



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Joshua 12-15
- Hebrews 4
- Matthew 24:45-51

Title:

THE PROMISE REMAINS

- Reality Check
- Reality Neglect
- Reality Select

Why do you call me Lord and not do things that I say? It's a great question! In modern vernacular we might even call it a reality check. And they can range quite a bit, these reality checks, from mild reminders and friendly nudges to harsh warnings and hostile shoves. It all depends on you. Are you receiving the message? Is reality getting through to you?

Now, there is a word that needs some clarification—reality. We can't just assume. I mean, maybe we could at another time in history. But in a universe in which we cannot even distinguish between a man and a woman, I can't safely assume anything. Reality should be simple to define, but it isn't. Reality has become relative. Now, if there was EVER an oxymoron it is that...reality is relative.

Relative: existing or possessing a specified characteristic only in comparison to something else; not absolute; a fair degree of; comparative, qualified, modified... Impossible! Reality CANNOT be some degree of something. Reality is absolute. Reality is truth.

So, I will again ask; is reality getting through to you? Is absolute truth getting through? Well, when it is not, we get gentle reminders, and if we still remain dense we get disturbing and uncomfortable reminders. Then, at some point we must pick a side—definitively. The Master has gone away, but blessed is the servant whom his Master finds doing what he is supposed to be doing when the Master returns. Oh, and if you didn't catch that, what the Master expects you to do is the ONLY reality that matters! But, there is ANOTHER reality you should wholly avoid, not another as if there is an alternative truth, but another as in the other side of the same coin.

Yes, the Master has gone away and is returning soon. One reality is this; "Blessed is the servant whom his Master finds doing what he is supposed to be doing when the Master returns." And the "alternate reality?" "Cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites!" Can we all agree that you'd be better off letting those mild nudges that sometimes become brutal shoves do a work in you. Why? Because the "alternate reality" is sharper than a two edged sword and it will shred you to ribbons!

PROPHETIC SEED:

*"Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the Lord said to him: "You are old, advanced in years, and **there remains very much land yet to be possessed.**"*" Joshua 13:1 NKJV

*"Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: "**How long will you neglect to go and possess the land** which the Lord God of your fathers has given you?"* Joshua 18:3 NKJV

““But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ **and not do the things which I say?**” Luke 6:46 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“Therefore, since **a promise remains of entering His rest**, let us fear lest any of you **seem to have come short of it.**” {9} “**There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.** For he who has entered His rest has himself **also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest**, lest anyone fall according to the **same example of disobedience.**” Hebrews 4:1, 9-11 NKJV

REALITY CHECK

1. A Gentle Reminder

A. There is still work to be done...

(1) The assignment continues...

(a) So much to do...

1. “Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the Lord said to him: “You are old, advanced in years, and **there remains very much land yet to be possessed.**”” Joshua 13:1 NKJV

(2) No More Manna

(a) **Reminder!** Corporate Responsibility

1. “Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and **kept the Passover** on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. **Then the manna ceased** on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.” Joshua 5:10-12 NKJV

(3) Prophetic Examples (a small sampling)

(a) The difference between the TRUTH about what you were given and LIE that keeps you from ACTUALLY receiving it!

1. “Let patience have its perfect work, that you may be **perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**” James 1:4 NKJV
2. “His divine power has **given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,” II Peter 1:3 NKJV
3. “My **God shall supply all your need** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19 NKJV
4. “If anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new.**” II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV
5. “**I can do all things** through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13 NKJV
6. “Having been **set free from sin**, you became **slaves of righteousness.** {22} But now having been **set free from sin**, and having **become slaves of God**, you have your **fruit to holiness**, and the end, everlasting life.” Romans 6:18, 22 NKJV

7. **"The heart is deceitful** above all things, and **desperately wicked**; who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV
- (4) And it is because we battle that...
- (a) ...the promise remains unfulfilled!
1. **The Battle:** "For **I delight in the law of God according to the inward man**. But I see another law in my members, **warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin** which is in my members." Romans 7:22-23 NKJV
 2. **The Promise:** "Therefore, since **a promise remains of entering His rest**, let us fear **lest** any of you seem to have **come short of it.**" Hebrews 4:1

B. Rest

- (1) What is holding you back from entering in?
- (a) Obedience and Faith
1. "For **who**, having heard, **rebelled?** Indeed, was it not **all who came out** of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who **sinned**, whose corpses **fell in the wilderness?** And to whom did He swear that they **would not enter His rest**, but to **those who did not obey?** So we see that they **could not enter in because of unbelief.**" Hebrews 3:16-19 NKJV
 2. "The carcasses of you who have complained against Me **shall fall in this wilderness**, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from **twenty years old and above.**" Numbers 14:29 NKJV
- (b) Go to Him for REST (see last week) [A Relaxed Voice](#)
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
 2. "Therefore, since **a promise remains of entering His rest**, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it." Hebrews 4:1
- (2) What remains?
- (a) ...so be diligent!
1. "**There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.** For **he who has entered His rest** has himself **also ceased from his works as God did from His.** Let us therefore **be diligent to enter that rest**, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience." Hebrews 4:9-11 NKJV
 2. "For He has **spoken in a certain place [Genesis 2:2]** of the seventh day in this way: "And **God rested on the seventh day from all His works**"; and again in this place: "**They shall not enter My rest.**" Hebrews 4:4-5 NKJV
 3. "For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, '**It is a people who go astray in their hearts**, And they **do not know My ways.**' So I swore in My wrath, '**They shall not enter My rest.**'" Psalms 95:10-11 NKJV
 4. "Therefore, since **a promise remains of entering His rest**, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it." Hebrews 4:1

(3) See "Hebrews 4 Like Never Before"

(a) Hebrews 4 is essentially the story of Joshua (the book of Joshua). It is all about the faith and obedience it takes to enter God's Rest.

1. *"Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you."* Exodus 31:13 NKJV
2. *"The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."* Mark 2:27-28 NKJV
3. *...the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."* Matthew 11:12 NKJV

(b) And Hebrews 4 is about how these layers of Sabbath Rest are ultimately fulfilled by us! Can you see it now?

1. **"For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His."** Hebrews 4:8-10 NKJV

(4) The Surgical Instrument and the Surgeon

(a) This is how we go from a heart that always goes astray to a heart that can enter His rest, a heart that believes and obeys!

1. **"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but **all things are naked** and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV
2. **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {14} And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."** John 1:1, 14 NKJV
3. **"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."** Ezekiel 36:26-27 NKJV
4. **"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His [willingness to obey the Sabbath is in indicator]. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest [don't believe the bad report of the 10 spies, do KEEP the weekly Sabbath; do ENTER the promised land; do POSSESS the promised land! When we add all these together we get CHRISTLIKENESS], lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience [Don't repeat the same mistake: lawlessness, sin, lack of faith]."** Hebrews 4:9-11 NKJV

C. Lack of Maturity

(1) There is a reason we keep repeating the same mistake!

(a) I wish by now you would get this, but I guess you still need some nursing...

1. **"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food**

belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their **senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**" Hebrews 5:12-14 NKJV

2. "Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, **to know good and evil.** And now, **lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life**, and eat, and live forever"—" Genesis 3:22 NKJV

(b) Therefore...

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

D. Great and Precious Promises (entering and possessing the promised land!)

(1) Partakers of the divine nature!

(a) The roadmap...

1. "Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, **by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises**, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped the corruption that is in the world** through lust." II Peter 1:1-4 NKJV

(b) When and How will it manifest?

1. "**"A little while longer** and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. **At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them**, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and **I will love him and manifest Myself to him.**" Judas (**not Iscariot**) [*Note: this Judas is also known as Thaddaeus, one of the 12 apostles*] said to Him, "Lord, **how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us**, and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "**If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.** He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me." John 14:19-24 NKJV
2. "For I reckon 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 creature waiteth for **the manifestation [revealing] of the sons of God.**" Romans 8:18-19 KJV

(2) What is your job in the meantime?

(a) Be diligent to enter!

1. "But also for this very reason, **giving all diligence**, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither

barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, **be even more diligent** to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." II Peter 1:5-11 NKJV

2. "Let us therefore **be diligent to enter that rest**, lest anyone fall according to the **same example of disobedience**." Hebrews 4:11 NKJV

(3) Failure to Enter!

(a) Notice this ONE THING that shipwrecks the whole growth process!

1. "For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and **has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins**." II Peter 1:9 NKJV
2. "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. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "**A dog returns to his own vomit,**" and, "**a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.**" II Peter 2:20-22 NKJV

(b) Practice: Forget what is behind!

1. "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**. Therefore let us, **as many as are mature, have this mind**; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind." Philippians 3:12-16 NKJV

(c) Notice Paul struggled with this truth in his sanctification process and then he came to the truth, the resolution...

1. "**For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do**. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, **it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me**. For I know that **in me** (that is, in my flesh) **nothing good dwells**; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. **For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice**. Now if I do what I will not to do, **it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me**." Romans 7:15-20 NKJV
2. "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

(d) Therefore... **be MORE diligent...**

1. **“There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.** For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore **be diligent to enter that rest**, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.” Hebrews 4:9-11 NKJV

REALITY NEGLECT

2. A Harsh Reminder

A. How long will you neglect to possess the land?

(1) What's Next?

- (a) You're in; why are you neglecting your inheritance?

1. “Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: **“How long will you neglect to go and possess the land** which the Lord God of your fathers has given you?” Joshua 18:3 NKJV

(2) Do not make the same mistake with your inheritance!

- (a) Do not fall to the same example of disobedience!

1. **Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest**, lest anyone fall according to the **same example of disobedience.**” Hebrews 4:11

- (b) Sin in the garden...a dreadful mistake with an inheritance!

1. “Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, **to know good and evil.** And now, **lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever**”— **therefore** the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, **to guard the way to the tree of life.**”Genesis 3:22-24 NKJV

2. “*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and **the life.** No one comes to the Father except through Me.*” John 14:6 NKJV

- (c) Do you believe Him?

1. ““But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ **and not do the things which I say?**” Luke 6:46 NKJV

B. Why call Me your Lord?

(1) What things are you NOT doing?

- (a) “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” Luke 6:46 NKJV

1. **“Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them,** I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the **foundation on the rock.** And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But **he who heard and did nothing** is like a man who **built a house on the earth** without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”” Luke 6:47-49 NKJV

- (b) It's a narrow gate!

1. “And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, **“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.** When once the Master of

the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, '**Lord, Lord, open for us,**' and He will answer and say to you, '**I do not know you,** where you are from,' then you will begin to say, '**We ate and drank in Your presence,** and You taught in our streets.' But He will say, '**I tell you I do not know you,** where you are from. **Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.**'" Luke 13:22-27 NKJV

2. "Since therefore **it remains** that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter **because of disobedience** ...Let us therefore **be diligent to enter that rest,** lest anyone fall according to **the same example of disobedience.**" Hebrews 4: 6, 11 NKJV

(2) Lawlessness—Matthew's version...

(a) Lord, Lord?

1. "'**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

(b) As one having authority...

1. "And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them **as one having authority,** and not as the scribes." Matthew 7:28-29 NKJV

REALITY SELECT

3. Prophetic Implications

A. Time to Slay the Giants

(1) Remember the Giants

(a) Caleb's Faith and Obedience

1. "Nevertheless **the people who dwell in the land are strong;** the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw **the descendants of Anak there.** The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan." Then **Caleb quieted the people** before Moses, and said, "**Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.**" But the men who had gone up with him said, "**We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.**" And they gave the children of Israel **a bad report** of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is **a land that devours its inhabitants,** and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. **There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants);** and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.'" Numbers 13:28-33 NKJV
2. "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, **sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.**" Genesis 4:7 NKJV

(b) Joshua and Caleb's Report

1. "But **Joshua** the son of Nun and **Caleb** the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: **"The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land.** If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' **Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them."** And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel."Numbers 14:6-10 NKJV
- (c) Consequences for those who brought the bad report (and all those who believed it!)
 1. "Then the Lord said: "I have pardoned, according to your word; but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord— because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, **they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him** and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it." Numbers 14:20-24 NKJV
- (d) Caleb had a different spirit, one that had the faith to obey.
 1. "Except for **Caleb** the son of Jephunneh and **Joshua** the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in." Numbers 14:30 NKJV
- (2) Remember Caleb's Faithfulness—Caleb receives his promises...
 - (a) Caleb reminds Joshua of what was promised him...
 1. "Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: **"You know the word which the Lord said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me** in Kadesh Barnea." Joshua 14:6 NKJV
 - (b) Caleb asks for what was promised!
 1. "Now therefore, **give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day;** for you heard in that day **how the Anakim were there,** and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said."" Joshua 14:12 NKJV
 - (c) This is what YOU are promised!
 1. "as His **divine power** has given to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness,** through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us **exceedingly great and precious promises,** that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature,** having **escaped the corruption that is in the world** through lust." II Peter 1:3-4 NKJV
 2. "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 1:3-4 NKJV
 - (d) Caleb is given his inheritance and he is faithful with it (He takes possession of it!).
 1. "Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the Lord to Joshua, namely, **Kirjath [city of] Arba, which is Hebron (Arba was the**

father of Anak). Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak.” Joshua 15:13-14 NKJV

(e) Are you faithful and obedient to Enter AND Possess the Land?

1. ““But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ **and not do the things which I say?**” Luke 6:46 NKJV

B. Faithful Servants

(1) Y’shua’s End-of-the Age-Sermon!

(a) Who is the faithful and wise servant?

1. ““**Who then is a faithful and wise servant**, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? **Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.** Assuredly, I say to you that he will **make him ruler** over all his goods.” Matthew 24:45-47 NKJV

(2) The Backstory: Joseph and 14 years (Genesis 41:1-24)

(a) Joseph interprets the dreams...

1. “Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do: **The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads are seven years;** the dreams are one. And the seven thin and ugly cows which came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty heads blighted by the east wind are seven years of famine. This is the thing which I have spoken to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do. **Indeed seven years of great plenty** will come throughout all the land of Egypt; but **after them seven years of famine will arise** [note: who could possibly feed the people during the famine?], and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine will deplete the land. So the plenty will not be known in the land because of the famine following, for it will be very severe. And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.” Genesis 41:25-32 NKJV

(b) Joseph gives Pharaoh advice...

1. ““Now therefore, **let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.** Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, to collect one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years. And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. **Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine** which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not perish during the famine.” So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, “**Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?**” Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “**Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word;** only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.” And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “**See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.**” Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.” Genesis 41:33-42 NKJV

2. *“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? **Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.** Assuredly, I say to you that he will **make him ruler** over all his goods.”* Matthew 24:45-47
- (c) Matthew 24 timeline: the end-of-the-age
 1. *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, **and then the end will come.**”* Matthew 24:14 NKJV
 2. *“Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation** will by no means pass away till all these things take place.”* Matthew 24:34 NKJV
 3. *“Who then is a **faithful and wise servant**, whom his master made **ruler over his household**, to give them food in due season?”* Matthew 24:45 NKJV.
- (d) Genesis 42-47 completes the narrative of Joseph’s rise to power and his “ministry.”
 1. *“So they said, **“You have saved our lives;** let us find favor in the sight of my Lord, and **we will be Pharaoh’s servants.”**”* Genesis 47:25 NKJV
 2. *“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? **Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.** Assuredly, I say to you that he will **make him ruler** over all his goods.”* Matthew 24:45-47

C. Evil Servants

- (1) Y’shua’s End-of-the-Age Sermon!
 - (a) The one who is NOT the faithful and wise servant!
 1. *“But if that **evil servant** says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will **cut him in two** and **appoint him his portion with the hypocrites.** There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”* Matthew 24:48-51 NKJV
- (2) Hypocrites (See [Above All!](#))
 - (a) Who are the hypocrites?
 1. *“...“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, **which is hypocrisy.**”* Luke 12:1 NKJV
 2. *“...—but to **beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**”* Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of **the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**” Matthew 16:11-12 NKJV
 - (b) Samples of that “doctrine” (Read all of Matthew 23)
 1. *“Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. Therefore **whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do,** but do not do according to their works; **for they say, and do not do.**”* Matthew 23:1-3 NKJV
 2. *“For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; **but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.**”* Matthew 23:4 NKJV
 3. *“My little children, **let us not love in word or in tongue,** but in deed and in truth.”* I John 3:18 NKJV
- (c) They don’t even have the kingdom themselves...

1. ""But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you **shut up the kingdom of heaven against men**; for you **neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.**" Matthew 23:13 NKJV
- (d) They evangelize and turn their targets into worse versions of themselves...
1. ""Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea **to win one proselyte**, and when he is won, you make him **twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.**" Matthew 23:15 NKJV
- (e) Final nail in the coffin!
1. ""Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that **you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.**"Matthew 23:31 NKJV
 2. ""O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, **the one who kills the prophets** and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! **See! Your house is left to you desolate**; for I say to you, **you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! [from Ps. 118:26]' ""** Matthew 23:37-39 NKJV
 3. "Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! **'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'** Hosanna in the highest!"" Matthew 21:9 NKJV
- (3) Pick a side!
- (a) Gentle nudge or violent shove?
1. ""Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? **Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.** Assuredly, I say to you that he will **make him ruler** over all his goods." Matthew 24:45-47 NKJV