



**Portion:**

**Title:**

**SCRIPTURES**

- Numbers 8:1-12:15
- I Peter 4:1-4; II Peter 2:18-21
- I Timothy 1:3-7; 3:1-13

**PREDICTABLE TIDES**

- The Heartbeat of God
- Intense Cravings
- A Conclave of Elders

*The sun rises and the sun sets; the tide comes in and the tide goes out. You don't even think about it. It's like your heartbeat: steady, predictable, dependable, and without any forethought. Well, that is if you are healthy of course. But there would be no questions, no doubts or concerns, if we are measuring the beating of God's heart.*

*David was a man after God's own heart. What does that even mean? It means David was synchronized with God's desires; he was in-tune with what Yahweh wanted and specifically what Yahweh wanted of him. It means to trust in God's provision and protection no matter what threats surround you. It's comforting to connect with the heartbeat of God, but how comforting could it be if the beat of His heart was erratic, unstable, unpredictable, or undependable?*

*The sun rises and sets and you don't give it a second thought; you literally can "set your watch by it." The tides also come in and go out like clockwork, unless there is a storm approaching and the heavy rain and potential storm-surge cause rivers and oceans to spill over onto what is otherwise dry ground.*

*Many heavy rains act as enemies against the riverbanks of our lives. All sorts of storms threaten to overflow our personal coastlines. But God's heartbeat is steady and predictable; His tides never get so low that you bottom out or so high that you drown in the flood.*

*David writes, "Surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near me. You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance." Isaiah reveals the heartbeat of God with His words of comfort; "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you."*

*There is one final piece I must confirm. You are not meant to go it alone. God has placed others around His people and His institution to remind them that His heart never stops beating for them. God's heart never skips a beat, never flutters, has no leaks or clogs, and is immune to arrhythmias and infarction. Stay connected to God's beating heart; it is your hiding place. In other words, there is no storm so powerful that He can't "tide you over."*

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

“So it was, **whenever the ark set out**, that Moses said: “Rise up, O Lord! Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You.” **And when it rested**, he said: “Return, O Lord, To the many thousands of Israel.”” Numbers 10:35-36 NKJV

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

“Now there was **leaning on Jesus’ bosom** one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.” John 13:23 NKJV

“For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found; **Surely in a flood of great waters** they shall not come near him. **You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.** Selah” Psalms 32:6-7 NKJV

“But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.** When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.” Isaiah 43:1-2 NKJV

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

1. This portion instructs about the arrangement of the lamps, and tells the story of the cleansing and dedication of the Levites, the first Passover in the wilderness (which is the 2nd Passover), the cloud and fire that the children of Israel followed, the silver trumpets and all their types of blowing, the departure from Sinai, the grumbling in the wilderness, the assembling of the first Sanhedrin made up of seventy elders, and the dissension of Aaron of Miriam.

## **Numbers 8**

2. **Arrangement of the Lamps:** The seven lamps are arranged in such a way that they give light in front of the lampstand (menorah). We are reminded that the lampstand was designed according the pattern which Yahweh had given Moses (like every other detail of the Tabernacle and its furnishings).
3. **Cleansing and Dedication of the Levites**
  - a) Sprinkle water of purification on them.
  - b) Shave their bodies.
  - c) Wash their clothes.
  - d) Offer two bulls and a grain offering.
  - e) The children of Israel lay hands on the Levites (as a wave offering).

- f) And then the Levites lay hands on the bulls.
- g) Offer one bull as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering.
- h) This will separate the Levites from the rest of Israel.
- i) Then, they can go into service and they can become substitutes for the firstborns of all the other tribes (one Levite in service per firstborn of Israel). See: [The Firstborn Swap](#)
- j) The Levites are a gift to Aaron and his sons to do the work of the Tabernacle.
- k) They can perform these duties from 25-50 years of age.
- l) After age 50, they may still minister but they themselves shall do no work.

## Numbers 9

### 4. The First Passover in the Wilderness (the 2nd Passover)

- a) In the first month of the second year in the wilderness the people keep their second Passover.
- b) Certain men who were defiled by a corpse approach Moses as they are concerned that they cannot keep the Passover (they cannot present their offerings in a state of uncleanness).
- c) This is precisely why they wanted to pull Y'shua down off the cross before sunset!
  - 1) *“Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, **that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for***

*that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.” John 19:31 NKJV*

- d) Moses inquires of Yahweh what to tell these men.
  - e) Yahweh institutes an accommodation for those who are unclean or who are on a journey far away that they may keep the Passover in the second month.
  - f) However, the second month is not an accommodation for those who can keep it in the first month. In other words, it's not an excuse to miss Passover.
  - g) Then we are reminded that foreigners dwelling among them are held to the same laws and must abide by the rites of Passover. We know that this also insinuates that they must be circumcised to eat the Passover.
- 1) *“And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.”” Exodus 12:48-49 NKJV*

## **5. The Cloud and the Fire that Covered the Tabernacle**

- a) From the first day the Tabernacle was completed a cloud of glory was over it (appearing as a cloud by day and fire by night).
- b) Yahweh used the cloud to move His people and to settle his people.
- c) When the cloud moved the people packed up and moved. When the cloud stopped, the people set up camp.
- d) And it did not matter how long the period of settling was, a day or a year. They stayed only as long as the cloud was still.

## **Numbers 10**

### **6. Two Silver Trumpets**

- a) Use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps.
- b) Blow both of them and all the congregation shall gather before the door of the tabernacle of meeting.
- c) Blow only one and only the leaders shall gather.
- d) Blow them also to sound the advance of the camps:
  - 1) First Blow: the camps on the east side begin their journey.
  - 2) Second Blow: the camps on the south side begin their journey.
- e) There will be different blowing sounds so when the sons of Aaron blow, all will know the meaning. Sounds for:
  - 1) Gathering

- 2) Advancing
  - 3) War
  - 4) Day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts
  - 5) Beginning of months
  - 6) Offerings
7. **Departure from Sinai** (This is the way they moved every time, with precision and order!)
- a) On the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle of the Testimony. And the children of Israel set out from the Wilderness of Sinai for the first time. Thus was the order of march of the children of Israel, according to their armies, when they began their journey:
    - 1) Judah set out first followed by Issachar and then Zebulun
      - (a) Then the tabernacle was taken down; and the sons of Gershon and the sons of Merari set out, carrying the tabernacle.
    - 2) Then Reuben set out followed by Simeon and then Gad
      - (a) Then the Kohathites set out, carrying the holy things.  
(The tabernacle would be prepared for their arrival.)
    - 3) Then Ephraim set out followed by Manasseh and then Benjamin



- 4) Then Dan (the rear guard of all the camps) set out followed by Asher and then Naphtali
- b) Moses asks Hobab (AKA Jethro), his father-in-law to go with them, and that he will participate in Israel's promises. At first he says he will just depart back to his home and people.
- c) Moses says... *"Please do not leave, inasmuch as you know how we are to camp in the wilderness, and you can be our eyes. And it shall be, if you go with us—indeed it shall be—that whatever good the LORD will do to us, the same we will do to you."* Numbers 10:31-32 NKJV
- d) The ark of the covenant of Yahweh and the cloud of the LORD was above them by day.
- e) *"So it was, whenever the ark set out, that Moses said: "Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You." And when it rested, he said: "Return, O LORD, To the many thousands of Israel.""*  
Numbers 10:35-36 NKJV
- 1) **Note:** Numbers 10:35-36 is read in synagogues around the world each time the Torah Scroll is take out for readings.

## Numbers 11

### 8. The People Complain

- a) The people complained and it angered Yahweh, so He sent a little fire warning that burned the outskirts of the camp

- b) The mixed multitude yield to the intense cravings for the food they had in Egypt and they complain about the boring manna. The children of Israel get caught up in it. The people literally cried at the entrance to their tents.
- c) Both Yahweh and Moses are very angry over these complaints.
- d) Moses asks Yahweh why He has afflicted him to carry the burdens of these complainers. He feels like he is the guardian of a nursing child who will carry this burden all the way to the promised land. "How can I satisfy their need for meat?"
- e) Moses is like, "If this is the way it's going to be, just kill me now!" Otherwise, "If You favor me, do something about it so I don't have to see my own wretchedness!"
- 1) This reminds us of Paul's words: *"O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin."* Romans 7:24-25 NKJV

## 9. **The Seventy Elders**

- a) Gather seventy elders of Israel to the tabernacle of meeting.
- b) Yahweh will take of the Spirit that is upon Moses and will put the same upon them; so they shall bear the burden of the people.

- c) Then tell the people to get ready because Yahweh heard your whining and He is going to give you so much meat for thirty days that it will come out of your nostrils, so much meat that it will become loathsome to you.
- d) Now you shall see whether what I say will happen to you or not.
- e) So Moses gathered the seventy men and Yahweh took the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders.
- f) The Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again.
- g) Two men had remained in the camp: Eldad and Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those listed, but who had not gone out to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp. Joshua complains about it and asks Moses to stop them. Moses responds by telling Joshua that he wished all the people were prophets.
- h) Then Moses and the elders returned to the camp.

#### **10. Quail from the Sea**

- a) About a day's journey from the camp, quail piled two cubits high.
- b) The people stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next day, and gathered the quail.

- c) While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, Yahweh struck the people with a very great plague.

## **Numbers 12**

### **11. Dissension of Aaron and Miriam**

- a) Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because he married an Ethiopian woman and they question if Yahweh only speaks through Moses, and why not them!
- b) We find out that Moses was the most humble man on the face of the earth.
- c) Yahweh calls Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to the tabernacle and God calls Aaron and Miriam step forward. He says:
  - 1) I speak to prophets in visions and dreams.
  - 2) Moses is the most faithful in all My house.
  - 3) I speak with him face-to-face.
  - 4) Why are you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?
- d) Yahweh turns Miriam leprous and Moses intercedes for her healing. Yahweh tells him that if her father had spit in her face, she'd be shamed seven days; so, He will heal her, but she first will be shut out of the camp seven days.

### **12. Last Year's Teaching on this Portion: ["Follow Me"](#)**

## THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD

### 1. Predictable Rhythms

#### A. Safety in the Midst of the Storm

##### (1) Rest

(a) Rule #1. When you face your enemies, remember that God will remember you!

1. **“When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the Lord your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.”** Numbers 10:9 NKJV

(b) Rule #2. Always In search of a resting place. The ark of the covenant was the central object of Tabernacle. It resided in the Holy of Holies in which the Spirit of God dwelled. We could even say it represents the heart or heartbeat of God. Whenever the camp of the Israelites moved, the ark would lead the way. And where the ark came to rest, Israel would abide. This was a sacred and protected institution.

1. **“So they departed from the mountain of the Lord on a journey of three days; and the ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them for the three days’ journey, to search out a resting place for them. And**

the cloud of the Lord was above them by day when they went out from the camp.” Numbers 10:33-34  
NKJV

(2) Safety in the storms...

(a) He is your hiding place; He shall preserve you from trouble; He shall surround you with songs of deliverance. He is our hiding place, the place in which we come to rest no matter what storms surround us.

1. “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; **Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him. You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from**

**trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.** Selah” Psalms 32:1-7 NKJV

(b) When the flood waters rise all around us, we will not be submerged. The waves cannot prevail. He will remember us; we will find a resting place, a place of safety.

1. “But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.** When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.” Isaiah 43:1-2 NKJV

2. “Do you not fear Me?” says the Lord. ‘Will you not tremble at My presence, **Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea,** By a perpetual decree, **that it cannot pass beyond it?** And **though its waves toss to and fro, Yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it.**” Jeremiah 5:22 NKJV

(c) Where is that resting place. It is in the heartbeat of God, the Ark of His Covenant. The secret place of the Most High is our hiding place!

1. **“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.** I will say of the Lord, **“He is my refuge and my fortress;** My God, in Him I will trust.” Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, **And under His wings you shall take refuge;** His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. **A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you.** Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even **the Most High, your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you,** Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.



“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.”” Psalms 91:1-16 NKJV

(d) Y’shua shows us that He is the resting place. He is the heartbeat of God.

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

(e) How do you go to Him for safe passage?

1. **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,** And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And **He shall direct your paths.”** Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV
2. **“Let your eyes look straight ahead,** And your eyelids look right before you. **Ponder the path of your feet,** And let all your ways be established. Do not turn to

the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.”

Proverbs 4:25-27 NKJV

3. “Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,  
“**This is the way, walk in it,**” Whenever you turn to  
the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.”

Isaiah 30:21 NKJV

## **B. The Rhythm of God’s Heart**

### (1) An Aching Heart

(a) We have all been here. The thumping in our chest speaking of the pain that has stolen our peace. Our hearts are sick because we have no hope. But the Tree of Life, our Savior synchronizes the rhythm of our hearts with the heart of the Father.

1. “O my soul, my soul! **I am pained in my very heart! My heart makes a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace,** Because you have heard, O my soul, The sound of the trumpet, The alarm of war.” Jeremiah 4:19 NKJV
2. “Hope deferred **makes the heart sick,** But **when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.**” Proverbs 13:12 NKJV

### (2) Feeling God’s Heartbeat

- (a) *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* (Matthew 11:28) Yes, get up close to the heartbeat of Christ. Put your head up against His chest and listen to the steady sound, the predictable sound, the never-ending sound of God’s heart. This is your resting place.
1. “Now there was **leaning on Jesus’ bosom** one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.” John 13:23 NKJV
  2. “Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, **who also had leaned on His breast at the supper**, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?”” John 21:20 NKJV
- (b) Delight yourself in the Lord. Synchronize your heartbeat with His, and His desires will be your desires!
1. “Delight yourself also in the Lord, And **He shall give you the desires of your heart**. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” Psalms 37:4-5 NKJV
- (3) The Predictability of God’s Heartbeat
- (a) Picture the ark, the heart of God, going out and coming in like the tides of the ocean, steady and predictable. Now picture the human heart with its four chambers, all beating in a perfect rhythm for life. The lower chamber

on left side first receives oxygenated blood from the lungs and then sends that blood throughout the body by way of the beating of the upper chamber on the left side. The right lower chamber receives deoxygenated blood from the body and then sends it to the lungs for life-giving oxygen via the beating of the right upper chamber. That blood then leaves the lungs and heads back to the left side of the heart as the cycle goes on and on. This is the life sustaining picture of God's Ark going out and coming in, circulating the life-giving Spirit throughout the camp!

1. "So it was, **whenever the ark set out**, that Moses said: "Rise up, O Lord! Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You." **And when it rested**, he said: "Return, O Lord, To the many thousands of Israel."" Numbers 10:35-36 NKJV
  - a) I can even picture measuring of blood pressure: The pressure in there heart as it ejects (sets out) the blood is the top number, and the pressure in the heart AT REST, between beats, is the bottom number.
  - (b) Tides—Picture it going out and coming in...

1. The alternate rising and falling of the sea, usually twice in each lunar day at a particular place, due to the attraction of the moon and sun—a powerful surge of feeling or trend of events—**Tide Over:** (tide someone over, tide over someone) help someone through a difficult period: sustain, keep someone going, keep someone's head above water, see someone through; bridge the gap, keep someone in funds; help out, assist, aid—denoting a specified time or season—ebb and flow, flood, surge, current, stream, movement, course, direction, trend, tendency.
2. **Feel the heartbeat/see the tide:** "...whenever the ark set out, that Moses said: "**Rise up, O Lord!** Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You." **And when it rested,** he said: "Return, O Lord, To the many thousands of Israel."" Numbers 10:35-36 NKJV

### C. Connecting to the Heart of God!

- (1) A man after God's heart!
  - (a) God is looking for a man who will do His will. He is not concerned with your outer appearance but what is on

the inside! This is a man whose heart is beating in step with His own.

1. “And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. **The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people,** because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”” I Samuel 13:13-14 NKJV
2. “But the Lord said to Samuel, “**Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature,** because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for **man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.**”” I Samuel 16:7 NKJV
3. “And when He had removed him, **He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony** and said, ‘**I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.**’”Acts 13:22 NKJV

## Summary: THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD

### 1. Predictable Rhythms

#### A. Safety in the Midst of the Storm

##### (1) Rest

- (a) Rule #1. When you face your enemies, remember that God will remember you!
- (b) Rule #2. Always In search of a resting place. The ark of the covenant was the central object of Tabernacle. It resided in the Holy of Holies in which the Spirit of God dwelled. We could even say it represents the heart or heartbeat of God. Whenever the camp of the Israelites moved, the ark would lead the way. And where the ark came to rest, Israel would abide. This was a sacred and protected institution.

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- (b) When the flood waters rise all around us, we will not be submerged. The waves cannot prevail. He will remember us; we will find a resting place, a place of safety.

- (c) Where is that resting place. It is in the heartbeat of God, the Ark of His Covenant. The secret place of the Most High is our hiding place!
- (d) Y'shua shows us that He is the resting place. He is the heartbeat of God.
- (e) How do you go to Him for safe passage? Trust Him: lean not on your own understanding; look straight ahead (at Him).

## **B. The Rhythm of God's Heart**

### (1) An Aching Heart

- (a) We have all been here. The thumping in our chest speaking of the pain that has stolen our peace. Our heart are sick because we have no hope. But the Tree of Life, our Savior synchronizes the rhythm of our hearts with the heart of the Father.

### (2) Feeling God's Heartbeat

- (a) *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:28) Yes, get up close to the heartbeat of Christ. Put you head up against His chest and listen to the steady sound, the predictable sound, the never-ending sound of God's heart. This is your resting place.



(b) Delight yourself in the Lord. Synchronize your heartbeat with His, and His desires will be your desires!

(3) The Predictability of God's Heartbeat

(a) Picture the ark, the heart of God, going out and coming in like the tides of the ocean, steady and predictable.

Now picture the human heart with its four chambers, all beating in a perfect rhythm for life. The lower chamber on left side first receives oxygenated blood from the lungs and then sends that blood throughout the body by way of the beating of the upper chamber on the left side. The right lower chamber receives deoxygenated blood from the body and then sends it to the lungs for life-giving oxygen via the beating of the right upper chamber. That blood then leaves the lungs and heads back to the left side of the heart as the cycle goes on and on. This is the life sustaining picture of God's Ark going out and coming in, circulating the life-giving Spirit throughout the camp!

(b) I can even picture measuring of blood pressure: The pressure in there heart as it ejects (sets out) the blood is the top number, and the pressure in the heart AT REST, between beats, is the bottom number.

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### **C. Connecting to the Heart of God!**

- (1) A man after God's heart!
  - (a) God is looking for a man who will do His will. He is not concerned with your outer appearance but what is on the inside! This is a man whose heart is beating in step with His own.

## INTENSE CRAVINGS

### 2. Predictable Challenges

#### A. The Desire to go Backwards!

(1) Desire leads to Sin; Sin leads to Death

(a) When Israel left Egypt there were many from other nations who were convinced that Egypt was a losing proposition and they took advantage of the opportunity to leave with the winning team! You will see these people referred to as the “mixed multitude.” Here we see members from this group expressing their desires for what they had in Egypt. Their intense needs for what they could not have from their old life bled over onto the children of Israel who had a propensity to complain. And one more thing—think of the fact that they are actually also complaining about God’s supernatural provision—manna! Note to self: It’s a very bad idea to complain about God’s provision!

1. “Now **the mixed multitude** who were among them **yielded to intense craving**; so the children of Israel also **wept again** and said: “Who will give us meat to eat?” Numbers 11:4 NKJV
2. “**We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions,**

**and the garlic;** but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" Numbers 11:5-6 NKJV

(b) Bad company corrupts good morals is the way Paul expresses what happens when you run with the wrong crowd. You become an amalgamation of the people you are in close proximity to on a regular basis. Show me your friends and I will show you what you will become!

1. "Do not be deceived: **“Evil company corrupts good habits.” Awake to righteousness, and do not sin;** for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame." I Corinthians 15:33-34 NKJV

(c) Let's be clear; we will all face challenges and the desire to make the wrong choice is part of being human. However, if you are in the habit of blaming others for your choices, then your self-deception makes you even more vulnerable to serious errors.

1. **“Blessed is the man who endures temptation;** for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. **Let no one say when he is tempted,** “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. **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 1:12-15 NKJV**

(d) On the flip side, if you are inspiration for others to make poor choices, it will not go well with you in God’s economy. Woe to those who make a children stumble. I guess the intense cravings of the mixed multitude to go back to their old life, and its influence on the children of Israel is precisely the type offenses to which Y’shua is referring. His advice to the mixed multitude: take any extreme measure necessary to avoid dragging others down a path of sin, because the consequences for you ain’t pretty!

1. **““Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes! “If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet,**

to be cast into the everlasting fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. **It is better for you to enter into life with one eye,** rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.”

Matthew 18:6-9 NKJV

## (2) The Propensity to Complain

(a) Israel has a history of complaining and wanting to go back to Egypt. “Shocking,” you might think. But is it really? Have you ever complained about your new life in God and about what you were missing from your old life “in Egypt”?

1. At the exodus, God led the people in a specific direction, not the direction they would have chosen. (Exodus 13:17-18)
2. God tells His people where to camp and then He informs Pharaoh that they are backed up against the sea as he hardens Pharaoh’s heart. (Exodus 14:2-4)
3. The People feel trapped so they complain. ***“Did you purposely bring us into the wilderness die? We would have been better off serving the Egyptians as slave.”*** (Exodus 14:10-12) Really? They were better off as slaves under an oppressive and abusive regime?

4. Moses says, “Fear not, be still, watch the Lord conquer the Egyptians for you; your job is to remain calm.” (Exodus 14:13-14)
  5. And the rest is history...the people cross on dry ground and God destroys the Egyptians. (Exodus 14:15-31)
  6. *“So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.”* (Exodus 14:22 NKJV) Note: is this not again a picture of how God protects us in the storm!?
- (b) If you can imagine the scene at the shore of the Red Sea, the Egyptian army bearing down on them, their entire past life charging toward them in a furious torrent. And now read Paul’s words. You can see what was on his mind when he painted this picture. You feel trapped; you have no way out; you are about to be swallowed up by your old life; but fear not! There is a solution. Don’t look at the charging army; look at Jesus! Your old life is dead—let it stay dead. Your new life is in Christ!
1. “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of

us. **We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—**” II Corinthians 4:7-9 NKJV

2. “always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, **that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.** For we who live are always **delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.** So then death is working in us, but life in you.” II Corinthians 4:10-12 NKJV

(3) Returning to your old life

- (a) Even after the miracle at the sea, they still lost faith when they were faced with their next challenge. Do you do that? Whether it was the delicacies they were missing, or even what they saw as the basic needs of life, they had no qualms about indicting Moses and God for how they felt they were deprived? Do you do that?

1. **Meat and Bread** — “Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. And the children of Israel said to them, **“Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the**



**pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full!** For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”” Exodus 16:2-3 NKJV

2. **Water from the rock the first time** — “Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped in Rephidim; **but there was no water for the people to drink.** Therefore **the people contended with Moses,** and said, “Give us water, that we may drink.” So Moses said to them, “**Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the Lord?**” And the people thirsted there for water, **and the people complained against Moses,** and said, “**Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?**”” Exodus 17:1-3 NKJV

(4) Intense Warning for Intense Cravings (for Christians)

- (a) All you have to do is teleport yourself from the wilderness into the first century, and then from the first century into your present life and you will see the exact same pattern. You have spent enough time in Egypt (your old life) satisfying the lusts of your flesh. Why

would you go back to the same debauchery and decadence? Why would you even want to? Here is the better way to think! Arm yourself with the same way of seeing things as Christ; He suffered in the flesh and conquered sin. Now you do the same because that is precisely what He empowered you to do!

1. “Therefore, **since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind**, for he who has suffered in the flesh has **ceased from sin**, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the **lusts of men**, but for the will of God. **For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles**—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the **same flood of dissipation**, speaking evil of you.” I Peter 4:1-4 NKJV
- (b) The alternative is horrible. If you go back to Egypt, not just for a visit, but to stay, it will be even worse than when you were there the first time! No doubt, there is room to make a mistake; the desire to go back and even a short trip down memory lane is recoverable. But if you

go back there to live, it becomes disturbingly clear you never really left Egypt in your heart in the first place!  
SPECIAL ALERT: the forgiveness for going back is not permission or an excuse to do so!

1. “For **when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption;** for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. For if, **after they have escaped the pollutions of the world** through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, **they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.** For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.” II Peter 2:18-21 NKJV
2. “Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,** so that as sin reigned in death, even so **grace might reign** through righteousness to eternal

life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 5:20-21  
NKJV

3. “What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!** How shall we **who died to sin live any longer in it?**” Romans 6:1-2  
NKJV

(5) How can you avoid looking back?

- (a) Run away from every possible sin of your old life as fast as you can. The best way to do that is to run straight ahead to Christ. If you are running toward Him at full speed, you won’t have any time to look backwards!

1. “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) Even the good things of the past are not worth returning to! And once you compare them to the high calling in Christ, **AND YOU SHOULD DO THAT**, they will seem

like absolute garbage! Plus, forgetting those things will preserve the energy you need to press forward toward what He called you out of your old life for in the first place. Trust me; its worth it!

1. “though I also **might have confidence in the flesh**. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, **a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.**”

Philippians 3:4-6 NKJV

2. “**But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ**. Yet indeed **I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus** my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, **and count them as rubbish**, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; **that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection**, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His

death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. **Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.** Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; **but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**" Philippians 3:7-14 NKJV

## B. Quitting is not an Option

(1) Second Thoughts of Leaders!

(a) Moses is not happy that these people are complaining again!

1. "Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, everyone at the door of his tent; and the anger of the Lord was greatly aroused; **Moses also was displeased.**" Numbers 11:10 NKJV

(b) Moses wants out. If you called me to do this, why do I feel cursed by it? Why is it such a drudgery? Can you just "take this cup from me?"

1. "So Moses said to the Lord, "**Why have You afflicted Your servant? And why have I not found favor in**

**Your sight**, that You have laid **the burden of all these people** on me?" Numbers 11:11 NKJV

2. "Father, if it is Your will, **take this cup away from Me**; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.'" Luke 22:42 NKJV

(c) These people are really not my responsibility!

1. "**Did I conceive all these people?** Did I beget them, that You should say to me, '**Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,**' to the land which You swore to their fathers?" Numbers 11:12 NKJV

(d) How can I ever satisfy them?

1. "**Where am I to get meat** to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, 'Give us meat, that we may eat.'" Numbers 11:13 NKJV

(e) If this is how it's going to be! Please just kill me!

1. "I am not able to bear all these people alone, because **the burden is too heavy for me**. If You treat me like this, **please kill me here and now**—if I have found favor in Your sight—and do not let me see my wretchedness!" Numbers 11:14-15 NKJV

## **Summary: INTENSE CRAVINGS**

### **2. Predictable Challenges**

#### **A. The Desire to go Backwards!**

(1) Desire leads to Sin; Sin leads to Death

- (a) When Israel left Egypt there were many from other nations who were convinced that Egypt was a losing proposition and they took advantage of the opportunity to leave with the winning team! You will see these people referred to as the “mixed multitude.” Here we see members from this group expressing their desires for what they had in Egypt. Their intense needs for what they could not have from their old life bled over onto the children of Israel who had a propensity to complain. And one more thing—think of the fact that they are actually also complaining about God’s supernatural provision—manna! Note to self: It’s a very bad idea to complain about God’s provision!
- (b) Bad company corrupts good morals is the way Paul expresses what happens when you run with the wrong crowd. You become an amalgamation of the people you are in close proximity to on a regular basis. Show me your friends and I will show you what you will become!



- (c) Let's be clear; we will all face challenges and the desire to make the wrong choice is part of being human. However, if you are in the habit of blaming others for your choices, then your self-deception makes you even more vulnerable to serious errors.
  - (d) On the flip side, if you are inspiration for others to make poor choices, it will not go well with you in God's economy. Woe to those who make a children stumble. I guess the intense cravings of the mixed multitude to go back to their old life, and its influence on the children of Israel is precisely the type offenses to which Y'shua is referring. His advice to the mixed multitude: take any extreme measure necessary to avoid dragging others down a path of sin, because the consequences for you ain't pretty!
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- (a) Israel has a history of complaining and wanting to go back to Egypt. "Shocking," you might think. But is it really? Have you ever complained about your new life in God and about what you were missing from your old life "in Egypt"?
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  3. The People feel trapped so they complain. ***“Did you purposely bring us into the wilderness die? We would have been better off serving the Egyptians as slave.”*** Really? They were better off as slaves under an oppressive and abusive regime?
  4. Moses says, “Fear not, be still, watch the Lord conquer the Egyptians for you; your job is to remain calm.”
  5. And the rest is history...the people cross on dry ground and God destroys the Egyptians.
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- (b) If you can imagine the scene at the shore of the Red Sea, the Egyptian army bearing down on them, their entire past life charging toward them in a furious torrent. And now read Paul's words. You can see what was on his mind when he painted this picture. You feel

trapped; you have no way out; you are about to be swallowed up by your old life; but fear not! There is a solution. Don't look at the charging army; look at Jesus! Your old life is dead—let it stay dead. Your new life is in Christ!

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- (a) Even after the miracle at the sea, they still lost faith when they were faced with their next challenge. Do you do that? Whether it was the delicacies they were missing, or even what they saw as the basic needs of life, they had no qualms about indicting Moses and God for how they felt they were deprived? Do you do that?

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## **B. Quitting is not an Option**

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- (a) Moses is frustrated—the people are complaining again!
- (b) Moses wants out. If you called me to do this, why do I feel cursed by it? Why is it such a drudgery? Can you just “take this cup from me?”
- (c) These people are really not my responsibility!
- (d) How can I ever satisfy them?
- (e) If this is how it’s going to be! Please just kill me!

## A CONCLAVE OF ELDERS

### **3. Predicable Leadership**

#### **A. Leadership Options**

(1) Moses seeks leadership advice...

- (a) Why? I know I can trust your counsel. Moses got some great unsolicited leadership advice from his father-in-law Jethro (AKA Hobab) in the past. Now he asks for him to stay with Israel—he knows Jethro has a lot of valuable experience in how the Israelite organization operates. He offers him a great high-paying position in the organization.

1. “Now Moses said to **Hobab** the son of Reuel the Midianite, **Moses’ father-in-law**, “We are setting out

for the place of which the Lord said, 'I will give it to you.' **Come with us, and we will treat you well;** for the Lord has promised good things to Israel." And he said to him, "I will not go, but I will depart to my own land and to my relatives." So Moses said, **"Please do not leave, inasmuch as you know how we are to camp in the wilderness, and you can be our eyes.** And it shall be, if you go with us—indeed it shall be—that whatever good the Lord will do to us, the same we will do to you."”Numbers 10:29-32  
NKJV

(b) Jethro had a good track record when it comes to leadership. When Jethro first witnessed how Moses was handling situations that arose in the organization, he advised him on getting some help. He warns Moses that he will burn out at the pace he is going and that he must delegate responsibility to other leaders. Others can handle almost everything and you, Moses, just take on the most complicated things. Moses heeded his counsel and it worked out very well. That is why Moses wants Jethro to stay around.

1. **“And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses**

**from morning until evening.** So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? **Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?"** And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws." So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "**The thing that you do is not good.** Both you and these people who are with you will surely **wear yourselves out.** For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself. **Listen now to my voice;** I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: **Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.** Moreover you shall **select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them** to be **rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of**

**fifties, and rulers of tens.** And let them judge the people at all times. **Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge.** So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you. If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace.” **So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said.** And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people: rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. So they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves.” Exodus 18:13-26 NKJV

- (2) Moses is ready to quit. He would actually rather die than continue dealing with this ongoing complaining. What comes of this burden?
  - (a) A Conclave of Elders—gather seventy men who will be formed into a leadership council.
    - 1. “So the Lord said to Moses: “**Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be**



**the elders of the people** and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you.” Numbers 11:16 NKJV

- (b) God promises to give these new leaders the same anointing as Moses!
  - 1. “Then I will come down and talk with you there. **I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them;** and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.” Numbers 11:17 NKJV
- (c) The Meat Story—then God deals with that specific complaint about not having any meat!
  - 1. Numbers 11:18-23 and Numbers 11:31-35
- (d) The Anointing of the Seventy: the anointing falls in these men as they gather around the tabernacle and they begins to prophesy for the first and last time!
  - 1. “So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord, and he gathered **the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle.** Then the Lord came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, **and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon**

**them, that they prophesied,** although they never did so again.” Numbers 11:24-25 NKJV

(e) Two of the elders remain prophesying. They stayed around the camp and kept getting downloads. Joshua, for some reason, asks Moses to stop them!

1. **“But two men had remained in the camp:** the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad. **And the Spirit rested upon them.** Now they were among those listed, **but who had not gone out to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp.** And a young man ran and told Moses, and said, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, one of his choice men, answered and said, **“Moses my Lord, forbid them!”**”

Numbers 11:26-28 NKJV

(f) Moses recognizes that Joshua is concerned about how this might affect Moses’ position. But Moses does not share his concern; instead, he expresses his desire that ALL of God’s people would experience God’s Spirit. That in itself is a prophetic statement! (Think Pentecost Acts Chapter 2)

1. “Then Moses said to him, **“Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the Lord’s people were prophets**

**and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!”**

Numbers 11:29 NKJV

2. “And Moses returned to the camp, he and the elders of Israel.”Numbers 11:30 NKJV

(3) Moses says, “Oh, that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them...”

(a) The Apostle Paul shares Moses’ desire. “But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.”

1. “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? **But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.**” I Corinthians 12:27-31 NKJV

(b) FYI: you can line up every possible gift that God might bestow, and not one of them compares to Love. (See I Corinthians 13:1-13)

1. **SAMPLE** "...And though I have **the gift of prophecy**, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing..." I Corinthians 13:2 NKJV
- (c) Paul goes on in chapter 14 and extols the value of prophecy. "I wish you would all prophesy..."
  1. **"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.** For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all spoke with tongues, **but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues**, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification." I Corinthians 14:1-5 NKJV

## **B. A Leadership Solution**

### (1) Bonus Section

- (a) The following notes are excerpts from our verse-by-verse teaching through Paul's first letter to Timothy. For

deeper exploration into biblical leadership, study the following teachings:

1. [No Other Doctrines](#)
2. [Qualifications](#)
3. [A Good Minister](#)
4. [Double Honor](#)

(2) Qualities of a Leader

(a) Aspiring to Leadership

1. “This is a faithful saying: If a man **desires the position of a bishop**, he desires a good work.” I Timothy 3:1

NKJV

- a) **A position of overseer:** Paul is about to teach us what it means to be a worthy leader in the house of God. There is no doubt that both the desire to be one, and navigation of being one, can be a winding and rocky road, filled with all sorts of challenges and temptations.
- b) If we survey the seen, and we need not trek back into ancient history, there seems to be a greater percentage of those who do not rule well, than those who meet the standards laid out here by Paul.

- c) It seems to be that in the modern day church, the more “known” the leader, the more often they fall to one or more the temptations, named here as requirements.
2. Check your motives at the door!
- a) There is a warning sign at the entrance to leadership. Harsher judgment and mammon await.
  - b) *“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.” James 3:1 NKJV*
  - c) *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” Matthew 6:24 NKJV*
- (b) Leadership Character...
- 1. “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;” I Timothy 3:2-3
  - a) **Blameless...** It’s really quite simple, but it’s not easy. In every way and in every situation, do it God’s way. You cannot think about what is best for

you, but rather what Yahweh say is right. Do this in all things and you will always land on the side of innocence before the Lord. Yes it is difficult, but that is why you have the Holy Spirit.

- b) **One Wife...** As we know, in ancient times and for many reasons, men had more than one wife. Let's see this as an early accommodation for a fallen world. But, from the beginning, we can see One Flesh was the reason for marriage and anything more than that is less than optimal.
- c) **Temperate...** In this case we are not taking about the weather! But seriously, have a mild and agreeable nature. This does not mean to be docile and passive, a pushover. This refers more to meekness, a man empowered by grace through the Holy Spirit, and who need not "demonstrate" his power, but rather appears utterly gracious.
- d) **Sober-minded...** Clear thinking is a must if you are to lead. You must be able to see into the truth of the matter. A man carried away in wild thoughts and desires cannot be trusted to lead when the pressure is on. Good, solid decision making that people can depend on at all times is a trademark

of excellent leadership. When people think about you they must instantly feel, “I can have confidence that he will make a good decision.”

- e) **Good behavior...** Let's call this situational appropriateness. How you act in every circumstance needs to be honoring to God and to man. Don't be a negative force who draws negative attention. Be solid and aware of what will bring peace and clarity in all situations.
- f) **Hospitable...** What's mine is not mine! Let's start with that. Live life with an open hand. Your life needs to be a resting place for others. Your life needs to feel like an open invitation for others. Think of your life and your possessions as a safe harbor for weary travelers, a place where people feel instantly at home, equal, loved and cared for. People are not invading your space; your space is invading them. Think of the walls of your home like an aged well-seasoned cast-iron pan. The walls of your home must be seasoned with the warmth and invitation of the Spirit.
- g) **Able to Teach...** It's one thing to know; it's altogether different to pass on what you know so



others can know what you know. *“A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.”* (John 3:27) Your job is to pass it along!

h) **Not Given to Wine...** Given to? We are to be ruled by nothing. Nothing should grip us other than the presence of God. This extends to all potential addictions. Paul said it like this... *“[of] All things [that] are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”* (I Corinthians 6:12 NKJV) Just because something is permitted does not mean you are permitted to let it rule you!

i) **Not Violent...** Blessed are the peacemakers... Words of Y’shua. If at all possible, leave at peace with all men... Words of Paul. Need I say more?

**Not Greedy for Money...** This may be in the top two of what causes the downfall of most leaders? Can you guess the other? Men get a taste of “success” and it eventually drives them. They split their allegiance to God with the things of the world: fame, accolades, recognition, “my ministry”, power, influence, etc. But John realized

this was exactly opposite of what we are meant to do! *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”* John 3:30 NKJV

- j) **Gentle...** *“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”* (Matthew 10:16 NKJV) You are not meant to be a doormat, however you are meant to be soft and gracious. Again, think meekness—absolute power under control.
- k) **Not Quarrelsome...** We are meant to speak the truth, in love. But creating arguments only causes others to put up a defensive shield. An agreeable spirit is much more influential than one that demands being right!
- l) **Not Covetous...** Ask yourself this; *“If I am exactly where God wants me, doing exactly what He has called me to do, then why would I want something else?”* That is what births covetousness. It’s a simple formula. It’s timeless and ageless. The only thing standing in the way is your authentic desire. *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* Matthew 6:33 NKJV

(c) Rules His Household Well

1. **“one who rules his own house well**, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.” I Timothy 3:4-6  
NKJV

- a) **Submitted Children...** Children may not be perfect, and certainly will make their own errors along the way, but are they submitted to the truth of your home. We are not looking for a performance, but they must be aiming in the direction, *“working out their own salvation with fear and trembling;”* Philippians 2:12 NKJV
- b) **Reverent Children...** It’s black and white here. Do your children have a healthy fear of you? This can only be achieved if there is no ambiguity in your character. Your standards and lifestyle are clear; you are an open book; and there are no open-ended questions about who you are and what you stand for. If you cannot handle the affairs of your own home how can you take care of God’s house?

Think about it. If you can't handle the relatively tiny obligations of a few souls, how on earth can you handle more?

c) **Not a novice...** A Novice: a beginner, one with no track record or proven experience. It would be like following the wind!

1) Lest he be puffed up with pride and suffer the same condemnation of the devil...(see verse 7 below)

2) When all you are is a spark on some lighter fluid, the flame will burn bright, brilliant but for a moment. It's all too common and all too obvious. Leaders who are a mile wide and an inch deep, those who depend more on flash than substance are not what God is looking for. Unfortunately, that is most of what we have today in the modern-Church.

(d) A Good Testimony

1. "Moreover he must have **a good testimony** among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." I Timothy 3:7 NKJV

a) **A Good Witness...** The Pagans are looking on...the outside world is looking on and ready to fine pick

every inconsistency, ready to expose every hypocrisy. It's tragic today that the number of leaders in the Church who have become exposed because of their defiled character is egregious and growing constantly.

- b) **Lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. (See verse 6 above)...** *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.”* Isaiah 14:12-15 NKJV

(e) More Leadership Character

1. “Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.” I Timothy 3:8-9 NKJV

- a) **Reverent...** Like reverent children, these must be “reverent men of God.” It’s black and white here. Do they have a healthy fear of God? Do they live knowing there is no ambiguity in God’s character. Does their lifestyle clearly match God’s standards?
- b) **Not double tongued...** Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (Luke 6:45) James said it best...**this ought NOT to be!** *“But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, **these things ought not to be so.**”* James 3:8-10 NKJV
- c) **Not given to too much wine...** See above! (I Timothy 3:2-3)
- d) **Not Greedy for money...** See above! (I Timothy 3:2-3)
- e) **A solid understanding of the mystery of the faith —with a pure conscience...** This is the key. Ask yourself this above all things. Why is it that you want to be a leader in the Church? If there is a

single motivation that has yourself in the mix, you are missing something. (See verse 16 below!)

(f) Tested and Found Blameless!

1. “But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.” I Timothy 3:10

NKJV

a) **Let’s repeat what we already reviewed but add a little twist!** It’s really quite simple, but it’s not easy. In every way and in every situation, do it God’s way. You cannot think about what is best for you, but rather what does Yahweh say is right. Do this in all things you will always land on the side of innocence before the Lord. Yes it is difficult, but that is why you have the Holy Spirit.

b) **The twist!** No way you are ready for this position before you’ve been tested!

1) *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing **that the testing of your faith** produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” James 1:2-4 NKJV*

2) *“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. According*

*to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; **for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.** If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." I Corinthians 3:9-15 NKJV*

(g) What about the wives?

1. "Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well." I Timothy 3:11-12 NKJV



- a) **Reverent wives!** We have already seen what the man of God is called to be, should he desire a leadership role...but what about his wife?
  - b) **Not Slanderers...** no gossip; only life from her mouth!
  - c) **Temperate...** mild mannered and controlled, not one who invites attention. Classy, modest and moderate in words, deeds and dress!
  - d) **Faithful in all things!** She is just as solid as her husband. In other words, all of the above applies in her own circles.
  - e) **One Wife...** As seen above.
  - f) **Rule their children well...** As seen above.
  - g) **Rules their households well...** As seen above.
- (h) Beautiful Benefits
1. “For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” I Timothy 3:13  
NKJV
- a) **Good Standing:** When people see you they ought to see right through you. And when they look through you, they should see Christ! What better life could you have?

b) **Great Boldness in their faith!** When you have achieved this level of Godly living, your testimony will produce what God has promised!

1) **Greater works:** *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, **the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do**, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**”* John 14:12-14 NKJV

2) **Ambassador status:** *“Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.**”* II Corinthians 5:20 NKJV

3) **The Impartation of Grace:** *“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace to the hearers.**”* Ephesians 4:29 NKJV

(3) Doctrine of Leaders

(a) Oversee that those in the ministry teach no false doctrine... Timothy is young and well-trained. He has

been left behind to lead the church in Ephesus and Paul knows he will face many challenges, not the least of which will be bad doctrines creeping into “authentic Christianity.” Paul is confident that Timothy is well-equipped to handle doctrinal inconsistencies. What will be the common things for Timothy to be aware of?

1. “As I urged you when I went into Macedonia— remain in Ephesus that you may **charge some that they teach no other doctrine**, nor give heed to **fables and endless genealogies**, which cause **disputes rather than godly edification** which is in faith.” I Timothy 1:3-4 NKJV

- a) **Fables and endless genealogies...** Jews love blood lines and for a good reason. Just read the Torah and you will see why. Right from Genesis we see the importance of knowing family history. But, Paul also knows that these bloodlines are superseded by faith lines. We are certainly not supposed to disregard blood lines, however, we are also not supposed to get so caught up in them that we miss the bigger picture of the faith family (See: [Racial Profiling](#)). If you doubt genealogies remain important, go no further than the first chapter in

Matthew's gospel, and the third chapter of Luke's gospel. Genealogies are important, however, when they take precedent over godliness and when people would rather emphasize cultural storytelling above how the Holy Spirit is creating a new family of faith, a faith bloodline, then it's time to correct their priorities.

**b) Disputes rather than godly edification...** How can you know if the emphasis has been skewed? It's simple; just notice if people are spending more time arguing about blood lines than they are edifying one another to grow in the faith. Note: if you want to see an excellent teaching on using Genealogies correctly, see: [My Redeemer Lives](#)

(b) Why?

1. "Now the **purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,**" 1 Timothy 1:5 NKJV

a) **The purpose of the commandment...** Remember: Paul is writing "by the commandment of God." There are always so many levels of depth from which Paul writes. Get this; while Paul is writing to instruct Timothy about the importance of good

doctrine, he, at the same time, is insuring that he does not get caught up in minutiae. Yes, I have been commanded to give my life for the gospel(s). And yes, I have been commanded to write this letter. But without love, nothing else matters (see I Corinthians 13). So, let me emphasize that the purpose of this entire letter is to make sure you do all things with love. (Even if it involves correcting people.) And do so with...

- b) **A Pure Heart...** Pure means unmixed. The heart, of course in Hebrew construct is referring to the mind, or your way of thinking. You will have no OTHER intentions or motivations, other than what honors your faith and helps others see the truth. If you stray even a little from that, you will ultimately be disqualified.
- c) **A Good Conscience...** You know when you are off base, so do some sober self-assessments. If you are not acting with a pure heart, correct yourself. If you do not, God certainly will.
- d) **Sincere Faith...** It's almost as if the word sincere is not needed here. Could it be "faith" if it was not sincere? Nevertheless, Paul is training a young man

to be sincere, authentic, real, and ultimately widely accepted as a trusted leader in the Church.

#### (4) Leadership Summary

##### (a) Laborers for the Kingdom

1. “Let the elders who rule well be counted **worthy of double honor**, especially those **who labor in the word and doctrine**. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”” I Timothy 5:17-18 NKJV

a) **Leaders:** One who is laboring in Kingdom work.

b) **Rule Well:** One is not a true leader who is not ruling well. This indicates someone who is faithful in every way, spirit, soul and body. Just go back and read the early parts of this very letter (I Timothy chapters 1, 3, & 4) and you will see the stipulations for those considered worthy leaders.

c) **Word:** What does it mean to labor in Word? This is the person who wrestles with God’s Word day in and day out! Someone who has become adept and knowledgeable in the Scriptures, and is living by God’s Word.

- d) **Doctrine:** A expert in the teachings of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Not prone to making up his own religion with his own set of beliefs.

## Summary: A CONCLAVE OF ELDERS

### 3. Predicable Leadership

#### A. Leadership Options

(1) Moses seeks leadership advice...

- (a) Why? I know I can trust your counsel. Moses got some great unsolicited leadership advice from his father-in-law Jethro (AKA Hobab) in the past. Now he asks for him to stay with Israel—he knows Jethro has a lot of valuable experience in how the Israelite organization operates. He offers him a great high-paying position in the organization.
- (b) Jethro had a good track record when it comes to leadership. When Jethro first witnessed how Moses was handling situations that arose in the organization, he advised him on getting some help. He warns Moses that he will burn out at the pace he is going and that he must delegate responsibility to other leaders. Others can handle almost everything and you, Moses, just take on the most complicated things. Moses heeded his counsel

and it worked out very well. That is why Moses wants Jethro to stay around.

- (2) Moses is ready to quit. He would actually rather die than continue dealing with this ongoing complaining. What comes of this burden?
  - (a) A Conclave of Elders—gather seventy men who will be formed into a leadership council.
  - (b) God promises to give these new leaders the same anointing as Moses!
  - (c) The Meat Story—then God deals with that specific complaint about not having any meat!
  - (d) The Anointing of the Seventy: the anointing falls in these men as they gather around the tabernacle and they begin to prophesy for the first and last time!
  - (e) Two of the elders remain prophesying. They stayed around the camp and kept getting downcast. Joshua, for some reason, asks Moses to stop them!
  - (f) Moses recognizes that Joshua is concerned about how this might affect Moses' position. But Moses does not share his concern; instead, he expresses his desire that ALL of God's people would experience God's Spirit. That in itself is a prophetic statement! (Think Pentecost Acts Chapter 2)



- (3) Moses says, “Oh, that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them...”
- (a) The Apostle Paul shares Moses’ desire. “But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.”
- (b) FYI: you can line up every possible gift that God might bestow, and not one of them compares to Love. (See I Corinthians 13:1-13)
- (c) Paul goes on in chapter 14 and extols the value of prophecy. “I wish you would all prophesy...”

## **B. A Leadership Solution**

### (1) Bonus Section

- (a) The following notes are excerpts from our verse-by-verse teaching through Paul’s first letter to Timothy. For deeper exploration into biblical leadership, study the following teachings:

1. [No Other Doctrines](#)
2. [Qualifications](#)
3. [A Good Minister](#)
4. [Double Honor](#)

### (2) Qualities of a Leader

- (a) Aspiring to Leadership
1. Desiring the position of a bishop

- a) **A position of overseer:** Paul is about to teach us what it means to be a worthy leader in the house of God. There is no doubt that both the desire to be one, and navigation of being one, can be a winding and rocky road, filled with all sorts of challenges and temptations.
  - b) If we survey the seen, and we need not trek back into ancient history, there seems to be a greater percentage of those who do not rule well, than those who meet the standards laid out here by Paul.
  - c) It seems to be that in the modern day church, the more “known” the leader, the more often they fall to one or more the temptations, named here as requirements.
2. Check your motives at the door!
- a) There is a warning sign at the entrance to leadership. Harsher judgment and mammon await.
- (b) Leadership Character...
- 1. A bishop then must be...
    - a) **Blameless...** It’s really quite simple, but it’s not easy. In every way and in every situation, do it God’s way. You cannot think about what is best for

you, but rather what Yahweh say is right. Do this in all things and you will always land on the side of innocence before the Lord. Yes it is difficult, but that is why you have the Holy Spirit.

- b) **One Wife...** As we know, in ancient times and for many reasons, men had more than one wife. Let's see this as an early accommodation for a fallen world. But, from the beginning, we can see One Flesh was the reason for marriage and anything more than that is less than optimal.
- c) **Temperate...** In this case we are not taking about the weather! But seriously, have a mild and agreeable nature. This does not mean to be docile and passive, a pushover. This refers more to meekness, a man empowered by grace through the Holy Spirit, and who need not "demonstrate" his power, but rather appears utterly gracious.
- d) **Sober-minded...** Clear thinking is a must if you are to lead. You must be able to see into the truth of the matter. A man carried away in wild thoughts and desires cannot be trusted to lead when the pressure is on. Good, solid decision making that people can depend on at all times is a trademark

of excellent leadership. When people think about you they must instantly feel, “I can have confidence that he will make a good decision.”

- e) **Good behavior...** Let's call this situational appropriateness. How you act in every circumstance needs to be honoring to God and to man. Don't be a negative force who draws negative attention. Be solid and aware of what will bring peace and clarity in all situations.
- f) **Hospitable...** What's mine is not mine! Let's start with that. Live life with an open hand. Your life needs to be a resting place for others. Your life needs to feel like an open invitation for others. Think of your life and your possessions as a safe harbor for weary travelers, a place where people feel instantly at home, equal, loved and cared for. People are not invading your space; your space is invading them. Think of the walls of your home like an aged well-seasoned cast-iron pan. The walls of your home must be seasoned with the warmth and invitation of the Spirit.
- g) **Able to Teach...** It's one thing to know; it's altogether different to pass on what you know so

others can know what you know. *“A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.”* (John 3:27) Your job is to pass it along!

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(g) What about the wives?

1. Wives of leaders must be...

- a) **Reverent wives!** We have already seen what the man of God is called to be, should he desire a leadership role...but what about his wife?
- b) **Not Slanderers...** no gossip; only life from her mouth!

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    - b) **Great Boldness in their faith!** When you have achieved this level of Godly living, your testimony will produce what God has promised!
      - 1) Greater works
      - 2) Ambassador status
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(a) Oversee that those in the ministry teach no false doctrine... Timothy is young and well-trained. He has been left behind to lead the church in Ephesus and Paul knows he will face many challenges, not the least of which will be bad doctrines creeping into “authentic Christianity.” Paul is confident that Timothy is well-equipped to handle doctrinal inconsistencies. What will be the common things for Timothy to be aware of?

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a) **The purpose of the commandment...** Remember: Paul is writing "by the commandment of God." There are always so many levels of depth from which Paul writes. Get this; while Paul is writing to instruct Timothy about the importance of good doctrine, he, at the same time, is insuring that he does not get caught up in minutiae. Yes, I have been commanded to give my life for the gospel(s). And yes, I have been commanded to write this letter. But without love, nothing else matters (see I

Corinthians 13). So, let me emphasize that the purpose of this entire letter is to make sure you do all things with love. (Even if it involves correcting people.) And do so with...

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#### (4) Leadership Summary

##### (a) Laborers for the Kingdom

##### 1. Worthy of double honor...

- a) **Leaders:** One who is laboring in Kingdom work.
- b) **Rule Well:** One is not a true leader who is not ruling well. This indicates someone who is faithful in every way, spirit, soul and body. Just go back and read the early parts of this very letter (I Timothy chapters 1, 3, & 4) and you will see the stipulations for those considered worthy leaders.
- c) **Word:** What does it mean to labor in Word? This is the person who wrestles with God's Word day in and day out! Someone who has become adept and knowledgeable in the Scriptures, and is living by God's Word.
- d) **Doctrine:** A expert in the teachings of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Not prone to making up his own religion with his own set of beliefs.

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### 1. Numbers 10:9 makes a very specific promise about God's protection over us...

- A. Relate the following scriptures to that protection, as you consider the metaphor of flood waters as the enemy. (See: Psalms 32:1-7; Isaiah 43:1-2; Jeremiah 5:22)

2. **Numbers 10:33-34 speaks of a resting place for the ark of the covenant...**
  - A. How might that relate to the hiding place of Psalms 32:7?
  - B. How might that relate to the secret place of the Most High of Psalms 91:1-16?
  - C. How might it relate to Y'shua's words in Matthew 11:28-30?
3. **Picture the ark as God's beating heart and like the going out and coming in of the tides of the ocean, steady and predictable.**
  - A. Numbers 10:35-36 is the prayer Moses prayed every time the ark set out and every time to came to a resting place. Imagine this as the heartbeat of God. Journal your thoughts on this concept.
4. **What was it about King David that made him a "man after God's own heart"?**
  - A. What was God looking for? (See: I Samuel 13:13-14, 16:7; Acts 13:22)
5. **Numbers 11:4-6 reveals how the intense cravings of the pagans who left Egypt with Israel tempted Israel to sin:**
  - A. How is this explained by I Corinthians 15:33-34?
  - B. Who is really to blame according to James 1:12-15?
  - C. Describe Israel's propensity to complain using Exodus 13:17-18, 14:1-31, 16:2-3, & 17:1-3.



D. How might II Corinthians 4:7-12 be recalling the events of Exodus 13 & 14?

**6. How does Peter warn us about desiring to return to our old lives? (See: I Peter 4:1-4; II Peter 2:18-21)**

A. There is certainly grace over our mistakes, but what is Paul's stark warning about grace? (See: Romans 5:20-21, 6:1-2)

B. What are we encouraged to do to help us never go backwards, even to the things we might think were good? (See: Hebrews 12:1-2; Philippians 3:4-14)

**7. Describe what Moses was tempted to do because of how frustrated he was with the people.**

A. Use Numbers 11:10-15 for your answer.

B. How extreme was his frustration? (Hint: Numbers 11:14-15)

**8. In Numbers 10:29-32, Moses was seeking for His father-in-law to stay with Israel.**

A. Use Exodus 18:13-26 to describe why Moses trusted Jethro.

B. What does God do to help with Moses' frustration as seen in Numbers 11:10-15? (See: Numbers 11:16-17, 24-25)

C. What happens to the elders?

**9. Two of the elders continue to prophesy...**

A. What is Joshua's reaction and why? (See Numbers 11:26-28)

B. What does Moses think about it? (See Numbers 11:29)

C. How does Moses' response relate to Paul's words in I Corinthians 12:27-31, 13:1-13 & 14:1-5?

**10. Bonus**

A. Read "A Leadership Solution" starting on page 52 of the sermon notes and watch the four associated sermons!