



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8
- Habakkuk 2
- Psalms 37
- Amos 5
- Mathew 5-7, 13
- Isaiah 59, 60

SELF-INFLICTED WOUNDS

- One Common Denominator
- Agreements
- Curses and Current Events
- The Fate of Counterfeits
- Identifying Counterfeits
- Pick a Side

“Do you honestly think you will get away with that?” You could ask this of anyone who is openly, or even unknowingly, mocking Yahweh’s truth and justice. If you further inquired about their beliefs and practices, I bet you would sense one or more of these sentiments in a majority of them:

- *They don’t consider God because they don’t even believe He exists.*
- *They openly deny Yahweh in favor of some false god.*
- *They don’t consider God because what is perceived as beneficial today far outweighs the unknown consequences of tomorrow.*

- *They do consider a god, but they are completely deceived; they worship a false god, while believing they serve Yahweh.*
- *They do consider a god, but for expedience, they have changed who He is to fit their own beliefs.*

What we are seeing today, in many instances, are those who proclaim to follow Jesus, while simultaneously violating so many of His teachings. And worse yet, they actually believe they will escape His judgment.

As the psalmist warns, “Yahweh laughs at the wicked, for He sees that his day is coming; their own sword shall enter their heart.” Oftentimes, that “sword” is comprised of the very people and institutions who once supported the mocker.

I like to say it like this; “Satan has no allegiance to those who worship him. He will chew them up and spit them out once they are no longer effective for him.” Well, look no further than the current events of today and you will witness the destruction coming upon those who mock God. Their usefulness for Satan has run its course and Yahweh is laughing.

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

*“And you shall become an **astonishment**, a **proverb**, and a **byword** among all nations where the Lord will drive you.”*

Deuteronomy 28:37 NKJV

““Indeed, because he transgresses by wine, **He is a proud man**, And he does not stay at home. Because he enlarges his desire as hell, And he is like death, and cannot be satisfied, He gathers to himself all nations And heaps up for himself all peoples. **“Will not all these take up a proverb against him, And a taunting riddle against him, and say, ‘Woe to him who increases What is not his—how long? And to him who loads himself with many pledges’? Will not your creditors rise up suddenly? Will they not awaken who oppress you? And you will become their booty.”** Habakkuk 2:5-7 NKJV

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

“The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn the sword And have bent their bow, To cast down the poor and needy, To slay those who are of upright conduct. **Their sword shall enter their own heart,** And their bows shall be broken.” Psalms 37:12-15 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This Torah portion begins with laws regarding first fruits and tithes. It goes on to discuss covenant renewal, after which Moses recites the blessings guaranteed to Israel for covenant obedience and warns of the curses for apostasy.

Deuteronomy 26

2. **Offerings for Firstfruits and Tithes:** Moses reminds Israel what they must do when they come into the land. Offer the first of all your produce to Yahweh. Make this declaration to the priest so you never forget. **"I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the country which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us."** Deuteronomy 26:3
3. The people must have on their lips, at all times, how they arrived in Egypt few in numbers, became a great nation, were mistreated and afflicted, and then were delivered by Yahweh's power through signs and wonders. They must always remember that they have arrived in the land of promise!
4. Every third year lay aside all the tithe of your increase. Take care of the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, so that they may eat within your gates and be filled (and you will be blessed abundantly for obeying this!)

5. **A Special People of God:** the people have declared that Yahweh is their God and that they will obey Him, and Yahweh has declared that Israel is His special people.

Deuteronomy 27

6. **The Law Inscribed on Stones:** as Israel crosses into the promised land, they are to set up memorial stones and to whitewash them with lime, and *“write very plainly on the stones all the words of this law. (v. 8)”* Also build an altar out of whole stones and offer burnt and peace offerings. *“Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the LORD your God. Therefore you shall obey the voice of the LORD your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today.”* Deuteronomy 27:9-10

7. **Pronouncements after you cross over the Jordan—Blessings from Mount Gerizim and Curses from Mount Ebal:**

- (a) **These shall bless the people:** Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin
- (b) **These shall curse the people:** Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. And the Levites shall speak these warnings to all the men of Israel: It is noteworthy that the people, in marriage-worthy fashion, say “I do” to each of these warnings.
- (1) Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image.

- (2) Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.
- (3) Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.
- (4) Cursed is the one who makes the blind to wander off the road.
- (5) Cursed is the one who perverts justice.
- (6) Cursed is the one who lies with his father's wife.
- (7) Cursed is the one who lies with any kind of animal.
- (8) Cursed is the one who lies with his sister.
- (9) Cursed is the one who lies with his mother-in-law.
- (10) Cursed is the one who attacks his neighbor secretly.
- (11) Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person.
- (12) Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them.

Deuteronomy 28

- 8. Up next is Deuteronomy Chapter 28, likely the most famous chapter in the Bible when it comes to Yahweh's definitive statement about His blessings for obeying Him and curses for disobeying Him. **Noteworthy:** The blessings encompass the first **fourteen verses**; the curses, the next **fifty-four verses**, something to really think about!

9. **Blessings for Obedience:** NOTE VERSE 14: *“Don’t turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.”* THAT WOULD BE REALLY BAD! But, if you diligently obey the voice of Yahweh, and carefully observe all His commandments, then He will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you: (Deuteronomy 28:1-2) **Blessed you will be:**

- (1) In the city and the country.
- (2) In the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your livestock.
- (3) In your basket and your kneading bowl.
- (4) In your coming and going.
- (5) As He will cause your enemies to be defeated; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.
- (6) In your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand.
- (7) As a holy people to Himself.
- (8) As all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of Yahweh, and they shall be afraid of you.
- (9) With plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground.

(10) As Yahweh will open to you His good treasure, the heavens,
to give rain to your land in its season.

(11) In all the work of your hands.

(12) As lenders to many nations and not borrowers.

(13) As the head and not the tail; as above and not be beneath.

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

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

(1) In the city and the country.

(2) In the fruit of your body, the produce of your land, and the increase of your livestock.

(3) In your coming and going.

(4) In confusion and rebukes of all that you set your hands to do.

(5) With plagues that will cling to you until you are consumed.

(6) And stricken with consumption, fever, inflammation, severe burning fever, the sword, scorching, and with mildew; until you perish.

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

- (23) Your eyes shall look and fail and there shall be no strength in your hand.
- (24) When a nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be oppressed and crushed continually.
- (25) As you are driven mad because of what your eyes witness.
- (26) While you are stricken with severe boils which cannot be healed, from the sole of your feet to the top of your head.
- (27) You and your future king will be sent to a nation, which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods.
- (28) And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you.
- (29) You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it.
- (30) You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.
- (31) You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off.
- (32) You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity.

- (33) Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land.
- (34) The alien who is among you shall rise higher and you shall come down lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.
- (35) These curses shall pursue you and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of Yahweh.
- (36) The curse shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever because you did not serve Yahweh.
- (37) You shall serve your enemies.
- (38) You will be in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything.
- (39) As Yahweh puts a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.
- (40) Nations from afar shall take from you every resource, all livestock, and all your produce, grain, wine and oil.
- (41) They shall besiege you at all your gates and starve you out.
- (42) In complete desperation, you shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters in the siege.
- (43) The sensitive and very refined man among you will turn hostile toward everyone as he consumes the flesh of his own children in desperation!

- (44) The tender and delicate woman among you will refuse her husband and children and consider only herself in her desperation.
- (45) If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law and fear the glorious and awesome name of Yahweh, then He will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses, including all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid.
- (46) Even sicknesses never written in the Book of the Law will come upon you until you are left few in number, in contrast to the stars of heaven.
- (47) *“And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.”*
- Deuteronomy 28:63 NKJV
- (48) Then you will be scattered from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, and you shall find no rest, but instead a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.

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

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

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

Deuteronomy 29

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

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

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

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

16. Last year's teaching on this portion: [Looking Good](#)

ONE COMMON DENOMINATOR

1. Two Claims: One Requirement

A. Obedience is the common thread!

(1) Two Proclamations

(a) **Yahweh, a Special People, and Non-negotiable**

Obedience: ““This day the Lord your God commands you to observe these statutes and judgments; therefore you shall be careful to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul. **Today you have proclaimed the Lord to be your God**, and that you will walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments, and His judgments, and that you will obey His voice. **Also today the Lord has proclaimed you to be His special people**, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments, and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the Lord your God, just as He has spoken.””

Deuteronomy 26:16-19 NKJV

(2) The Common Denominator—keep My commands

(a) “Now Moses, with the elders of Israel, commanded the people, saying: “**Keep all the commandments which I command you today.**” Deuteronomy 27:1 NKJV

- (b) “And you shall write very plainly on the stones **all the words of this law.**” Deuteronomy 27:8 NKJV
- (c) “Therefore you shall obey the voice of the Lord your God, **and observe His commandments** and His statutes which I command you today.” Deuteronomy 27:10 NKJV

SUMMARY: ONE COMMON DENOMINATOR

- (1) Two Proclamations: I am your God; you are My People
- (2) One Requirement: Non-negotiable Obedience

AGREEMENTS

2. Coming into agreement—it’s serious!

A. The Levites Relay the Offer

- (1) We say this...you say “Amen”
 - (a) “And the Levites shall **speak with a loud voice** and say to all the men of Israel:” Deuteronomy 27:14 NKJV

B. The Acceptance —Cursed you are if...

- (1) Carved images are an abomination!
 - (a) “‘Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image, an **abomination** to the Lord, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.’ “And all

the people shall answer and say, 'Amen!'" Deuteronomy 27:15 NKJV

(2) Contempt of your father and mother

- (a) "'Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with **contempt.**' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'" Deuteronomy 27:16 NKJV

(3) Moving Landmarks

- (a) "'Cursed is the one who moves his **neighbor's landmark.**' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'" Deuteronomy 27:17 NKJV

(4) Abusing the needy

- (a) "'Cursed is the one who makes the **blind to wander off** the road.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'" Deuteronomy 27:18 NKJV

(5) Perverting Justice

- (a) "'Cursed is the one who **perverts the justice** due the stranger, the fatherless, and widow.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'" Deuteronomy 27:19 NKJV

(6) Sexual Immorality

- (a) "'Cursed is the one who **lies with his father's wife,** because he has uncovered his father's bed.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'" Deuteronomy 27:20 NKJV

- (b) ""Cursed is the one who **lies with any kind of animal.**' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"
Deuteronomy 27:21 NKJV
- (c) ""Cursed is the one who **lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.**' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"
Deuteronomy 27:22 NKJV
- (d) ""Cursed is the one who **lies with his mother-in-law.**' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"
Deuteronomy 27:23 NKJV
- (7) Secret Attacks
 - (a) ""Cursed is the one who **attacks his neighbor secretly.**' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"
Deuteronomy 27:24 NKJV
- (8) Selling out the innocent
 - (a) ""Cursed is the one who takes a **bribe** to slay an innocent person.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'" Deuteronomy 27:25 NKJV
- (9) If you do not confirm ALL OF IT!
 - (a) ""Cursed is the one who does not **confirm all the words of this law** by observing them.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'" Deuteronomy 27:26 NKJV

SUMMARY: AGREEMENTS

- (1) The Levites say this...you say "Amen"
- (2) Cursed if you make images
- (3) Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.Moving Landmark.
- (4) Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.'
- (5) Cursed is the one who neglects the needy.
- (6) Cursed is the one who perverts the justice.
- (7) Cursed is the one who is sexually immoral.
- (8) Cursed is the one who attacks his neighbor secretly.
- (9) Cursed is the one who sells out the innocent.
- (10) Cursed is the one who does not confirm EVERY WORD
OF THE LAW!

CURSES AND CURRENT EVENTS

3. Deuteronomy 28 and Modern Times

- A. **Blessings and Curses:** Of course all of Deuteronomy 28 speaks of blessings and curses, but for today I want to stay laser focused on "Curses and Current Events" (You can see last year's teaching on this portion for a detailed look at Chapter 28: [Looking Good](#))
- B. **Relate these curses to current events (August 2021)**
 - (1) Confusion because of your wickedness!

- (a) ""The Lord will send on you cursing, **confusion**, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, **because of the wickedness of your doings** in which you have forsaken Me." Deuteronomy 28:20 NKJV
- (2) Utter defeat at the hands of our enemies
 - (a) ""The Lord will cause you **to be defeated before your enemies**; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth." Deuteronomy 28:25 NKJV
- (3) Madness, Blindness, Groping, Oppression, & Plundered
 - (a) "The Lord will strike you with **madness and blindness and confusion of heart. And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness**; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only **oppressed and plundered** continually, and no one shall save you." Deuteronomy 28:28-29 NKJV
- (4) Another nations gets your stuff!
 - (a) "A nation whom you have not known **shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor**, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually." Deuteronomy 28:33 NKJV

- (5) A joke and a laughing stock!
- (a) “And you shall become an **astonishment**, a **proverb**, and a **byword** among all nations where the Lord will drive you.” Deuteronomy 28:37 NKJV
- (6) Illegal aliens and refugees will inundate you!
- (a) “**“The alien who is among you shall rise higher** and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower.” Deuteronomy 28:43 NKJV
- (7) A nation against you
- (a) “The Lord will bring **a nation against you from afar**, from the end of the earth, **as swift as the eagle flies**, a nation whose language you will not understand, **a nation of fierce countenance**, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young.” Deuteronomy 28:49-50 NKJV
- (8) Favor reversed
- (a) “And it shall be, that **just as the Lord rejoiced over you** to do you good and multiply you, **so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing**; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.” Deuteronomy 28:63 NKJV
- (9) Serving other gods...

- (a) ““Then the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall **serve other gods**, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone.” Deuteronomy 28:64 NKJV

C. An astonishment, a proverb, and a byword!

- (1) You will appear like a joke and a laughing stock!

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

1. **An Astonishment:** an object of horror, waste, horror, appalment
 2. **A Proverb:** parable, proverbial saying, aphorism
 3. **A Byword:** ridicule, sharp word, sharp (cutting) word, taunt, gibe, perfect example of, classic case of, model of, embodiment of, incarnation of, personification of, epitome of, typification of...
- (b) See how this was all predicted in November of last year by clicking the links below to review each teaching:
1. [Fleeces and Testimonies](#) (November 13, 2020)
 2. [How Long Shall I Cry](#) (November 14, 2020)
 3. [The Impetuous Seed](#) (November 20, 2020)
 4. [Stand, Watch and See](#) (November 28, 2020)

5. [A Prophet's Testimony & Song](#) (December 05, 2020)

(2) It will happen! Don't let delays fool you!

- (a) "I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart,
And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I
will answer when I am corrected. Then the Lord
answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it
plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. **For the
vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it
will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for
it; Because it will surely come,** It will not tarry. "Behold
the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just
shall live by his faith." Habakkuk 2:1-4 NKJV

*1. Pay attention to what is happening. Watch and see.
Even though it seems that what I am about to tell you
is delayed, it will happen. The proud will be punished
and justice will come to the faithful.*

(3) Habakkuk says it all—

- (a) ""Indeed, because he transgresses by wine, **He is a
proud man, And he does not stay at home. Because he
enlarges his desire as hell,** And he is like death, and
cannot be satisfied, **He gathers to himself all nations
And heaps up for himself all peoples. "Will not all these
take up a proverb against him, And a taunting riddle**

against him, and say, 'Woe to him who increases What is not his—how long? And to him who loads himself with many pledges'? Will not your creditors rise up suddenly? Will they not awaken who oppress you? And you will become their booty. **Because you have plundered many nations, All the remnant of the people shall plunder you,** Because of men's blood And the violence of the land and the city, And of all who dwell in it. **"Woe to him who covets evil gain for his house, That he may set his nest on high,** That he may be delivered from the power of disaster! You give shameful counsel to your house, **Cutting off many peoples, And sin against your soul. For the stone will cry out from the wall,** And the beam from the timbers will answer it. **"Woe to him who builds a town with bloodshed, Who establishes a city by iniquity!** Behold, is it not of the Lord of hosts That the peoples labor to feed the fire, **And nations weary themselves in vain?** For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea. **"Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, Pressing him to your bottle, Even to make him drunk,** That you may look on his nakedness! **You are filled with shame instead of glory.** You also—

drink! And be exposed as uncircumcised! The cup of the Lord's right hand will be turned against you, **And utter shame will be on your glory.** For the **violence** done to Lebanon will cover you, And the plunder of beasts which made them afraid, **Because of men's blood And the violence of the land and the city,** And of all who dwell in it." Habakkuk 2:5-17 NKJV

- 1. A proud man who finally left his basement to satisfy his insatiable desire for power gathers support from nations and people fraudulently, as he is propped up by fake news and corrupt corporate media. However, in time, these very support elements, like other nation's leaders, his own political party, and the entire liberal media, will ultimately turn against him. He will become an embarrassing laughing stock, an absolute joke of a leader who becomes the object of ridicule. His legacy will literally become like a bad memory. Why? Because he took what was not his and he made promises that he could not, nor ever had, any intentions to keep. They were all lies. So, the very people, nations, and media that raised him up in the first place, will now rise up against him.*

2. *Looking back into this person's history, you will see that he used his position to receive riches from other nations, but that too will be reversed. He made deals with other nations under the table to acquire gain for his own household because he thought it would protect him if he had a massive nest egg. It will not!*
3. *You will know the time for judgment has come when you see things like people in need being stranded outside the walls. He built his legacy on depravity and by spilling the innocent blood. This will all be in vain. Yes, he will keep attempting to spin the whole thing as if he is an innocent do-gooder, as if the people listening to his dribble are drunk. But in the end, what he hoped would be his glorious accomplishments will end in utter shame and defeat. This will all be happening as you see bloodshed and violence in the city!*

SUMMARY: CURSES AND CURRENT EVENTS

- (1) Confusion comes because of your wickedness!
- (2) Utter defeat at the hands of our enemies
- (3) Madness, Blindness, Groping, Oppression, & Plundered
- (4) Another nations gets your stuff!

- (5) You become a joke and a laughing stock!
- (6) Illegal aliens and refugees will inundate you!
- (7) A nation with a fierce countenance will quickly come against you.
- (8) Favor over you will be reversed.
- (9) You will serve other gods...
- (10) You will appear like a joke and a laughing stock!
- (11) Pay attention to what is happening. Watch and see. Even though it seems that what I am about to tell you is delayed, it will happen. The proud will be punished and justice will come to the faithful.
- (12) Habakkuk says it all—A proud man who finally left his basement to satisfy his insatiable desire for power gathers support from nations and people fraudulently, as he is propped up by fake news and corrupt corporate media. However, in time, these very support elements, like other nation's leaders, his own political party, and the entire liberal media, will ultimately turn against him. He will become an embarrassing laughing stock, an absolute joke of a leader who becomes the object of ridicule. His legacy will literally become like a bad memory. Why? Because he took what was not his and he made promises that he could not, nor ever had, any intentions to keep. They were all

lies. So, the very people, nations, and media that raised him up in the first place, will now rise up against him.

(13) Looking back into this person's history, you will see that he used his position to receive riches from other nations, but that too will be reversed. He made deals with other nations under the table to acquire gain for his own household because he thought it would protect him if he had a massive nest egg. It will not!

(14) You will know the time for judgment has come when you see things like people in need being stranded outside the walls. He built his legacy on depravity and by spilling the innocent blood. This will all be in vain. Yes, he will keep attempting to spin the whole thing as if he is an innocent do-gooder, as if the people listening to his dribble are drunk. But in the end, what he hoped would be his glorious accomplishments will end in utter shame and defeat. This will all be happening as you see bloodshed and violence in the city!

THE FATE OF COUNTERFEITS

4. They won't get away with it!

A. Who are they? Identifying Counterfeits...

(1) Practitioners of Lawlessness

- (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. 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) **“Not everyone** who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, **‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’**” Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV

1. Let's be clear. Y'shua came to make the law perfectly clear and accessible, not to get rid of it. And you need to be wary of those who say He came to

*change or nullify it, especially those who teach such dribble. He has a stern warning for such men,
“Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”*

(2) Sheep in Wolves Clothes

- (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

1. Wolves sometimes look like sheep, but you can know them by what they produce! Bad produce is reserved for fire!

(3) They Look the Same (for now)

- (a) **Wheat and Tares:** “Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, **his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat** and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the

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

1. It is easiest to tell true believers from imposters when you examine the fruit!

(4) A House of Cards

- (a) ""Therefore whoever **hears these sayings of Mine, and does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who **hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods

came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”” Matthew 7:24-27 NKJV

1. *Note: The New Testament equivalent of the blessings and curses of Deuteronomy 28 is the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. The narrative climaxes with the same encouragement and the same admonition.*
2. *The whole world of disobedient rebels is like a house of cards. It is all coming down!*

(5) They Guilty Afflict the Just

- (a) **“For I know your manifold transgressions And your mighty sins: Afflicting the just and taking bribes; Diverting the poor from justice at the gate. Therefore the prudent keep silent at that time, For it is an evil time.** Seek good and not evil, That you may live; So the Lord God of hosts will be with you, As you have spoken. **Hate evil, love good; Establish justice** in the gate. It may be that the Lord God of hosts Will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.” Amos 5:12-15 NKJV

1. *God is watching the wicked. He knows who is unjust and He sees their transgressions. There is a time for silence, but as you will see, the wicked, when they think they have escaped punishment, will be horribly*

*surprised! Your job is to hate evil, love good and
ESTABLISH JUSTICE!*

B. What do they have coming?

(1) They think they got away with it!

- (a) **Bears and Serpents: “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.** Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. Take away from Me the noise of your songs, For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments. But let justice run down like water, And righteousness like a mighty stream.” Amos 5:18-24
NKJV

1. Okay, wrap your mind around this. The worst of these transgressors will be masquerading as believers. They will be looking forward to the days leading up to and

to the return of the Lord. However, those events will not be so good for them. It will be as if they had escaped getting attacked by a lion only to be mauled by a bear. Or, they escaped from the lion into the house, only to lean against the wall in relief, but then are bitten by a venomous snake. You see, they think they will get away with their evil, but they will not!

2. Who are these counterfeits? Here's a clue! They have their own "holidays" and "sacred gatherings". Yikes!

(2) But...Yahweh is Laughing at Them!

(a) **"The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn the sword And have bent their bow, To cast down the poor and needy, To slay those who are of upright conduct. Their sword shall enter their own heart, And their bows shall be broken."** Psalms 37:12-15 NKJV

(3) All of Psalm 37

(a) **"Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb.** Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord,

And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; **Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.** Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; **Do not fret—it only causes harm. For evildoers shall be cut off;** But those who wait on the Lord, They shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more. But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The **wicked plots against the just,** And gnashes at him with his teeth. **The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn the sword And have bent their bow,** To cast down the poor and needy, **To slay those who are of upright conduct. Their sword shall enter their own heart, And their bows shall be broken.** A little that a righteous man has **Is better than the riches of many wicked.** For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, But the Lord upholds the righteous. The

Lord knows the days of the upright, And their inheritance shall be forever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied. **But the wicked shall perish;** And the enemies of the Lord, Like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away. The wicked borrows and does not repay, But the righteous shows mercy and gives. For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth, **But those cursed by Him shall be cut off.** The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand. I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lends; And his descendants are blessed. Depart from evil, and do good; And dwell forevermore. **For the Lord loves justice, And does not forsake His saints;** They are preserved forever, **But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.** The righteous shall inherit the land, And dwell in it forever. The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, And his tongue talks of justice. The law of his God is in his heart; None of his steps shall slide. **The wicked watches**

the righteous, And seeks to slay him. The Lord will not leave him in his hand, Nor condemn him when he is judged. Wait on the Lord, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it. **I have seen the wicked in great power, And spreading himself like a native green tree. Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more;** Indeed I sought him, but he could not be found. Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace. **But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; The future of the wicked shall be cut off.** But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall help them and deliver them; **He shall deliver them from the wicked, And save them, Because they trust in Him.**" Psalms 37:1-40 NKJV

- 1. Ready, take this all in and believe it applies to the times in which we are living. Do not fear because of all those doing evil. Now, pay attention to all of what is in store for the wicked. They will be cut off... Yahweh is laughing at them as He knows their time is coming. Their own weapons they once used against*

God's people will be used against them. This is exactly what Habakkuk 2 prophesied.

- 2. The wicked get rich with their evil schemes, but it will not last. You are better off being righteous and having nothing than to gain riches in iniquity.*
- 3. Yahweh loves justice and in the end He will not forget His Saints. But, the wicked and their descendants will be forgotten. Even though the wicked seek to slay the righteous, Yahweh will not leave them unprotected.*
- 4. The wicked might appear to possess great power but soon they will be no more. The transgressors will be destroyed altogether, and the righteous will be delivered.*

SUMMARY: THE FATE OF COUNTERFEITS

(1) Who are they?

(a) Identifying Counterfeits...

- 1) **Practitioners of Lawlessness:** Let's be clear. Y'shua came to make the law perfectly clear and accessible, not to get rid of it. And you need to be wary of those who say He came to change or nullify it, especially those who teach such dribble. He has a

stern warning for such men, “Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

- 2) **Sheep in Wolves Clothes:** Wolves sometimes look like sheep, but you can know them by what they produce! Bad produce is reserved for fire!
 - 3) **They Look the Same (for now):** It is easiest to tell true believers from imposters when you examine the fruit!
 - 4) **A House of Cards:** The New Testament equivalent of the blessings and curses of Deuteronomy 28 is the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. The narrative climaxes with the same encouragement and the same admonition. The whole world of disobedient rebels is like a house of cards. It is all coming down!
 - 5) **They Afflict the Just:** God is watching the wicked. He knows who is unjust and He sees their transgressions. There is a time for silence, but as you will see, the wicked, when they think they have escaped punishment, will be horribly surprised! Your job is to hate evil, love good and ESTABLISH JUSTICE!
- (b) What do they have coming?
- 1) **They think they got away with it!:** Okay, wrap your mind around this. The worst of these transgressors will be masquerading as believers. They will be

looking forward to the days leading up to and to the return of the Lord. However, those events will not be so good for them. It will be as if they had escaped getting attacked by a lion only to be mauled by a bear. Or, they escaped from the lion into the house, only to lean against the wall in relief, but then are bitten by a venomous snake. You see, they think they will get away with their evil, but they will not! Who are these counterfeits? Here's a clue! They have their own "holidays" and "sacred gatherings".

(c) But...Yahweh is Laughing at Them!

- 1) Ready, take this all in and believe it applies to the times in which we are living. Do not fear because of all those doing evil.
- 2) Now, pay attention to all of what is in store for the wicked. They will be cut off...Yahweh is laughing at them as He knows their time is coming.
- 3) Their own weapons they once used against God's people will be used against them. This is exactly what Habakkuk 2 prophesied.
- 4) The wicked get rich with their evil schemes, but it will not last. You are better off being righteous and having nothing than to gain riches in iniquity.

- 5) Yahweh loves justice and in the end He will not forget His Saints. But, the wicked and their descendants will be forgotten.
- 6) Even though the wicked seek to slay the righteous, Yahweh will not leave them unprotected.
- 7) The wicked might appear to possess great power, but soon they will be no more. The transgressors will be destroyed altogether, and the righteous will be delivered.

THE GREAT DIVIDE—PICK A SIDE!

5. A Prophetic Picture of Today's World—The Great Divide of Two Nations

A. Pick a side (Note: few pick correctly!)

- (1) The narrow road lead to life...the wide road, to utter destruction!
 - (a) ""Enter by the narrow gate; **for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction**, and there are many who go in by it. Because **narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life**, and there are few who find it." Matthew 7:13-14 NKJV

B. The Rise of a Nation of Darkness!

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

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

shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; **Wasting and destruction are in their paths.** **The way of peace they have not known, And there is no justice in their ways;** They have made themselves crooked paths; **Whoever takes that way shall not know peace. Therefore justice is far from us, Nor does righteousness overtake us; We look for light, but there is darkness!** For brightness, but we walk in blackness! We grope for the wall like the blind, And we grope as if we had no eyes; We stumble at noonday as at twilight; We are as dead men in desolate places. We all growl like bears, And moan sadly like doves; **We look for justice, but there is none;** For salvation, but it is far from us. For our transgressions are multiplied before You, **And our sins testify against us;** For our transgressions are with us, And as for our iniquities, we know them: In transgressing and lying against the LORD, **And departing from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.** Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; **For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter. So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it,**

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

C. The Rise of a Nation of Light!

(1) **The glory of the LORD is risen upon you:** The sons of those who afflicted you Shall come bowing to you, And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet...” Isaiah 60:14

- (a) **Isaiah Hope!** “Arise, shine; For your light has come! **And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.** For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep

darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you,
And His glory will be seen upon you. **The Gentiles shall come to your light,** And kings to the brightness of your rising. “Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. **Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.** The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, The rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; **They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, And I will glorify the house of My glory.**

“Who are these who fly like a cloud, And like doves to their roosts? Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first, To bring your sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them, To the name of the LORD your God, And to the Holy One of Israel, **Because He has glorified you.** “**The sons of**

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

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

(2) The Glory of His People

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

Romans 8:18-21 NKJV

SUMMARY: THE GREAT DIVIDE—PICK A SIDE!

- (1) The correct road is narrow—FEW FIND IT!
- (2) Pick a side; a Nation of Darkness or a Nation of Light!
 - (a) A Nation of Darkness:

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

13) For truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

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

(b) Then the turn...

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

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

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

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

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

(c) The Rise of a Nation of Light!

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

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

- 12) You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles.
- 13) Instead of bronze I will bring gold, instead of iron I will bring silver, instead of wood, bronze, and instead of stones, iron.
- 14) **I will also make your officers peace, and your magistrates righteousness. Violence shall no longer be heard in your land!** [See: [The Justice League](#)]
- 15) The Glory of His People...
- 16) I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
- 17) Creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Yahweh proclaimed both that He would be Israel's God and that they would be His people.**
- A. What was the common requirement in both claims?
- B. What would happen if the people would not confirm that requirement?

2. Deuteronomy 28 is all about blessings and curses:

- A. Discuss how curses are being displayed, in the present day United States, in each of these passages: Deuteronomy 28:20, 25, 28-29, 33, 43, 49-50, 63, 64

3. Habakkuk 2:5-7 seems to be a prophetic warning regarding Deuteronomy 28:37:

- A. Describe in detail how this seems to be playing out in the current presidential administration (2021) and also around the nation with other political leaders.

4. Both Amos 5 and Psalm 37 depict the fate of those who pervert Yahweh's justice:

- A. What does Amos 5 indicate will happen to those who think they got away with it?
- B. What is the fate of the wicked according to Psalm 37?

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

- A. How does this relate to the times we live in in 2021?
- B. What might this Scripture mean today, in relationship to those who openly declare themselves as enemies of the church? *"The sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you, and all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet..." Isaiah 60:14*