



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17
- Hebrews 12:1-2
- Jeremiah 23:9-40
- II Peter 1:19-21

EASY ENTANGLEMENTS

- Inquiries
- Chasing False Gods
- Enticements
- False Prophets and Dreamers

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

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

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

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that **you are not ensnared** to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, **and that you do not inquire after their gods**, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.’” Deuteronomy 12:29-30 NKJV

“But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, **to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.**” Deuteronomy 13:5 NKJV

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

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin **which so easily ensnares us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

“And so we have the **prophetic word confirmed**, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that **no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation**, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” II Peter 1:19-21 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This portion of Deuteronomy reviews the following:
 - (a) A Prescribed Place of Worship
 - (b) A Warning about False Gods
 - (c) Punishment for Apostates
 - (d) Improper Mourning

- (e) Clean and Unclean Meat
- (f) Tithing Principles
- (g) Debts being Canceled Every Seven Years
- (h) Generosity to the Poor
- (i) The Law Concerning Bondservants
- (j) The Law Concerning Firstborn Animals
- (k) A Review of Passover, The Feast of Weeks, and The Feast of Tabernacles

Deuteronomy 11

2. We start off with yet another reminder that Yahweh's blessings will follow adherence to His commandments and curses will follow disobedience. Each time you see phrases like, "the commandments of Yahweh your God which I command you today," do remember that 'today' is referring to Deuteronomy as the second telling of God's laws as a whole.
3. This is important as to not get confused throughout the book when Moses alternates by referring to plural commandments and singular commandment. In all cases he is referring to the entire law. As an example:
 - (a) *"And you will again obey the voice of the LORD and do **all His commandments** which I command you today."*
(Deuteronomy 30:8) AND...

(b) *“For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off.” (Deuteronomy 30:11)*

Deuteronomy 12

4. A Prescribed Place of Worship and Some Key Reminders:

- (a) Utterly destroy all pagan worship centers, instruments, monuments, images, and even the names of their Gods.
- (b) Do seek a place that Yahweh chooses.
- (c) Run from every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes.
- (d) When you cross over and dwell in safety, Yahweh will choose a place to make His name abide.
- (e) Don't just sacrifice any place you want but only in the place Yahweh chooses.
- (f) You may slaughter and eat meat (for food) any place you wish, even those who are unlearn may eat. Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it on the earth like water.
- (g) Don't, however, eat within your gates the tithe. Instead eat it before the LORD your God in the place which the LORD your God chooses.
- (h) **Exception:** If the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far you may eat within your gates. But not eating the blood still applies!

5. **Beware of False Gods:** When you go in and take the promised land, and you defeat the pagan nations, don't develop any interest in anything about their gods or their worship practices. It will lead you down a dark path that will not end well. Trust me, everything they do is an abomination. *"Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; **you shall not add to it nor take away from it.**"* Deuteronomy 12:32 [See [Your Final Testimony](#) about not adding or taking away from God's Word!)

Deuteronomy 13

6. **Punishment for Apostates:** Here's the bottom line; anyone who entices you to go after other gods and serve them shall be utterly destroyed. Those who shall be obliterated include: false prophets; family members; and anyone from your cities, who were themselves enticed by pagan worshipers, and in turn attempt to entice you.
- (a) In the case of the the latter, you must also utterly destroy the city and everything in it!

Deuteronomy 14

7. **Improper Mourning:** Don't cut yourself or shave your heads in strange ways like the pagans do when they are mourning the loss of a loved one.
8. **Clean and Unclean Meat:** Moses reiterates his message from Leviticus 11 about what is permitted to be eaten from the land,

the sea and the air. You can read all the details in Deuteronomy 14:3-21. Note Deuteronomy 14:21: “*You shall not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk.*” This is the verse that Rabbinic Judaism interprets to prohibit eating milk products and meat in the same meal. They do this to insure they do not consume the milk from the mother of the animal they are eating.

- (a) From the land, the animal must have the hoof split into two parts, and must chew the cud in order to be clean as food. Of course, some animals have neither, and there are some that have one or the other. To be clear, the animal must have both to be considered food. This has never changed. See the Jerusalem Counsel Ruling in Acts 15:1-29 if you are uncertain about this fact. And of you think Peter’s vision in Acts 10:9-16 changes these laws, think again. The vision was about men, not food.
- 1) God told Peter, “And a voice spoke to him again the second time, “**What God has cleansed you must not call common.**”” Acts 10:15 NKJV
 - 2) And to leave nothing to your imagination, Peter interprets the vision for us: “*Then he said to them, “You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. **But God has shown me that I***

should not call any man common or unclean.” Acts 10:28
NKJV

- 3) Peter tells his testimony about this vision and revelation again in Acts 11:1-18. In Acts 11:9 he quotes God’s exact words in Acts 10:15. *“What God has cleansed you must not call common.”* And the entire context of Acts 11:1-18 is clearly demonstrating that what God was teaching Peter (and us) is to never call people unclean who He has called clean. He was calling Peter to preach to the gentiles! *“If therefore God gave them [the Gentiles] the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, **who was I that I could withstand God?**”* (Acts 11:17 NKJV) His “blanket-coming-down-vision” was about people was not food and who was Peter to deny his calling to the Gentiles despite his religious predisposition to call them unclean!

9. **Tithing Principles:**

- (a) Tithe your increase of everything so you may learn to fear Yahweh always.
- (b) Eat it before Yahweh in the place where He chooses to make His name abide.
- (c) But if the journey is too long, then exchange your increase for money, and take the money to the place God chooses.

Spend that money for whatever your heart desires. Then, eat it there as you rejoice.

- (d) At the end of every third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates. Use it to feed the Levites, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow who are within your gates. Yahweh will bless you in all the work of your hand if you do.

Deuteronomy 15

10. Debts Canceled Every Seven Years:

- (a) At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release of debts of fellow Israelites (natural and grafted), but from a foreigner you may require it.
- (b) Give up all claims except when there are no poor among you. (And there will always be poor among you...

Deuteronomy 15:11)

- (c) *“For the LORD your God will bless you just as He promised you; you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; you shall reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over you.”* Deuteronomy 15:6 NKJV

11. Generosity to the Poor:

- (a) Open your hand wide to the poor and willingly lend to him what is sufficient for his need.

(b) Do not let the proximity of their need to the year of release influence your lending. That would be evil!

(c) For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.'"

Deuteronomy 15:11 NKJV

*"For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always." Mark 14:7 NKJV

12. **The Law Concerning Bondservants:** Your Hebrew servant is released in the seventh and you are to send them away with abundant livestock, grain, and wine. The reason is because you are so blessed and you must pass it on, plus you were so prosperous because of him. If he wants to stay because he loves you and prospers with you, he can do so, but it is a one time forever decision. (For detailed teachings on the subject see Exodus 21:2-6 and links to KEM [Sermon Notes](#) and Impact Discipleship Notes and Video: [The Bondservant and the Master](#)

13. **The Law Concerning Firstborn Animals:** Separate the firstborn of your flock and don't work it or shear it, and eat it before the LORD each year in the place the LORD chooses. If it has a defect, you can still eat it, but you cannot offer it to Yahweh. Of course, do not eat its blood.

Deuteronomy 16

14. The portion ends in chapter 16:1-17 with a review of the Passover, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles. These are the pilgrimage feasts in which you are go to Jerusalem. This way you can celebrate in the place where the LORD chooses to make His name abide.

- (a) *“Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.”* Deuteronomy 16:16-17 NKJV

INQUIRIES

1. Chasing False Gods

A. Don't Forget Yahweh after Your Blessing!

(1) How did these nations serve their gods?

- (a) *““When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not **ensnared** to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and **that you do not***

inquire after their gods, saying, ‘**How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.**’ **You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way;** for every **abomination** to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. “Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.” Deuteronomy 12:29-32 NKJV

(b) “**According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do [don’t imitate the pagans of your past];** and **according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do [don’t imitate the pagans of your future];** nor shall you walk in their ordinances. You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord.” Leviticus 18:3-5 NKJV

(c) **Summary**

1. Don’t get ensnared and enamored with pagan gods and pagan practices!

2. Don't inquire about them or show even a smidge of interest.
3. Even an inquiry is an ABOMINATION!

B. A Prophet's Warning: Don't do that! Are you doing that?

(1) Do not learn the way of the Gentiles

- (a) "Hear the word which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel. Thus says the LORD: **"Do not learn [exercise, instruct, be trained in] the way of the Gentiles;** Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them. **For the customs of the peoples are futile [fraudulent, useless, worthless];** For one cuts a tree from the forest, **The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple [What does this sound like to you? A Christmas tree perhaps?]. They are upright,** like a palm tree, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, For they cannot do evil, Nor can they do any good."
- Inasmuch as there is none like You, O LORD (You are great, and Your name is great in might), **Who would not fear You, O King of the nations?** For this is Your rightful

due. For among all the wise men of the nations, And in all their kingdoms, There is none like You. **But they are altogether dull-hearted and foolish; A wooden idol is a worthless [fraudulent, useless] doctrine.** Silver is beaten into plates; It is brought from Tarshish, And gold from Uphaz, The work of the craftsman And of the hands of the metalsmith; Blue and purple are their clothing; They are all the work of skillful men. But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation. Thus you shall say to them: **“The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens.” He has made the earth** by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.”

Jeremiah 10:1-12 NKJV

(b) Summary

1. Do not learn the way of the Gentiles.
2. The customs of the peoples are fraudulent.
3. Look at these customs (like Christmas trees).
4. Don't you fear Yahweh?

5. Unless you are dull, you should recognize that this is just a wooden idol and is a fraudulent practice!
6. Yahweh made all things and these worthless symbols have no power—so give them up.

(2) False Prophets and Empty Oracles who Lead the People Astray (Who are they today?)

- (a) **“My heart within me is broken Because of the prophets; All my bones shake. I am like a drunken man, And like a man whom wine has overcome, Because of the LORD, And because of His holy words. For the land is full of adulterers [idolatrous worshipers]; For because of a curse the land mourns. The pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up. Their course of life is evil, And their might is not right. “For both prophet and priest are profane [polluted, corrupt, ungodly]; Yes, in My house I have found their wickedness [malignancy],” says the LORD. “Therefore their way shall be to them Like slippery ways; In the darkness they shall be driven on And fall in them; For I will bring disaster on them [The very doctrines they espouse will bring their ruin!], The year of their punishment,” says the LORD. “And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria: They prophesied by Baal And caused My people Israel to err.**

Also I have seen a horrible thing in the **prophets of Jerusalem: They commit adultery and walk in lies; They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one turns back from his wickedness [**They are enmeshed with the culture of the world and propagate the world's lies; by either their open support or silence in not exposing the lies, they actually become complicit in them, thereby supporting the beliefs and activities of evildoers! This, unfortunately, is what most of the church is doing presently.**]. All of them are like Sodom to Me, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah. **“Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets: ‘Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, And make them drink the water of gall; For from the prophets of Jerusalem Profaneness has gone out into all the land.’ ”** 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.’ ””** For who has stood in**

the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it? Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD has gone forth in fury — A violent whirlwind! It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. The anger of the LORD will not turn back Until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. **In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have turned them from their evil way And from the evil of their doings.** " Am I a God near at hand," says the LORD, "And not a God afar off? **Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" [See Psalm 139 and Hebrews 4:11-13]** says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD. "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' **How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as**

their fathers forgot My name for Baal. “The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?” says the LORD. “Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? **“Therefore behold, I am against the prophets,”** says the LORD, **“who steal My words every one from his neighbor. Behold, I am against the prophets,”** says the LORD, **“who use their tongues and say, ‘He says.’ Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams,”** says the LORD, **“and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command** them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all,” says the LORD. **“So when these people or the prophet or the priest ask you, saying, ‘What is the oracle of the LORD?’ you shall then say to them, ‘What oracle?’ I will even forsake you,”** says the LORD. **“And as for the prophet and the priest and the people who say, ‘The oracle of the LORD!’ I will even punish that man and his house.** Thus every one of you shall say to his neighbor, and every one to his brother, ‘What has the LORD answered?’ and, ‘What has the LORD spoken?’

And the oracle of the LORD you shall mention no more. **For every man's word will be his oracle, for you have perverted the words of the living God [Just open any social media venue and witness the plethora of false doctrines and false prophecies being vomited out by so called Christian leaders!]**, the LORD of hosts, our God. **Thus you shall say to the prophet, 'What has the LORD answered you?'** and, 'What has the LORD spoken?' But since you say, 'The oracle of the LORD!' therefore thus says the LORD: 'Because you say this word, "The oracle of the LORD!" and I have sent to you, saying, "Do not say, 'The oracle of the LORD!' " therefore behold, I, even **I, will utterly forget you and forsake you**, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and will cast you out of My presence. And **I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you**, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.'" Jeremiah 23:9-40 NKJV

(b) Summary

1. Jeremiah's heart is so broken because of the false prophets.
2. He is so stunned at how unbelievable their heresy is that he feels like is is drunk.

3. It's like he's living in a land full of adulterated worship, as both prophet and priest are profane (corrupt, ungodly, polluted).
4. Disaster is coming for this.
5. The prophets
 - a) prophesy by Baal
 - b) commit adultery
 - c) walk in lies
 - d) strengthen the hands of evildoers
 - e) ...So that no one turns back from his wickedness
6. These prophets will taste the bitterness of Yahweh.
7. Warning: "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.
8. They tell the people that the LORD has says, "You shall have peace, even if you walk according to the dictates of your own heart, no evil shall come upon you."
9. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. If you understood now that he has not sent these prophets, you would have turned from your evil ways.

10. Can anyone hide himself from Yahweh in secret places? No! [See Psalm 139 and Hebrews 4:11-13]
11. How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? They are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, who try to make My people forget Yahweh's name.
 - a) By their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, they will forget His name for Baal (Ba'al simply means 'The Lord').
12. Yahweh is against the prophets who steal His words.
 - a) Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness.
13. When these people ask for a true word from Yahweh, the false prophet will be blank and thinking, 'What oracle?' So, they will simply make it up! Then when they say, 'The oracle of the LORD!' Every person in his household will be punished!
14. They will all be utterly forgotten and forsaken!

C. The Deceived Heart

(1) Man Doing What is Right in His Own Eyes

- (a) "You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—
every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes— for

as yet you have not come to the rest and the inheritance which the LORD your God is giving you.” Deuteronomy 12:8-9 NKJV

(b) “This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, **who follow the dictates of their hearts**, and walk after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be just like this sash which is profitable for nothing.” Jeremiah 13:10 NKJV

(c) **Sixteen Chapters later...** “**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

(d) Summary

1. Just like Jeremiah prophesied: “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 23:17 NKJV
2. Every man follows his own heart.
3. It is so whacked that you could believe that even though you blatantly ignore Yahweh’s warnings, and do your own thing, that not only will He not punish you, but He will bless you! It’s like believing the thought process of a man who is completely inebriated is equal to that of a sober man!
4. Of course, the warning is not just for those standing there at that moment, but also for all who would

read these words in the future! Like Y'shua prayed in the Upper Room Discourse!

- a) "“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” Deuteronomy 29:14-15
- b) "“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;” John 17:20 NKJV

(2) Are you blinded to all this happening? If you cannot see it, maybe God has given you over to the lusts of your heart.

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

- 1) **This deceitful heart statement follows these famous words of the prophet:** **“Cursed is the man who trusts in man** And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord... **“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,** And whose hope is the Lord.”
Jeremiah 17:5, 7 NKJV

(b) **Paul weighs in on the “heart” of the matter. As Jeremiah says. “Yahweh searches the heart and tests the mind!”:** “because, although **they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God**, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and **their foolish hearts were darkened**. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also **gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts**, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. Romans 1:21-25 NKJV

(c) And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a debased mind**, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;" Romans 1:28-31 NKJV

(d) Summary

1. A heart not "controlled" by Yahweh is deceitfully wicked (self-deceived) and Yahweh knows it.
2. Yahweh tests the hearts and minds of the people! Trust Him and you are on the right side; trust man and you fall on the wrong side.
3. If you insist long enough to deny God, He will give you over to your heart's desires!
4. Your foolish heart and debased mind will lead you down a path of destruction.

Summary: INQUIRIES

1. Chasing False Gods

A. Don't Forget Yahweh after Your Blessing!

(1) How did these nations serve their gods?

1. Don't get ensnared and enamored with pagan gods and pagan practices!
2. Don't inquire about them or show even a smidge of interest.
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B. A Prophet's Warning: Don't do that! Are you doing that?

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2. The customs of the peoples are fraudulent.
3. Look at these customs (like Christmas trees).
4. Don't you fear Yahweh?
5. Unless you are dull, you should recognize that this is just a wooden idol and is a fraudulent practice!
6. Yahweh made all things and these worthless symbols have no power—so give them up.

(2) False Prophets and Empty Oracles who Lead the People Astray (Who are they today?)

1. Jeremiah's heart is so broken because of the false prophets.
2. He is so stunned at how unbelievable their heresy is that he feels like he is drunk.
3. It's like he's living in a land full of adulterated worship, as both prophet and priest are profane (corrupt, ungodly, polluted).
4. Disaster is coming for this.
5. The prophets
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- d) strengthen the hands of evildoers
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 8. They tell the people that the LORD has says, "You shall have peace, even if you walk according to the dictates of your own heart, no evil shall come upon you."
 9. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. If you understood now that he has not sent these prophets, you would have turned from your evil ways.
 10. Can anyone hide himself from Yahweh in secret places?
No! [See Psalm 139 and Hebrews 4:11-13]
 11. How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? They are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, who try to make My people forget Yahweh's name.
 - a) By their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, they will forget His name for Baal (Ba'al simply means 'The Lord').
 12. Yahweh is against the prophets who steal His words.

- a) Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness.
- 13. When these people ask for a true word from Yahweh, the false prophet will be blank and thinking, 'What oracle?' So, they will simply make it up! Then when they say, 'The oracle of the LORD!' Every person in his household will be punished!
- 14. They will all be utterly forgotten and forsaken!

C. The Deceived Heart

(1) Man Doing What is Right in His Own Eyes

- 1. Just like Jeremiah prophesied: "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 23:17 NKJV
- 2. Every man follows his own heart.
- 3. It is so whacked that you could believe that even though you blatantly ignore Yahweh's warnings, and do your own thing, that not only will He not punish you, but He will bless you! It's like believing the thought process of a man who is completely inebriated is equal to that of a sober man!

4. Of course, the warning is not just for those standing there at that moment, but also for all who would read these words in the future! Like Y'shua prayed in the Upper Room Discourse!
 - a) "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" Deuteronomy 29:14-15
 - b) "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;" John 17:20 NKJV

(2) Are you blinded to all this happening? If you cannot see it, maybe God has given you over to the lusts of your heart.

1. A heart not "controlled" by Yahweh is deceitfully wicked (self-deceived) and Yahweh knows it.
2. Yahweh tests the hearts and minds of the people! Trust Him and you are on the right side; trust man and you fall on the wrong side.
3. If you insist long enough to deny God, He will give you over to your heart's desires!
4. Your foolish heart and debased mind will lead you down a path of destruction.

ENTICEMENTS

2. False Prophets and Dreamers

A. If you follow the leading of false prophets and teachers, you will also receive their rewards!

(1) Yahweh will test your heart to see if you can be enticed to walk away from His ways.

(a) ““If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, **for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.** You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. **But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams** shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, **to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God**

commanded you to walk. **So you shall put away the evil from your midst.**” Deuteronomy 13:1-5 NKJV

(b) **Reminder, it was all a heart TEST:** “And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, **to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not...** who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, **that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end—** then you **say in your heart,** ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’” Deuteronomy 8:2, 16-17 NKJV

(c) **Summary!**

1. You will be tested to see what is really in your heart.
2. Can you be enticed to walk contrary to His ways?
3. We must put away evil from our midst!
4. Remember, the whole wilderness experience was a heart test. Will you obey Yahweh in good times and in bad times! When you are pressured, what is truly inside of you is what comes out.
5. **Punishment for Apostates:** Here’s the bottom line; anyone at all who entices you to go after other gods and serve them shall be utterly destroyed. Those who

shall be obliterated include: false prophets; family members; and anyone from your cities, who were themselves enticed by a pagan worshiper and in turn attempt to entice you.

(2) Deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons—Even Now!!!

- (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. **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.” I Timothy 4:1-6 NKJV

(b) Summary

1. This deception was still going on at the time of Y’shua and continues even today!

2. Those influenced by deceiving spirits will attempt to deceive you.
3. All sorts of bad doctrines will be perpetrated by them.
4. Lies about marriage and lies about God's laws, in this case about permitted foods, will be rampant.
 - a) These lies are absolutely propagated today!
5. As ministers, we must equip the Church with good doctrine!

(3) A prophetic word confirmed

- (a) "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. **And so we have the prophetic word confirmed**, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that **no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God**

**spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” II Peter
1:16-21 NKJV**

(b) Summary

1. You better be able to discern between cunningly devised fables and true prophecy.
2. True prophetic words get confirmed!
3. Get rid of your private interpretation and be sure it aligns with the Word!
4. Test: if you have doctrines that are inconsistent with the ENTIRETY of God’s word, they are FALSE!

B. Good and Evil—Mature enough to know the difference

(1) Mature believers can discern good and evil

- (a) “For though by this time **you ought to be teachers**, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. **But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**”

Hebrews 5:12-14 NKJV

- (2) **We are mandated to leave the elementary matters of our faith and to grow up!**

(a) “Therefore, **leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.” Hebrews 6:1-3 NKJV

(3) **Be Bold!**

(a) “Therefore, brethren, **having boldness** to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, **having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water.” Hebrews 10:19-22 NKJV

(b) **Summary**

1. Deuteronomy 13:5 say, regarding FALSE PROPHETS, “You shall put away the evil from your midst.”
2. Mature believers should be able to discern good and evil, and therefore true from false teachings and prophecy.

3. You do so by moving past elementary matters and growing mature in your faith.
4. Be bold and leave evil behind!

C. The Most Egregious Sin—Know the truth and turn away!

(1) Taste what is good and choose sin anyway.

- (a) “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, **if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.**” Hebrews 6:4-6 NKJV

(2) Willful Sin—no turning back

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

and insulted the Spirit of grace? **For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."**

Hebrews 10:26-31 NKJV

(3) Free from Sin!

- (a) **"For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.** What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. **But now having been set free from sin,** and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."** Romans 6:20-23 NKJV

(4) Don't let the enticement of sin kill you!

- (a) **"But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.** Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; **and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."** James 1:14-15 NKJV

(5) The Bottom Line: you are called to purity and holiness in every area of your life!

- (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

(6) **How do you do that?**

- (a) “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin **which so easily ensnares us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

(b) **Summary**

1. If you know the truth, really know deep down inside, and you choose sin anyway. It's like hanging Y'shua on the cross all over again. You cannot repent from crucifying Him again.
2. His sacrifice cannot cover your willful sin. Instead you should fear God's wrath.
3. You can be free from sin. If you are a true believer, you ARE FREE from willful sin. If you willfully sin, what does that say about the truth of you ever being born-again?

4. The wages of that sin is death.
5. Don't be enticed and ensnared by the sticky web of sin!
6. Instead: be holy in Spirit, soul and body!
7. How? Fix your eyes on Y'shua, the author and finisher of your faith!

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A. If you follow the leading of false prophets and teachers, you will also receive their rewards!

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QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. What does it mean to “go after other gods?”

- A. Is it acceptable to use past pagan practices, even if you are not doing them to acknowledge the pagan gods from which they originated?

2. We are warned throughout the Holy Scriptures that we should not even entertain the thoughts of our past idolatries because we can become easily ensnared by them!

- A. How tempted are you to become enmeshed with the things of the world?
- B. Do you feel yourself drawn to your old life? If so how?
- C. Are you still enticed by the pleasures of your past? If so how?

3. Why are false prophets and false teachers so dangerous?

- A. How do they deceive people?
- B. Who gets punished for their deception?

4. What role does your heart play in deception?

- A. Discuss the dangers of following the dictates of your own heart, against God, yet still believing He will bless you.

5. Are deceiving spirits still active today? If so, how so?

B. How can we distinguish the Holy Spirit from a deceiving spirit?

6. Discuss what is expected of a mature believer regarding discerning both good and evil.

A. What is the most egregious sin?

B. How, instead, are we supposed to live according to 1 Thessalonians 5:23?

C. How is it possible to achieve what 1 Thessalonians 5:23 requires according to Hebrews 12:1-2?