



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

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

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

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

Introduction

Last week we saw how the crafty Gibeonites fooled Joshua and his elders into a covenant of peace. And we saw why it happened; no one sought the Lord's counsel before sealing the deal. Then we saw the power of God in action when Joshua did seek Yahweh. Joshua asked God to stop the movement of the sun and moon, so it remained daylight long enough to defeat an ensemble of kings who had decided to attack Gibeon for making peace with Israel. All those kings were defeated, as well as many others in the south and in the north, all by the mighty hand of Yahweh acting through a people who were willing to obey Him.

This week we have a review of all the kings that both Moses and Joshua conquered. Then we get a preview of all the land that still remains for Israel to take possession. We see the exact division of the land Israel currently possesses to the East and West of the Jordan. Then, we get details about Caleb's inheritance (*note: Caleb is from the tribe of Judah*), and intricate details about the division of the land of Judah and all its territories, cities and villages.

Joshua 12

The Kings Conquered by Moses

1. These are the kings whom the children of Israel defeated, and whose land they possessed on the East side of the Jordan:
 - (a) Sihon king of the Amorites and Og king of Bashan
2. Moses gave their lands as a possession to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh.

The Kings Conquered by Joshua

3. These are the (thirty-one) kings which Joshua and the children of Israel conquered on the West side of the Jordan. The king of:

1) Jericho	12) Arad	23) Shimron
2) Ai	13) Libnah	Meron
3) Jerusalem	14) Adullam	24) Achshaph
4) Hebron	15) Makkedah	25) Taanach
5) Jarmuth	16) Bethel	26) Megiddo
6) Lachish	17) Tappuah	27) Kedesh
7) Eglon	18) Hopher	28) Jokneam
8) Gezer	19) Aphek	29) Dor
9) Debir	20) Lasharon	30) Gilgal
10) Geder	21) Madon	31) Tirzah
11) Hormah	22) Hazor	
4. Joshua gave their lands to tribes of Israel as a possession according to their divisions.

Joshua 13

Remaining Land to Be Conquered (It took 14 years!)

5. Joshua was very old and there remained a lot of land yet to be possessed. The territories of the:
- (a) Philistines
 - (b) Geshurites
 - (c) Avites
 - (d) Canaanites
 - (e) Mearah
 - (f) Gebalites
 - (g) All of Lebanon
 - (h) Mountains from Lebanon
 - (i) Sidonians
6. They were to divide it by lot to Israel as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh (who are West of the Jordan).

The Land Divided East of the Jordan

7. Remember the other half-tribe (of Manasseh), plus the Reubenites and the Gadites received their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan.
- (a) Moses had permitted this with the stipulation that they first cross the Jordan into the promised land to fight alongside their brothers, and then they could go back and settle the land.
 - (b) See Numbers 32 and 34:24-15 for details.
 - (c) Note: they did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maachathites.

8. Only the tribe of Levi had no inheritance; the sacrifices of Yahweh made by fire are their inheritance! (See Romans 12:1-2)

The Land of Reuben

9. Moses gave to the tribe of Reuben, an inheritance according to their families.
10. The cities and their villages are described in detail.
11. The children of Israel also killed with the sword Balaam the son of Beor, the soothsayer, among those who were killed by them.
 - (a) See Numbers 22-24 for details on Balaam.
 - (b) Also see Numbers 25 where Israel commits harlotry. It is not until Revelation 2:14 that we see it was Balaam who inspired that sexual immorality!
 - (c) *“But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of **Balaam**, who taught Balak to **put a stumbling block before the children of Israel**, to eat things sacrificed to idols, **and to commit sexual immorality.**”*
Revelation 2:14 NKJV
 - (d) He died for his transgressions in Numbers 31:8

The Land of Gad

12. Moses also had given an inheritance to the tribe of Gad, an inheritance according to their families.
13. The cities and their villages are described in detail.

Half the Tribe of Manasseh (East)

14. Moses also had given an inheritance to half the tribe of Manasseh, an inheritance according to their families.
15. The cities and their villages are described in detail.
16. Again we are reminded that the tribe of Levi had been given no inheritance. Earlier it was said this way: "*the sacrifices of Yahweh made by fire are their inheritance!*" This time it says *Yahweh is their inheritance.*

Joshua 14

The Land Divided to the West of the Jordan

17. The areas of inheritance in the land of Canaan are described.
18. Joshua, Eleazar the priest, and the heads of the tribes are responsible for distribution by lot (like a lottery).
19. Again we see the Levites had no land ownership, but were designated cities to dwell in, with their *common-lands*.
 - (a) Common-lands were the lands surrounding the cities used to pasture the animals for sacrifice.

Caleb Inherits Hebron

20. Then we see Caleb (from the tribe of Judah—Numbers 13:6) come for his inheritance. He was the other spy in Numbers 13-14 (along with Joshua), who brought back a good report.
21. Caleb came to Joshua and said:

(a) You know that the Lord made promises to Moses **concerning you and me** when I was *forty years old* and was sent to Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back a good report.

(b) **The Good Report:** *“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.”* Numbers 13:30 NKJV

(c) The other 10 spies made the heart of the people melt with their bad report.

22. Moses swore that the land my feet touched in Canaan would be mine as my inheritance (and my children’s forever).

(a) **The Promise:** *“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 14:24 NKJV

23. I am still alive *forty-five years later* (I’m 85 years old now), and I am as strong as ever!

(a) *“But Joshua the son of Nun **and Caleb** the son of Jephunneh **remained alive**, of the men who went to spy out the land.”*
Numbers 14:38 NKJV

24. So, **give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day;** I’ll drive out the Anakim from here with Yahweh’s help.!

- (a) **This is the land that the feet of Caleb touched:** *“Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, “Go up this way into the South, and **go up to the mountains...**” Numbers 13:17 NKJV*

25. And Joshua blessed Caleb, and gave him his inheritance (Hebron) because he wholly followed Yahweh.

Joshua 15

The Land of Judah

26. Then we see the lot of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families.

27. We get meticulous details for 12 verses about every boundary of their inheritance. (Joshua 15:1-12)

Caleb Occupies Hebron and Debir

28. Caleb gets his inheritance and now he must conquer it!

29. In Joshua 15:13-19, we see details of his conquests.

30. He then makes an offer: *“He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife.”*

31. Othniel the son of Caleb’s brother Kenaz (Achsah’s first cousin), takes it and receives Joshua’s daughter as wife.

32. Achsah then convinces her father to give her and her new husband a field with springs of water.

The Cities of Judah

33. Then in Joshua 15:20-63, we see every detail about the cities and their limits that the tribe of Judah inherited according to their families (all the cities and regions are cited by name):
- (a) In the South: 29 cities, with their villages.
 - (b) In the lowland (multiple regions): 14 cities with their villages; 16 cities with their villages; and 9 cities with their villages.
 - (c) Ekron, with its towns and villages.
 - (d) All that lay near Ashdod, with their villages.
 - (e) Ashdod with its towns and villages.
 - (f) Gaza with its towns and villages.
 - (g) And in the mountain country (multiple regions): 11 cities with their villages; 9 cities with their villages; 10 cities with their villages; 6 cities with their villages.
 - (h) Kirjath Baal (Kirjath Jearim) and Rabbah: 2 cities with their villages.
 - (i) In the wilderness: 6 cities with their villages.
34. The children of Judah could not drive out the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so the Jebusites dwelled with the children of Judah in Jerusalem.

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

a) There remains very much land yet to be possessed and YOU are NOT TOO old to possess it!

b) You have entered your inheritance, but there is a big difference between the TRUTH about what you were given and LIE that keeps you from ACTUALLY receiving it!

c) And you are never TOO old to accept it.

d) This is the obvious NEXT assignment (YOUR next assignment).

e) God uses gentle reminders like soft, low volume alarms to get our attention. Let’s call them friendly nudges, warnings, or maybe gentle rebukes.

“There remains very much land yet to be possessed.”

- f) Then, Joshua 13:2-7 identifies the specific lands.
(See point 5 in outline above.)
- g) Prophetically, we will identify the land we have yet to conquer as God's chosen people.
- h) We, as Christians, enter our land (promise, inheritance) and have YET to possess all of its territories!

(b) You just can't get anymore affirmation than this...

1. All 24 verses of Joshua 12...

- a) Details about the two kings Moses defeated, and whose land they possessed on the East side of the Jordan.
- b) Details about the thirty-one kings who Joshua conquered on the West side of the Jordan.

(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

- a) Immediately before the destruction of Jericho, Israel celebrated its first Passover in the promised land.
- b) All the males who had not been circumcised in the wilderness had to first be circumcised in order to eat the Passover.
- c) Passover prophetically is about identifying true firstborn sons of the kingdom (Study: [Passover](#))
- d) It is symbolic of the bar mitzvah, where true sons are identified as mature responsible and accountable adults.
- e) Afterwards, the manna stops falling from heaven.
- f) Why? In a sense, God has completed His part and it is now time for the grown-ups to do their part.

(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
 - a) **Truth:** You are a perfect and complete work.
 - b) **Lie:** I am still defective and lacking.
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
 - a) **Truth:** You have all you need for life and godliness!
 - b) **Lie:** I am still waiting on God to provide something I am missing.
3. "My **God shall supply all your need** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19 NKJV
 - a) **Truth:** God supplies all your needs!
 - b) **Lie:** I have to fill in the gaps for where God has fallen short in His provision.
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
 - a) **Truth:** You are a new creation; all things are new!

- b) **Lie:** I am just a work in progress and have a long way to go before I am released from my old life.
- 5. “**I can do all things** through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13 NKJV
 - a) **Truth:** You can do all things with Christ’s power!
 - b) **Lie:** I have so many limitations because I am just a defective human.
- 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 (Read all of Romans 6)
 - a) **Truth:** You are freed from sin to be a slave to God producing the fruit of holiness.
 - b) **Lie:** I am still just bound to commit sin.
- 7. “**The heart is deceitful** above all things, and **desperately wicked**; who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV
 - a) **Truth:** It is the heart of an unbeliever that is deceitful and wicked.
 - b) **Lie:** I still have deceitful and wicked heart.
- (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
 - a) Please read all of Romans 7, but it put an exclamation mark on the fight, there is a war waging between believing the **TRUTH** (I am now a slave to God/righteousness) and the **LIE** (I am a slave to sin)!
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
 - a) We simply cannot accept ultimately falling short of receiving all God has promised us, so the promise remains outstanding until we actually apprehend its fullness!

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

- a) It should be simple to recognize that the writer of Hebrews is identifying all those who came out of Egypt in the Exodus (at Passover).
- b) He calls them rebels because they disobeyed God’s command to enter the promised land (one year after the Exodus, again at Passover).
- c) They chose to believe the bad report of the ten spies rather than the good report of Joshua and Caleb (see Numbers 13).
- d) They sinned the sin of unbelief and all those of age (except Joshua and Caleb) died before they would ever enter His rest (the promised land).
 - 1) “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
 - a) Go to Him; cast your burdens on Him; learn to find rest in Him.
 - b) It is by Him and through Him that we enter the rest (the Christian Promised Land) which in its purest form is **Christlikeness!**
 - c) Must teachings if you have not yet studied them:
 - 1) [The End of the Beginning](#) (the last portion of Deuteronomy) ...the edge of the Jordan (the end of the wilderness journey...)
 - 2) [Baptism of Dry Ground](#) (the first portion of Joshua) ... crossing the Jordan (into the promised land...)
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
 - a) Because they refused to enter at first, and because they refused to immediately take possession of the

land when they did eventually cross over, the promise remains!

- b) We too, as Christians, refuse to enter, and when we do, we also resist taking possession of God's, promises, so the promise remains!

(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

- a) Strap in...you MUST lock in on this. It is the secret to WHY there REMAINS a Promise (yet fulfilled) for us to enter His rest (become like Christ!).

- 1) “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

- b) Are you seeing this? God rested on the seventh day. It says that somewhere—that would be in the creation account in Genesis 2:2!
- c) It also says somewhere that “They shall not enter My rest.” That would be Psalms 95:10-11. Let’s read that together...
 - 1) “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
- d) You see—no one can enter with a heart that has gone astray, a heart of disobedience and lack of faith (again refer to Hebrews 3:16-19)!
- e) That was them! Is that you? *“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. **Layer One of Rest:** The Weekly Sabbath

- a) The Sabbath is so important because it is a sign of the covenant that we get to practice every week:
*“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
- b) Practice of the Sabbath shows both faith and obedience. You must prepare for it and then trust God that He will provide. That is why the Sabbath was made for man (to practice weekly)!
- c) And that is why Y’shua says, ***“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

2. **Lawyer Two of Rest:** Enter the Promised Land

- a) They did not have the faith to obey God the first time they had the opportunity to enter, and this time they did!

3. **Layer Three of Rest:** Possess the Promised land

- a) However, they ALSO need the faith and obedience to possess the land, to receive and take over all of their inheritance, not just to enter it!

b) They can't just remain at the promised land edge of the Jordan. They must go in and violently apprehend God's promises (take possession of all the territories.)

c) This too is what we must do: "...*the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.*" Matthew 11:12 NKJV (See [Spiritual Violence](#))

(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

(c) Bonus: EXPANDED explanation of Hebrews 4:1-11 from [The End of the Beginning](#).

1. Joshua was a stepping stone, but not the destiny... and yet, have we reached our destiny or is there something more?

2. The good news, we can enter God's rest, His promised land. It was a message they heard in the

wilderness, and it is a message you have heard. They did not have the faith to believe. Have you? As of yet, has the church? And what exactly does it mean to “enter His rest”?

3. We who believe enter? Believe what? His plan from the foundation of creation is complete (in God’s time-less perspective).
4. Where did He speak about a specific day, the seventh day, as the PERFECT PICTURE of faith? That would be Genesis 2:2. And where did He describe precisely what prevents us from entering? That would be Psalms 95:7-11. And what would that be specifically? *“The people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.”* In other words, disobedience.
5. And disobedience equals a lack of faith! So, if we are a disobedient church, we will never enter His rest. And is that not precisely how the church acts today?
6. In the wilderness they did not obey. He made the point again to David (as seen in Psalms 95:7-11). And do NOT neglect this line; *“again He designates a certain day.”* The certain day is the seventh day, the picture of entering His rest. And if you won’t keep it,

and the church won't keep it, then how can you enter as a disobedient people? You can't! Do not harden your hearts to this truth!

7. Joshua, of course, did literally bring the people into the promised land! But they remained a disobedient people and this is why Hebrews says, "***if** Joshua had given them rest.*" And it would not have needed to be mentioned again to David, and to YOU!
8. Here is the solution, at least how it would manifest in the natural. "*Those who are obedient rest on the certain day just like God rested, as we see He has spoken in a certain place (Gen. 2:2) of the seventh day!*"
9. God knows your heart, and He has assigned us this task; Be diligent to enter THAT REST. Obey Him! Why? So you do not fall victim to the same type of obedience as they did. Who? Those in the wilderness and those at the time of David and those at the time of the writing of Hebrews. And Hebrews was written post resurrection, so it is speaking to those (YOU!) who live in the Church era!
10. And how can we become educated and convicted of such matters? Know the word of God. Know it and

obey it! In other words, Don't *"fall according to the same example of disobedience."*

11. We cannot even offer the same excuse as those in the wilderness, or at the time of David! We have Y'shua; we have the Holy Spirit.

12. No, Joshua could not have offered them rest, but Christ can? However, there remains this absurd question. Why don't we enter?

(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

a) Immerse yourself in the Word of God (the surgical instrument)!

b) Christ is the Word of God (the Surgeon)!

- 1) “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
- c) He and He alone is the heart surgeon who can evaluate and fix your heart problem (disobedience and unbelief)! Then you will obey!
 - 1) “**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
- d) That is why... “**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
 - a) You ought to be grown up enough to get what it means to enter His rest (Christlikeness).

- b) But you simply cannot chew this solid food—yet; you still need milk.
- c) Milk is for spiritual infants, those who are untrained and inexperienced in the Word (Christ).
- d) Solid food is for spiritual adults who have exercised extensively in the Word and have matured into those who can discern both good and evil.
 - 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”—”
Genesis 3:22 NKJV
- e) Man’s original attempt to discern both good and evil was in his own strength! God’s intention was that you do it His way, through the Tree of Life (Christ)! Are you getting it!?

(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

- a) Therefore, we are called to leave the basics, the early stages of our Christian development, and move on to the grown-up stage.
- b) Yes, God will permit this. And as we will learn, all in His perfect timing!
- c) In the mean time, keep practicing! How? Become skilled in the WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!
- d) And of course, practice everything we just learned in Hebrews 4—faith, obedience, and Sabbath rest: (all three phases) the weekly Sabbath, entering the promises land, and possessing the promised land!
- e) Let's start by digesting some solid food!

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

- a) There is a roadmap for our journey, a path to our development into a mature Body of Christ.
 - b) It begins with faith which equates with obedience.
 - c) And it culminates with the divine nature (love) manifesting in us! (...all in His perfect timing!)
- (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

- a) When Christ is fully manifesting in you (in mankind) it will look a certain way! *"He who has My commandments and keeps them."*
- b) Are you seeing the ongoing repetitive pattern?
- c) How will He manifest to us, in us? It is simple yet profound... *"He will keep My word."* A radically obedient people, empowered by His grace—doing all we just emphasized in Hebrews 4!
- d) When is this level of obedience available/possible? When the sons of God manifest in the earth. (I chose the KJV to show this as it uses similar language.)
- e) "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

- 1) **Prophetic Note:** the revealing of sons is Passover language (again study: [Passover](#)).
 - 2) This time it is the final Passover.
 - 3) Passover equates to the Exodus, which is then followed by a 40 year wilderness.
 - 4) Then there is a Jordan Crossing into the promised land, which we them **MUST** possess (which takes 14 years)!
 - 5) Hold onto the idea that taking possession of the promised land takes 14 years... we will see what that means later in our study!
- (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

- a) Please visit our website for extensive teachings on this topic:
- b) [Precious Promises](#)
- c) [The Path to the Divine Nature – Foundational Teaching](#)
- d) [The Path to the Divine-Nature – Scripture Resources](#)
- e) But for our purposes today I want you to see the call to diligence. "Giving all diligence; be even more diligent."
- f) In our Hebrews 4 language... "*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
 - a) Being forgiven of your past sins is one thing.
 - b) But God does not just forgive our sins, He FORGETS our sins!
 - c) You too must forget your sins of the past or you will be tempted to repeat them, like a dog who goes back to lick up his own vomit!
 - d) “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

a) The Practice

- 1) **The admonition:** Forget the past!
- 2) **The call:** become like Christ; have the mind of Christ! (See also: I Cor. 1:16)
- 3) **The Belief:** You will agree that this is true when you become a spiritual adult!
- 4) **The Correction:** If you don't agree, God will show you in time!

(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

- a) Paul was trying to figure out why he knew what to do, but could not do it. Or, knew what not to do, but still did it!
- b) He came to realize that the battle was in knowing and claiming his new identity—he is no longer the man who embodied sin.
- c) Do you want to know how Paul ultimately resolved this mess? He recognized that he had a

choice because he had been delivered from this body of death!

- d) Christ in him obeyed God's laws; his carnal nature still desired to obey sin (and more importantly that his carnal nature was NO LONGER who he was...

"...it is no longer I who do it!"

- 1) "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

- a) Did you feel the gentle nudge, the reality check?
- b) You better be diligent, or else the reminders will get more serious.
- c) In other words, don't neglect your reality check!

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

- a) The obvious neglect...Procrastination: delayed obedience is disobedience!
- b) NOT entering the promised land is one thing... Entering and NOT taking possession of your inheritance is ANOTHER THING altogether!
- c) When we neglect God's directives for too long, the reminders become harsh—a hostile, uncomfortable, disturbing, adversarial shove replaces a gentle nudge.
- d) God turns up the volume when we are NOT listening!

(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
 - a) We know the story—Adam stood by and watched his wife descend into the pit of disobedience!
 - b) But even then, had they just reached out and eaten from the **tree of life**, they would have lived—been restored!
 - c) When they chose not to reach out and take from the tree of life, the door closed on them and they were blocked from eating—and they died.

d) We know this is symbolic of Christ who is the Tree of Life! *“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

a) Hearing without obeying is like not hearing at all!

b) When your life in God is built on a strong foundation: hear and do!

c) When your life in God is built on a weak foundation: hear and do nothing!

(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

a) Lord, Lord?

- b) Who are you? He will not recognize you, even if you say you sat in His presence, if you live a life of iniquity (lawlessness, disobedience)
- c) Do you see it yet?
 - 1) “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

- a) Have not we done so many things in your name?

b) Well, if you do so, and are lawless (disobedient, without faith) at the same time, He does not know you!

c) And then Matthew 7:24-29 (rocks and sand like Luke 6:47-49)

(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

a) His truth is the ONE TRUTH (reality) that matters!

b) TRUTH IS NOT RELATIVE!

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

- a) The bad report says there were Giants in the land and they will crush us like bugs.
- b) Caleb says he is sure they can overcome the giants and TAKE POSSESSION.
- c) Sin is knocking at your door (After Cain murdered Able)...Sin = Giants in the Land! You must rule over them!

- 1) "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

a) Joshua and Caleb issued their report...

- 1) God's promise is so good, exceedingly good.
- 2) Only do not rebel and do not fear!

3) Believe that His promise is our very bread!

(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

a) Those who rebelled and WOULD NOT receive the promise NEVER received the promise (like Adam and Eve not reaching out to eat from the tree of life).

(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
 - a) Only Caleb and Joshua who were over 20 years old eventually entered the promised land.
- (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
 - a) Hey Josh, you remember the whole spy incident and what we were promised because we got it right (faith and obedience)?
 - (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

a) I am now asking for what I was promised! Note: we must ask...(see [A Relaxed Voice](#))

(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

a) Exceedingly great and precious promises!

1) His divine power...

2) All things that pertain to life and godliness...

3) Knowledge of Him... ..

4) Partakers of the divine nature...

5) Escape the corruption that is in the world...

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

- a) Perfect and complete, lacking nothing!
- (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 Talmai, the children of Anak.” Joshua 15:13-14 NKJV
 - a) Caleb gets his inheritance and now he must conquer it!
 - b) In Joshua 15:13-19, we see details of his conquests including how Caleb offers his Daughter Achsah to anyone who will attack and defeats Kirjath Sepher.
 - c) Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, does so and later his new wife asks her father for a specific field with springs of water in it, he Caleb grants her request!
- (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

- a) If you are, you will be blessed and made ruler!
- b) If you are not, you will be cut in two and assigned a place with the hypocrites!
- c) What does that mean!

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

- a) The faithful and wise servant is made ruler over his Master's house! (Raise your hand if you want that assignment!)
- b) How do you earn that assignment? When your Master returns, he should find you feeding the people (during the famine).

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

- (a) Two full years after the cup bearer is released from prison and has forgotten about Joseph, Pharaoh has two dreams.

1. **First Dream:** seven cows, fine looking and fat and seven other cows ugly and gaunt, and the ugly and gaunt cows eat up the seven fine looking and fat cows.
 2. **Second Dream:** seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, plump and good (Think Menorah/Lampstand) and also seven thin heads, blighted by the east wind, spring up after them and devour the seven plump and full heads.
- (b) None of Egypt's wise men could interpret the dreams.
1. **Enter the cupbearer who was with Joseph in prison:**
"I remember my faults this day, I and the chief baker each had a dream with its own interpretation."
 2. A young Hebrew man interpreted our dreams and they came to pass, just as he interpreted.
- (c) Pharaoh sends for Joseph—
1. I have heard it said that you can understand a dream, to interpret it." Joseph says, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."
 2. Pharaoh describes both dreams with one piece added in his description (from what he told his wise men):
"When they had eaten them up, no one would have

known that they had eaten them, for they were just as ugly as at the beginning.”

(d) 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

- a) Both dreams are the same.
 - b) Both speak of two seven year periods (14 years).
 - c) The first seven years represents seven years of double portion harvest.
 - d) The latter seven years represents seven years of famine, no harvest at all!
- (e) 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

- a) Joseph advises Pharaoh to pick a faithful and wise servant who can feed people when the famine comes.
 - b) Pharaoh asks, *“Can we find such a one as Joseph, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?”*
 - c) He then says Joseph is the faithful and wise servant who I will make ruler over my house and my land to feed the people.
 - d) Does this sound familiar?
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*

- a) *So when Y’shua asked... “Who then is a faithful and wise servant that I can make ruler over My house?”*
- b) *And Joseph advises... “Let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt...”*
- c) *And Pharaoh asks... “Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God? Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house. See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt...”*
- d) Both Y’shua and Pharaoh are speaking of...Joseph!
- e) Be like Joseph and rule the land!
- f) Note to self...The dreams encompassed 14 years and scholars agree that it took Israel 14 years to “possess the land” after they entered the promised land!
- g) This is why Y’shua is referring to Joseph in His end-of-the-age sermon. We must know the ministry of Joseph to understand the end. Please see: [Baptism](#)

[of Dry Ground](#) for a detailed teaching on Matthew 24 and the end-of-the-age.

- (f) 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
 - a) The end is a Passover and an Exodus
 - 2. “Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation** will by no means pass away till all these things take place.” Matthew 24:34 NKJV
 - a) The generation is the one generation in the wilderness (40 years).
 - 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
 - a) The faithful and wise ruler over God’s house and His promised land.
 - b) That is the 14 year ministry of Joseph (two seven year periods).
 - c) That is the 14 years it took Joshua and Israel to possess the promised land after they entered!
- (g) Genesis 41:34-57—the rest of the story of Joseph’s rise to power...

1. Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. So it has been a 13-14 year journey from favor in his father's house with his fancy coat, to slave, to favor in Potiphar's house, to prison, to favor with the prison warden, to forgotten, to this moment as he stands before Pharaoh and finds unimaginable favor, as he is set in charge over the most powerful nation in the world.
2. The final preparation for faithfully stewarding that power and authority is what took place in those final two years Joseph was "forgotten" in prison. If you have not, please see: [Between Two Verses: Prepped for Power](#)
3. For seven plentiful years, Joseph gathered up all the food and it was so abundant that it was immeasurable.
4. Joseph has two sons during that time, the name of the firstborn is Manasseh, and the second he called Ephraim.
5. After seven years of super-abundance, the seven years of famine begin and Joseph opens the massive storehouses. The Egyptian people, as well as all

surrounding countries, had to come to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain.

(h) 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

a) It documents how His preparation during the time of famine redeemed Israel and ultimately the whole world's gratefulness and willingness to become **Pharaoh's submitted servants!**

b) Pharaoh in this narrative is an **allusion** to the God at the end-of-the-age.

c) Can you NOW see your role as a Joseph in the end, the blessed faithful and wise servant?

d) "***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
 - a) Need I say more? *“Cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites.”*

(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
 - a) Hypocrites preach a false doctrine!
- (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
 - a) They say and do not do...
 - b) When you are being taught the Torah, no matter who is teaching, you can trust it is the right thing to do.
 - c) However, if the one teaching is just giving it lip service, meaning they are not following it themselves, do obey the Torah, but don’t ever emulate that type of teacher.
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
 - a) “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
 - a) The Kingdom: Christ in you; the fullness of God
manifesting in man! Hypocritical teachings prevent
Christlikeness!
- (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
 - a) They win converts into their perverted doctrines
and their disciples eventually become even worse
hypocrites!
- (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

a) In the end, Y'shua accuses the hypocrites of being guilty of murdering the "prophets", the very legacy from which they claim their pedigree!

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

a) Then he bangs in that final nail! "Hypocrite, your house is left to you desolate!

b) Note: these hypocrites MISSED the fulfillment of this prophecy (how ironic) when Y'shua rode into Jerusalem a day earlier in Matthew 21.

1) "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

- a) Prophetic Implications:
 - 1) Enter the land and possess it!
 - 2) Be the faithful and wise servant not the evil servant!
 - 3) We still have a lot of work to do: take possession; slay the giants; enter His rest.
 - 4) What’s taking so long? The answer is all in the prophetic timing of Matthew 24!
- b) Christlikeness—exceedingly great and precious promises!
 - 1) His divine power...
 - 2) All things that pertain to life and godliness...
 - 3) Knowledge of Him... ..
 - 4) Partakers of the divine nature...
 - 5) Escape the corruption that is in the world...
 - 6) Perfect and complete—lacking nothing!

Summary: REALITY CHECK

1. A Gentle Reminder

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

(1) The assignment continues...

(a) So much to do...

1. There remains very much land yet to be possessed and YOU are NOT TOO old to possess it!
2. You have entered your inheritance, but there is a big difference between the TRUTH about what you were given and LIE that keeps you from ACTUALLY receiving it!
3. And you are never TOO old to accept it.
4. This is the obvious NEXT assignment (YOUR next assignment).
5. God uses gentle reminders like soft, low volume alarms to get our attention. Let's call them friendly nudges, warnings, or maybe gentle rebukes. *"There remains very much land yet to be possessed."*
6. Then, Joshua 13:2-7 identifies the specific lands. (See point 5 in outline above.)
7. Prophetically, we will identify the land we have yet to conquer as God's chosen people.

8. We, as Christians, enter our land (promise, inheritance) and have YET to possess all of its territories!

(b) You just can't get anymore affirmation than this...All 24 verses of Joshua 12...

1. Details about the two kings Moses defeated, and whose land they possessed on the East side of the Jordan.

2. Details about the thirty-one kings who Joshua conquered on the West side of the Jordan.

(2) No More Manna

(a) **Reminder!** Corporate Responsibility

1. Immediately before the destruction of Jericho, Israel celebrated its first Passover in the promised land.

2. All the males who had not been circumcised in the wilderness had to first be circumcised in order to eat the Passover.

3. Passover prophetically is about identifying true firstborn sons of the kingdom (Study: [Passover](#))

4. It is symbolic of the bar mitzvah, where true sons are identified as mature responsible and accountable adults.

5. Afterwards, the manna stops falling from heaven.

6. Why? In a sense, God has completed His part and it is now time for the grown-ups to do their part.

(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. ...**perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**

a) **Truth:** You are a perfect and complete work.

b) **Lie:** I am still defective and lacking.

2. ...**all things that pertain to life and godliness.**

a) **Truth:** You have all you need for life and godliness!

b) **Lie:** I am still waiting on God to provide something I am missing.

3. **God shall supply all your needs...**

a) **Truth:** God supplies all your needs!

b) **Lie:** I have to fill in the gaps for where God has fallen short in His provision.

4. ...**a new creation...all things have become new.**

a) **Truth:** You are a new creation; all things are new!

b) **Lie:** I am just a work in progress and have a long way to go before I am released from my old life.

5. **"I can do all things** through Christ...

a) **Truth:** You can do all things with Christ's power!

- b) **Lie:** I have so many limitations because I am just a defective human.
 - 6. ...**set free from sin ...slaves of righteousness ...slaves of God, ...fruit to holiness**
 - a) **Truth:** You are freed from sin to be a slave to God producing the fruit of holiness.
 - b) **Lie:** I am still just bound to commit sin.
 - 7. **The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked...**
 - a) **Truth:** It is the heart of an unbeliever that is deceitful and wicked.
 - b) **Lie:** I still have deceitful and wicked heart.
- (4) And it is because we battle that...
- (a) ...the promise remains unfulfilled!
 - 1. **The Battle:** Please read all of Romans 7, but it put an exclamation mark on the fight, there is a war waging between believing the **TRUTH** (I am now a slave to God/righteousness) and the **LIE** (I am a slave to sin)!
 - 2. **The Promise:** We simply cannot accept ultimately falling short of receiving all God has promised us, so the promise remains outstanding **until** we actually apprehend its fullness!

B. Rest

- (1) What is holding you back from entering in?

(a) Obedience and Faith

1. It should be simple to recognize that the writer of Hebrews is identifying all those who came out of Egypt in the Exodus (at Passover).
2. He calls them rebels because they disobeyed God's command to enter the promised land (one year after the Exodus, again at Passover).
3. They chose to believe the bad report of the ten spies rather than the good report of Joshua and Caleb (see Numbers 13).
4. They sinned the sin of unbelief and all those of age (except Joshua and Caleb) died before they would ever enter His rest (the promised land).

(b) Go to Him for REST (see last week) [A Relaxed Voice](#)

1. Go to Him; cast your burdens on Him; learn to find rest in Him.
2. It is by Him and through Him that we enter the rest (the Christian Promised Land) which in its purest form is **Christlikeness!**
3. Must teachings if you have not yet studied them:
 - a) [The End of the Beginning](#) (the last portion of Deuteronomy) ...the edge of the Jordan (the end of the wilderness journey...)

b) [Baptism of Dry Ground](#) (the first portion of Joshua)
... crossing the Jordan (into the promised land...)

4. Because they refused to enter at first, and because they refused to immediately take possession of the land when they did eventually cross over, the promise remains!

5. We too, as Christians, refuse to enter, and when we do, we also resist taking possession of God's, promises, so the promise remains!

(2) What remains?

(a) ...so be diligent!

1. Strap in...you MUST lock in on this. It is the secret to WHY there REMAINS a Promise (yet fulfilled) for us to enter His rest (become like Christ!).

2. Are you seeing this? God rested on the seventh day. It says that somewhere—that would be in the creation account in Genesis 2:2!

3. It also says somewhere that "They shall not enter My rest." That would be Psalms 95:10-11. Let's read that together...

4. You see—no one can enter with a heart that has gone astray, a heart of disobedience and lack of faith (again refer to Hebrews 3:16-19)!

(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. **Layer One of Rest:** The Weekly Sabbath

- a) The Sabbath is so important because it is a sign of the covenant that we get to practice every week.
- b) Practice of the Sabbath shows both faith and obedience. You must prepare for it and then trust God that He will provide. That is why the Sabbath was made for man (to practice weekly)!

2. **Layer Two of Rest:** Enter the Promised Land

- a) They did not have the faith to obey God the first time they had the opportunity to enter, and this time they did!

3. **Layer Three of Rest:** Possess the Promised land

- a) However, they ALSO need the faith and obedience to possess the land, to receive and take over all of their inheritance, not just to enter it!
- b) They can’t just remain at the promised land edge of the Jordan. They must go in and violently apprehend God’s promises (take possession of all the territories.)

- c) This too is what we must do: “...*the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.*” Matthew 11:12 NKJV (See [Spiritual Violence](#))
- (b) And Hebrews 4 is about how these layers of Sabbath Rest are ultimately fulfilled by us! Can you see it now?
- (c) Bonus: EXPANDED explanation of Hebrews 4:1-11 from [The End of the Beginning](#).
1. Joshua was a stepping stone, but not the destiny... and yet, have we reached our destiny or is there something more?
 2. The good news, we can enter God’s rest, His promised land. It was a message they heard in the wilderness, and it is a message you have heard. They did not have the faith to believe. Have you? As of yet, has the church? And what exactly does it mean to “enter His rest”?
 3. We who believe enter? Believe what? His plan from the foundation of creation is complete (in God’s time-less perspective).
 4. Where did He speak about a specific day, the seventh day, as the PERFECT PICTURE of faith? That would be Genesis 2:2. And where did He describe precisely

what prevents us from entering? That would be Psalms 95:7-11. And what would that be specifically? *“The people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.”* In other words, disobedience.

5. And disobedience equals a lack of faith! So, if we are a disobedient church, we will never enter His rest. And is that not precisely how the church acts today?
6. In the wilderness they did not obey. He made the point again to David (as seen in Psalms 95:7-11). And do NOT neglect this line; *“again He designates a certain day.”* The certain day is the seventh day, the picture of entering His rest. And if you won't keep it, and the church won't keep it, then how can you enter as a disobedient people? You can't! Do not harden your hearts to this truth!
7. Joshua, of course, did literally bring the people into the promised land! But they remained a disobedient people and this is why Hebrews says, *“**if** Joshua had given them rest.”* And it would not have needed to be mentioned again to David, and to YOU!
8. Here is the solution, at least how it would manifest in the natural. *“Those who are obedient rest on the*

certain day just like God rested, as we see He has spoken in a certain place (Gen. 2:2) of the seventh day!”

9. God knows your heart, and He has assigned us this task; Be diligent to enter THAT REST. Obey Him! Why? So you do not fall victim to the same type of obedience as they did. Who? Those in the wilderness and those at the time of David and those at the time of the writing of Hebrews. And Hebrews was written post resurrection, so it is speaking to those (YOU!) who live in the Church era!
10. And how can we become educated and convicted of such matters? Know the word of God. Know it and obey it! In other words, Don't *“fall according to the same example of disobedience.”*
11. We cannot even offer the same excuse as those in the wilderness, or at the time of David! We have Y'shua; we have the Holy Spirit.
12. No, Joshua could not have offered them rest, but Christ can? However, there remains this absurd question. Why don't we enter?

(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. Immerse yourself in the Word of God (the surgical instrument)!
 2. Christ is the Word of God (the Surgeon)!
 3. He and He alone is the heart surgeon who can evaluate and fix your heart problem (disobedience and unbelief)! Then you will obey!
 4. That is why... **“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. You ought to be grown up enough to get what it means to enter His rest (Christlikeness).
2. But you simply cannot chew this solid food—yet; you still need milk.
3. Milk is for spiritual infants, those who are untrained and inexperienced in the Word (Christ).
4. Solid food is for spiritual adults who have exercised extensively in the Word and have matured into those who can discern both good and evil.
5. Man's original attempt to discern both good and evil was in his own strength! God's intention was that you do it His way, through the Tree of Life (Christ)! Are you getting it!?

(b) Therefore...

1. Therefore, we are called to leave the basics, the early stages of our Christian development, and move on to the grown-up stage.
2. Yes, God will permit this. And as we will learn, all in His perfect timing!
3. In the mean time, keep practicing! How? Become skilled in the WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

4. And of course, practice everything we just learned in Hebrews 4—faith, obedience, and Sabbath rest: (all three phases) the weekly Sabbath, entering the promises land, and possessing the promised land!
5. Let's start by digesting some solid food!

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

(1) Partakers of the divine nature!

(a) The roadmap...

1. There is a roadmap for our journey, a path to our development into a mature Body of Christ.
2. It begins with faith which equates with obedience.
3. And it culminates with the divine nature (love) manifesting in us! (...all in His perfect timing!)

(b) When and How will it manifest?

1. When Christ is fully manifesting in you (in mankind) it will look a certain way! *"He who has My commandments and keeps them."*
2. Are you seeing the ongoing repetitive pattern?
3. How will He manifest to us, in us? It is simple yet profound... *"He will keep My word."* A radically obedient people, empowered by His grace—doing all we just emphasized in Hebrews 4!

4. When is this level of obedience available/possible?
When the sons of God manifest (are revealed) in the earth.

- 1) **Prophetic Note:** the revealing of sons is Passover language (again study: [Passover](#)).
- 2) This time it is the final Passover.
- 3) Passover equates to the Exodus, which is then followed by a 40 year wilderness.
- 4) Then there is a Jordan Crossing into the promised land, which we them **MUST** possess (which takes 14 years)!
- 5) Hold onto the idea that taking possession of the promised land takes 14 years... we will see what that means later in our study!

(2) What is your job in the meantime?

(a) Be diligent to enter!

1. Please visit our website for extensive teachings on this topic:

- a) [Precious Promises](#)
- b) [The Path to the Divine Nature – Foundational Teaching](#)
- c) [The Path to the Divine-Nature – Scripture Resources](#)

d) But for our purposes today I want you to see the call to diligence. "Giving all diligence; be even more diligent."

(3) Failure to Enter!

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

1. Being forgiven of your past sins is one thing.
2. But God does not just forgive our sins, He FORGETS our sins!
3. You too must forget your sins of the past or you will be tempted to repeat them, like a dog who goes back to lick up his own vomit!

(b) Practice: Forget what is behind!

1. The Practice

- 1) **The admonition:** Forget the past!
- 2) **The call:** become like Christ; have the mind of Christ! (See also: I Cor. 1:16)
- 3) **The Belief:** You will agree that this is true when you become a spiritual adult!
- 4) **The Correction:** If you don't agree, God will show you in time!

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

1. Paul was trying to figure out why he knew what to do, but could not do it. Or, knew what not to do, but still did it!
 2. He came to realize that the battle was in knowing and claiming his new identity—he is no longer the man who embodied sin.
 3. Do you want to know how Paul ultimately resolved this mess? He recognized that he had a choice because he had been delivered from this body of death!
 4. Christ in him obeyed God’s laws; his carnal nature still desired to obey sin (and more importantly that his carnal nature was NO LONGER who he was...
“...it is no longer I who do it!”
- (d) Therefore... **be MORE diligent...**
1. Did you feel the gentle nudge, the reality check?
 2. You better be diligent, or else the reminders will get more serious.
 3. In other words, don’t neglect your reality check!

Summary: 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. The obvious neglect...Procrastination: delayed obedience is disobedience!
2. NOT entering the promised land is one thing...
Entering and NOT taking possession of your inheritance is ANOTHER THING altogether!
3. When we neglect God's directives for too long, the reminders become harsh—a hostile, uncomfortable, disturbing, adversarial shove replaces a gentle nudge.
4. God turns up the volume when we are NOT listening!

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

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

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

1. We know the story—Adam stood by and watched his wife descend into the pit of disobedience!
2. But even then, had they just reached out and eaten from the **tree of life**, they would have lived—been restored!

3. When they chose not to reach out and take from the tree of life, the door closed on them and they were blocked from eating—and they died.
4. We know this is symbolic of Christ who is the Tree of Life!

(c) Do you believe Him?

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. Hearing without obeying is like not hearing at all!
2. When your life in God is built on a strong foundation: hear and do!
3. When your life in God is built on a weak foundation: hear and do nothing!

(b) It’s a narrow gate!

1. Lord, Lord?
 - a) Who are you? He will not recognize you, even if you say you sat in His presence, if you live a life of iniquity (lawlessness, disobedience)
 - b) Do you see it yet?

(2) Lawlessness—Matthew’s version...

(a) Lord, Lord?

1. Have not we done so many things in your name?
 2. Well, if you do so, and are lawless (disobedient, without faith) at the same time, He does not know you!
 3. And then Matthew 7:24-29 (rocks and sand like Luke 6:47-49)
- (b) As one having authority...
1. His truth is the ONE TRUTH (reality) that matters!
 2. TRUTH IS NOT RELATIVE!

Summary: REALITY SELECT

3. Prophetic Implications

A. Time to Slay the Giants

(1) Remember the Giants

(a) Caleb's Faith and Obedience

1. The bad report says there were Giants in the land and they will crush us like bugs.
2. Caleb says he is sure they can overcome the giants and TAKE POSSESSION.
3. Sin is knocking at your door (After Cain murdered Able)...Sin = Giants in the Land! You must rule over them!

(b) Joshua and Caleb's Report

1. Joshua and Caleb issued their report...
 - 1) God's promise is so good, exceedingly good.
 - 2) Only do not rebel and do not fear!
 - 3) Believe that His promise is our very bread!
- (c) Consequences for those who brought the bad report (and all those who believed it!)
 1. Those who rebelled and WOULD NOT receive the promise NEVER received the promise (like Adam and Eve not reaching out to eat from the tree of life).
- (d) Caleb had a different spirit, one that had the faith to obey.
 1. Only Caleb and Joshua who were over 20 years old eventually entered the promised land.
- (2) Remember Caleb's Faithfulness—Caleb receives his promises...
 - (a) Caleb reminds Joshua of what was promised him...
 1. Hey Josh, you remember the whole spy incident and what we were promised because we got it right (faith and obedience)?
 - (b) Caleb asks for what was promised!
 1. I am now asking for what I was promised! Note: we must ask...(see [A Relaxed Voice](#))
 - (c) This is what YOU are promised!

1. Exceedingly great and precious promises!
 - 1) His divine power...
 - 2) All things that pertain to life and godliness...
 - 3) Knowledge of Him... ..
 - 4) Partakers of the divine nature...
 - 5) Escape the corruption that is in the world...
 2. Perfect and complete, lacking nothing!
- (d) Caleb is given his inheritance and he is faithful with it
(He takes possession of it!).
1. Caleb gets his inheritance and now he must conquer it!
 2. In Joshua 15:13-19, we see details of his conquests including how Caleb offers his Daughter Achsah to anyone who will attack and defeats Kirjath Sepher.
 3. Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, does so and later his new wife asks her father for a specific field with springs of water in it, he Caleb grants her request!
- (e) Are you faithful and obedient to Enter AND Possess the Land?
1. If you are, you will be blessed and made ruler!
 2. If you are not, you will be cut in two and assigned a place with the hypocrites!

3. What does that mean!

B. Faithful Servants

(1) Y'shua's End-of-the Age-Sermon!

(a) Who is the faithful and wise servant?

1. The faithful and wise servant is made ruler over his Master's house! (Raise your hand if you want that assignment!)
2. How do you earn that assignment? When your Master returns, he should find you feeding the people (during the famine).

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

- (a) Two full years after the cup bearer is released from prison and has forgotten about Joseph, Pharaoh has two dreams.
1. **First Dream:** seven cows, fine looking and fat and seven other cows ugly and gaunt, and the ugly and gaunt cows eat up the seven fine looking and fat cows.
 2. **Second Dream:** seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, plump and good (Think Menorah/Lampstand) and also seven thin heads, blighted by the east wind, spring up after them and devour the seven plump and full heads.

(b) None of Egypt's wise men could interpret the dreams.

1. **Enter the cupbearer who was with Joseph in prison:**

"I remember my faults this day, I and the chief baker each had a dream with its own interpretation."

2. A young Hebrew man interpreted our dreams and they came to pass, just as he interpreted.

(c) Pharaoh sends for Joseph—

1. I have heard it said that you can understand a dream, to interpret it." Joseph says, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

2. Pharaoh describes both dreams with one piece added in his description (from what he told his wise men):
"When they had eaten them up, no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were just as ugly as at the beginning."

(d) Joseph interprets the dreams...

1. Both dreams are the same.

2. Both speak of two seven year periods (14 years).

3. The first seven years represents seven years of double portion harvest.

4. The latter seven years represents seven years of famine, no harvest at all!

(e) Joseph gives Pharaoh advice...

1. Joseph advises Pharaoh to pick a faithful and wise servant who can feed people when the famine comes.
2. Pharaoh asks, *“Can we find such a one as Joseph, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?”*
3. He then says Joseph is the faithful and wise servant who I will make ruler over my house and my land to feed the people.
4. Does this sound familiar?
 - a) When Y’shua asked... *“Who then is a faithful and wise servant that I can make ruler over My house?”*
 - b) *And Joseph advises... “Let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt...”*
 - c) *And Pharaoh asks... “Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God? Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house. See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt...”*
 - d) Both Y’shua and Pharaoh are speaking of...Joseph!
 - e) Be like Joseph and rule the land!

- f) Note to self...The dreams encompassed 14 years and scholars agree that it took Israel 14 years to “possess the land” after they entered the promised land!
 - g) This is why Y’shua is referring to Joseph in His end-of-the-age sermon. We must know the ministry of Joseph to understand the end. Please see: [Baptism of Dry Ground](#) for a detailed teaching on Matthew 24 and the end-of-the-age.
- (f) Matthew 24 timeline: the end-of-the-age
1. **...and then the end will come.**
 - a) The end is a Passover and an Exodus
 2. **...this generation.**
 - a) The generation is the one generation in the wilderness (40 years).
 3. **...faithful and wise servant ...ruler over his household.**
 - a) The faithful and wise ruler over God’s house and His promised land.
 - b) That is the 14 year ministry of Joseph (two seven year periods).
 - c) That is the 14 years it took Joshua and Israel to possess the promised land after they entered!

(g) Genesis 41:34-57—the rest of the story of Joseph’s rise to power...

1. Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. So it has been a 13-14 year journey from favor in his father’s house with his fancy coat, to slave, to favor in Potiphar’s house, to prison, to favor with the prison warden, to forgotten, to this moment as he stands before Pharaoh and finds unimaginable favor, as he is set in charge over the most powerful nation in the world.
2. The final preparation for faithfully stewarding that power and authority is what took place in those final two years Joseph was “forgotten” in prison. If you have not, please see: [Between Two Verses: Prepped for Power](#)
3. For seven plentiful years, Joseph gathered up all the food and it was so abundant that it was immeasurable.
4. Joseph has two sons during that time, the name of the firstborn is Manasseh, and the second he called Ephraim.
5. After seven years of super-abundance, the seven years of famine begin and Joseph opens the massive

storehouses. The Egyptian people, as well as all surrounding countries, had to come to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain.

- (h) Genesis 42-47 completes the narrative of Joseph's rise to power and his "ministry."
 - 1. It documents how His preparation during the time of famine redeemed Israel and ultimately the whole world's gratefulness and willingness to become **Pharaoh's submitted servants!**
 - a) Pharaoh in this narrative is an **allusion** to the God at the end-of-the-age.
 - b) Can you NOW see your role as a Joseph in the end, the blessed faithful and wise servant?

C. Evil Servants

- (1) Y'shua's End-of-the-Age Sermon!
 - (a) The one who is NOT the faithful and wise servant!
 - 1. Need I say more? *"Cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites."*
- (2) Hypocrites (See [Above All!](#))
 - (a) Who are the hypocrites?
 - 1. The Pharisees and Sadducees
 - a) Hypocrites preach a false doctrine!
 - (b) Samples of that "doctrine" (Read all of Matthew 23)

1. **...they say, and do not do.**
 - a) They say and do not do...
 - b) When you are being taught the Torah, no matter who is teaching, you can trust it is the right thing to do.
 - c) However, if the one teaching is just giving it lip service, meaning they are not following it themselves, do obey the Torah, but don't ever emulate that type of teacher.
 2. **...they will not move one of finger.**
 - a) "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. **...shut up the kingdom ...neither go in nor do allow others to enter.**
 - a) The Kingdom: Christ in you; the fullness of God manifesting in man! Hypocritical teachings prevent Christlikeness!
- (d) They evangelize and turn their targets into worse versions of themselves...

1. They win converts into their perverted doctrines and their disciples eventually become even worse hypocrites!

(e) Final nail in the coffin!

1. In the end, Y'shua accuses the hypocrites of being guilty of murdering the "prophets", the very legacy from which they claim their pedigree!
 - a) Then he bangs in that final nail! "Hypocrite, your house is left to you desolate!"
 - b) Note: these hypocrites MISSED the fulfillment of this prophecy, '*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*' (how ironic) when Y'shua rode into Jerusalem a day earlier in Matthew 21.

(3) Pick a side!

(a) Gentle nudge or violent shove?

1. Prophetic Implications:
 - 1) Enter the land and possess it!
 - 2) Be the faithful and wise servant not the evil servant!
 - 3) We still have a lot of work to do: take possession; slay the giants; enter His rest.
 - 4) What's taking so long? The answer is all in the prophetic timing of Matthew 24!

2. Christlikeness—exceedingly great and precious promises!

- 1) His divine power...
- 2) All things that pertain to life and godliness...
- 3) Knowledge of Him... ..
- 4) Partakers of the divine nature...
- 5) Escape the corruption that is in the world...
- 6) Perfect and complete—lacking nothing!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

(In addition to the Scripture references, the notes for this sermon will be of great assistance in answering these questions.)

1. Twelve chapters into Joshua and the Israelites have still not possessed the land of promise:

- A. What gentle reminder does Yahweh give Joshua in Joshua 13:1?
- B. What promises are you reminded of in the following verses?
(James 1:4; II Peter 1:3; Philippians 4:13, 19; II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:18, 22; Hebrews 4:1)
- C. What is the battle we fight to remember God's promises?
(See: Romans 7:22-23)

2. The prophetic understanding of entering God's rest is paramount:

- A. What prevented the Israelites from doing so? (See Hebrews 3:16-19; Numbers 13-14)
- B. What rest are we offered and what will prevent us from entering? (See: Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 4:9-11)

3. There are three layers of rest alluded to in Hebrews 4:

- A. Describe each:
 - 1) The weekly Sabbath rest (see: Hebrews 4:4-5, 10 Exodus 31:13; Mark 2:27-28)
 - 2) The rest of entering the promised land (See Joshua 3-4)
 - 3) The rest of possessing the promised land (see: Hebrews 4:8-10; Joshua 13:1; 18:3)

4. The Scriptures not only diagnose the disease, but offer the treatment...

- A. What is the diagnosis? (See: Hebrews 4:6-7; 5:12-14)
- B. What is the treatment? (See: Hebrews 4:9-13; 6:1-3; Ezekiel 36:26-27)
- C. Who is the Surgeon? (See: Hebrews 4:14-16; John 1:1, 14)
- D. What does the healed patient look like? (See: II Peter 1:1-11; John 14:19-24)
- E. What is the greatest deterrent to receiving God's healing? (Hint: II Peter 1:9; 2:20-22)

- F. What must you do to stay healthy after surgery? (Hint: Philippians 3:12-16)
- G. Describe how Paul struggled with his healing and what he ultimately discovered as the permanent solution. (Hint: Romans 7:15-25)

5. When gentle reminders don't do the trick, God turns up the heat.

- A. How did Joshua engage the people when they continued to neglect taking possession of the land? (See Joshua 18:3)
- B. How are we engaged in like manner? (See Hebrews 4:11)
- C. How is Israel's failure to take possession of the land similar to Adam and Eve's response following exposure of their sin? (See Genesis 3:22-24) Hint: they had a good option but did not exercise it!

6. Y'shua said, "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" Luke 6:46

- A. How is Luke 6:47-49, 13:22-27 and Matthew 7:21-23 similar to Hebrews 4:6-11?

7. The reason for Israel's original refusal to enter the promised land in Numbers 13-14 (Giants in the land), appears again in Israel's refusal to possess the land once they enter.

- A. Equate the Giants in the land to sin. (See Genesis 4:7)

- B. In Numbers 13:28-33 and Numbers 14:6-10, Caleb quieted the people. What was his good report?
- C. In Joshua 14:6, Caleb reminds Joshua of what was promised him because of his faithfulness. What does he request in Joshua 14:12?
- D. What is the outcome? (See: Joshua 15:13-19)

8. What five things are you promised in II Peter 1:3-4?

- A. How do Y'shua's words apply to you in relation to those promises? (*"Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"*)

9. Who is the faithful and wise servant to which Y'shua is referring in Matthew 24:45-47? (Hint: read Genesis 41)

- A. What are you promised if you will step into that role?
- B. What will the outcome be if you step into that role? (See Genesis 47:13-26)
- C. What is the fate of the evil servant? (See Matthew 24:48-51)
- D. Read Matthew 23 and summarize the characteristics of a hypocrite.

10. Bonus: Matthew 24 timeline... (read the Sermon Notes)

- A. Explain how these three verses represent:
 - 1) The Passover and an the Exodus (Matthew 24:14)
 - 2) The One Generation in the Wilderness (Matthew 24:34)
 - 3) The Promised Land (Matthew 24:45)