many to stumble at the law. **You have corrupted the covenant** of Levi," Says the LORD of hosts." Malachi 2:8 NKJV

1. **The way the priest should be...** "Then you shall know that I have sent this commandment to you, That My covenant with Levi may continue," Says the LORD of hosts. "My covenant was with him, one of life and peace, And I gave them to him that he might fear Me; So he feared Me And was reverent before My name. **The law of truth was in his mouth**, And injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, **And turned many away from iniquity.** **"For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And**

people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts." Malachi 2:4-7
NKJV

(4) You have not kept My ways but have shown partiality in the law.

(a) ""Therefore I also have made you contemptible and base Before all the people, Because you **have not kept My ways But have shown partiality in the law.**""

Malachi 2:9 NKJV

(5) You cover the altar of the LORD with tears

(a) "And this is the second thing you do: **You cover the altar of the LORD with tears,** With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands." Malachi 2:13

NKJV

(6) The LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously.

(a) "Yet you say, "For what reason?" **Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth,** With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed

to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously.""

Malachi 2:14-16 NKJV

1. Practices that are horrendous:
 - a) Offering stolen, lame, sick, and blind sacrifices
 - b) Corrupted covenant: you should be obeying and teaching the law—"The lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth..."
 - c) But instead—"You have not kept My ways But have shown partiality in the law..."
 - d) You weep for other gods!
 - e) And you cheat on your wives!

E. Apostate Determinations

- (1) The table of the LORD is defiled; and its fruit, its food, is contemptible
 - (a) ""But you profane it, In that you say, 'The table of the LORD is **defiled**; And its fruit, its food, is **contemptible**.'" Malachi 1:12 NKJV
- (2) Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD.

(a) "You have wearied the LORD with your words; Yet you say, "In what way have we wearied Him? " In that you say, "**Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD,** And He delights in them," Or, "Where is the God of justice?" " Malachi 2:17 NKJV

1. DICTATES OF YOU OWN HEART: "Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD. **They continually say to those who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, "You shall have peace" ';** And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, **'No evil shall come upon you.'** " " Jeremiah 23:16-17 NKJV
2. GOOD AND EVIL CONFUSED: "**Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;** Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!" Isaiah 5:20-21 NKJV
3. THE COVENANT WAS WITH YOU! YOU CANNOT BE BLESSED FOLLOWING THE DICTATES OF YOUR

OWN HEART! **““I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone, but with him who stands here with us today before the LORD our God, as well as with him who is not here with us today** (for you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by, and you saw their abominations and their idols which were among them—wood and stone and silver and gold); **so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods** of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, **‘I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart’— as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.** “The LORD would not spare him; for then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him, and the LORD would blot out his name from under heaven.” Deuteronomy 29:14-20 NKJV

- (3) A ridiculous assertion—it is useless to serve God; what profit is it that we have kept His ordinance?
- (a) ““Your words have been harsh against Me,” Says the LORD, “Yet you say, ‘What have we spoken against You?’ **You have said, ‘It is useless to serve God; What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance,** And that we have walked as mourners Before the LORD of hosts? So now we call the proud blessed, For those who do wickedness are raised up; They even tempt God and go free.’ ”” Malachi 3:13-15 NKJV

F. Is there anyone out there who will do something about it?

- (1) The name of Yahweh WILL BE magnified!
- (a) “For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; **For My name shall be great** among the nations,” Says the LORD of hosts.” Malachi 1:11 NKJV
- (2) Shut the doors!
- (a) ““Who is there even among you **who would shut the doors,** So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you,” Says the LORD of hosts, “Nor will I accept an offering from your hands.” Malachi 1:10 NKJV

(3) “Shutting the door!” Don’t put up with his sin, instead rebuke him so he repents! This is how you love your neighbor.

(a) **“You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the LORD.”**

Leviticus 19:17-18 NKJV

1. “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, **and someone turns him back [causing repentance]**, 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

2. “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for **“love will cover a multitude of sins.”**” 1 Peter 4:8 NKJV

Summary: APOSTATE RELIGION

1. We should be able to “spot” the blemishes; they often show up as apostates (fake believers)!

2. They look a certain way on the outside, like: Cane was a son; Balaam was a prophet; and Korah was a priest, but—they have no Holy Spirit, no Fruit, and no Light!
3. God is not impressed with man-made pagan feasts or G-rated entertainment church services!
4. Be on the lookout for Apostate Sacrifices, Practices and Determinations.
5. You can easily spot them when you look for those practicing lawlessness, in other words, they are making up their own rules!
6. They often feel they will be blessed anyway, even though they are following the dictates of their own hearts.
7. It's like they consider a drunk person and a sober person to have the same discernment.
8. They basically think there is no value in serving God with radical obedience, as if everyone is equally rewarded!
9. It never ends well for anyone involved in such things.
10. God wishes someone would stand up and do something about it, at least try to stop them from their lawless behavior.

THE PROPHET LIKE MOSES

3. Who is the Prophet Like Moses? (A necessary clarification as we head into Passover Season)

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 plus tithing 🤪). 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) **Peter had learned from his Master about the restoration; so who is he talking about?** ““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) Manifestation of Sons! —PASSOVER: “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?
 - a) His enemies to be made His footstool.
 - b) The revealing of the sons.
 - c) 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 [Sun of Righteousness—Mal. 4:2], 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 when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, “**Arise, and do not be afraid.**” When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “**Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.**” [SEE II **Peter 1:16-18]** Matthew 17:6-9NKJV

1. **Peter speaking of the transfiguration AFTER THE RESURRECTION:** “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, **but were**

eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: **“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”** And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.” II Peter

1:16-18 NKJV

- (c) **Was this on the minds of Y’shua’s Disciples? And what did Y’shua say was that prophets role?** “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

- (d) 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, [as affirmed by Y'shua in Matthew 17] '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:** "Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. "**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, Through the tender mercy of our God,
With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;
**To give light to those who sit in darkness and the
shadow of death,** To guide our feet into the way of
peace." So the child grew and became strong in spirit,
**and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation
to Israel."** Luke 1:67-80 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) Preparing the way—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) **Who is the coming messenger and what is his message?**

“**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 [the**

voice is in the wilderness—See Door of Hope

Devotion; SufferWell.org # 254]: “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. Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.
 - a) “As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out **into the wilderness to see?** A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. **For this is he of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.’** “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than **John the Baptist;** but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. **And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.** For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, **he is Elijah who is to come.** He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Matthew 11:7-15 NKJV

2. The messenger (Elijah) prepares the way for the Messenger (Y'shua)

- a) Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. **He will feed His flock like a shepherd;** He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young." Isaiah 40:10-11 NKJV **[as opposed to Jeremiah 23:1-2 in which shepherds of Yahweh have scattered the flock and not fed the sheep].**

(5) Who is the messenger (the prophet) and what is the message? PASSOVER IS COMING!

- (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!

C. What's Next? Get Ready!

(1) Judgment of the Apostates is coming!

- (a) **Thankfully true believers are covered:** “Through the LORD’s mercies **we are not consumed**, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23 NKJV
- (b) **He will not turn aside from justice:** “For He does not afflict willingly, Nor grieve the children of men. To crush under one’s feet All the prisoners of the earth, **To turn aside the justice due a man** Before the face of the Most High, Or subvert a man in his cause— The Lord does not approve.” Lamentations 3:33-36 NKJV
- (c) **Don’t complain when you get what is due! Examine your ways and repent:** “Why should a living man **complain**, A man for the **punishment of his sins**? Let us search out and **examine our ways**, And **turn back** to the LORD; Let us lift our hearts and hands To God in heaven.” Lamentations 3:39-41 NKJV
- (d) **Those who have come against us, repay them Yahweh, and give them a veiled heart. Pursue and destroy them:** “O Lord, **You have pleaded the case for my soul; You have redeemed my life.** O LORD, You have seen how I

am wronged; **Judge my case.** You have seen all their vengeance, All their schemes against me. You have heard their reproach, O LORD, **All their schemes against me,** The lips of my enemies And their whispering against me all the day. Look at their sitting down and their rising up; I am their taunting song. **Repay them, O LORD, According to the work of their hands. Give them a veiled heart;** Your curse be upon them! In Your anger, **Pursue and destroy them** From under the heavens of the LORD." Lamentations 3:58-66 NKJV

1. A veiled heart is the equivalent of a blinded mind.
*"But their **minds were blinded.** For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, **because the veil is taken away in Christ.**"*
II Corinthians 3:14 NKJV

2. They have no ability to ever see the truth. See teaching our website called: [Face Coverings](#)

(2) Be prepared—keep yourselves in the love of God!

- (a) "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to **execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly** among them of all their

ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. **But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.** These are sensual persons, who **cause divisions, not having the Spirit.** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, **keep yourselves in the love of God,** looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And **on some have compassion,** making a distinction; but **others save with fear,** pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, **And to present you faultless** Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen." Jude 1:14-25 NKJV

Summary: THE PROPHET LIKE MOSES

1. Who the prophet like Moses is, as prophesied by Moses himself, is a source of significant controversy.
2. It is an important concept to understand, especially at the end-of-the-age.
3. We do know that most of the church believes Y'shua (Jesus) to be that prophet, however...
4. We also know that the prophet must come to restore all things.
5. And we know that Y'shua sits at the right hand of His Father, waiting for the restoration of all things.
6. And we know that a prophet came first to announce the first coming of the Messiah, and must come first again to announce the second coming of the Messiah!
7. So, it stands to reason that Y'shua cannot be the prophet who comes first to announce Himself.
8. Malachi tells us that Elijah must come first, and Y'shua agreed with Malachi, as He too tells us that Elijah must come first.
9. We must be prepared for Elijah and the restoration of all things.
10. As the spotless bride, we must keep ourselves in the love of God, as Yahweh is ready to pour forth judgment on all those who practice apostasy!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Compare the requirement to bring only sacrifices without blemish before Yahweh to what God requires of the Church:**
 - A. What does Yahweh consider a holy, acceptable and reasonable sacrifice for a Christian?
 - B. Why are we called to be a spotless bride?
- 2. We are called to be sanctified in spirit, soul and body:**
 - A. What does the idea of the Wholistic Gospel entail?
 - B. What seven facets of living are included in the Wholistic Gospel?
- 3. What does Jude mean when he says “these are spots in your love feasts”?**
 - A. Why does he liken this to “the way of Cain, the error of Balaam, and the rebellion of Korah?”
- 4. The prophecy of Malachi exposes a people and a priesthood who had polluted their sacrifices to Yahweh:**
 - A. Why were their sacrifices unacceptable?
- 5. Discuss these grave determinations they had made about Yahweh according to Malachi:**
 - B. “The table of the LORD is defiled; and its fruit, its food, is contemptible.”
 - C. “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD.”

D. "It is useless to serve God; what profit is it that we have kept His ordinance?"

6. What does it mean that Yahweh asks:

A. "Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, so that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain?"

7. One of the great questions in the Scriptures is:

A. Who is the prophet like Moses who will be raised up in the end, as prophesied by Moses himself in Deuteronomy 18?

B. Use a detailed biblical argument to make your case.