



KINGDOM EMBASSY MINISTRIES

Remembering our Roots. Restoring Authority. Maturing Disciples. Advancing the Kingdom.

Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Joshua 20-22
- Heb. 13:7-22; II Cor. 3:1-3
- Matthew 5:13-20

Title:

PICK A VOWEL

- The Alter of Treachery
- The Altar of Witness
- My Alter or His Altar?

It's encouraging when God's people get it right. It doesn't happen very often—unfortunately. In fact, it's more common in biblical narratives to witness God's people make foolish choices, rather than wise decisions. And sometimes it is the smallest nuance that separates the will of God from the will of man.

We might even say that the biblical narrative continues today. Really, other than that the reports are not being written in a book, THE BOOK, can't we say that there has been one continuous story since creation—our story? It's easy to overlook, but the Bible does seem to support this idea; "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ." And might we even agree that we still get it wrong more times than not? Look around at how common it is for God's people to ruin their testimonies. It's so predictable that worldly onlookers have come to expect it from Christians—many using the apparent hypocrisy as fuel to stay far away from the Church.

What separates a good witness from the bad is often just one small thing: a jot, a tittle, a yod, an iota, a small stroke of the pen—one letter. It's easy to alter things, to change them in subtle ways that make them sound the same, but they're not. One small letter transforms the Altar into an alter. And for Christians there's only One Altar. "We have an Altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat." Are you eating from that Altar or another?

It's not always easy to tell, but I can tell you it's easy. It's as easy as reading a letter and recognizing letters. "You are an epistle of Christ known and read by all men." And all it takes to alter your Altar is to exchange one small vowel in one small word with one small stroke of a pen—a jot, a tittle, a yod, an iota. Ask the right questions and it will be easy to tell if someone is worshipping the alter or at the Altar.

There was a song popularized in 1969 about worshipping the "alter of self." Its title—My Way. Its most famous letters screamed of self; "I did it my way!" It's what happens when you alter letters. Apparently, those who worship at the true Altar sing a different song—His Way. Its letters sing... "What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know? Every word of God is pure; do not change one letter, lest you be found worshipping at the wrong alter."

PROPHETIC SEED:

*"...the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh **built an altar there by the Jordan—a great, impressive altar.**"*
*[28]"Therefore we said that it will be, when they say this to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say, 'Here is the replica of the altar of the Lord which our fathers made, though **not for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness** between you and us.'" [34]"The children of Reuben and the children of Gad **called the altar, Witness,** "For it is a witness between us that the Lord is God.'" Joshua 22:10, 28, 34 NKJV*

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.” Proverbs 30:5-6 NKJV

“For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”

Matthew 5:18 NIV

“And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.” John 21:25 NKJV

“You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.” II Corinthians 3:2-3 NKJV

“We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.” Hebrews 13:10 NKJV

THE ALTER OF TREACHERY

1. Great Impressive Altars

A. Yahweh is Faithful

(1) Yahweh's Obligation Fulfilled (See: [The Promise Remains](#))

(a) Finally—Rest

1. “So the Lord gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and **they took possession of it and dwelt in it. The Lord gave them rest** all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand. **Not a word failed** of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. **All came to pass.**” Joshua 21:43-45 NKJV

(2) The 2^{1/2} Tribes' Obligation Fulfilled

(a) You have completed all that Moses required...

1. “Then Joshua called the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, and said to them: **“You have kept all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you,** and have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded you.” Joshua 22:1-2 NKJV

(b) You have not left your brothers...

1. **“You have not left your brethren** these many days, up to this day, but have **kept the charge of the commandment** of the Lord your God.” Joshua 22:3 NKJV

(c) Time to go home...

1. “And now **the Lord your God has given rest to your brethren,** as He promised them; now therefore, **return and go to your tents and to the land of your possession,** which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of the Jordan.” Joshua 22:4 NKJV

B. S. O. P. (Standard Operating Procedure)

(1) Reminder!

(a) Go, and remember...

1. **"But take careful heed** to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, **to love the Lord** your God, **to walk in all His ways**, to **keep His commandments**, to **hold fast to Him**, and to **serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.**" So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents." Joshua 22:5-6 NKJV

(2) On their way home...

(a) The 2^{1/2} tribes head home...

1. "So the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh **returned, and departed** from the children of Israel at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan, to go to the country of Gilead, **to the land of their possession, which they had obtained according to the word of the Lord by the hand of Moses.**" Joshua 22:9 NKJV

C. Treachery and Rebellion

(1) Treachery

(a) A great impressive altar!

1. "And when they came to the region of the Jordan which is in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh **built an altar there by the Jordan—a great, impressive altar.**" Joshua 22:10 NKJV

(b) Not Happy

1. "Now the children of Israel heard someone say, "Behold, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh have **built an altar on the frontier** of the land of Canaan, in the region of the Jordan—on the children of Israel's side." And **when the children of Israel heard of it**, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered together at Shiloh **to go to war against them.**" Joshua 22:11-12 NKJV

(c) A gathering of elders...

1. "Then the children of Israel **sent Phinehas the son of Eleazar** the priest to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, into the land of Gilead, and **with him ten rulers, one ruler each from the chief house of every tribe of Israel**; and each one was the head of the house of his father among the divisions of Israel. Then they came to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, to the land of Gilead, and they spoke with them, saying," Joshua 22:13-15 NKJV

(d) The Accusation

1. "Thus says the whole congregation of the Lord: **'What treachery** is this that you have **committed against the God** of Israel, to turn away this day from following the Lord, **in that you have built for yourselves an altar**, that **you might rebel** this day against the Lord?" Joshua 22:16 NKJV

(e) Flashback: Don't you remember how specific this altar thing is..."You shall make..."

1. **"You shall make an altar** of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide—**the altar shall be square**—and its height shall be three cubits. **You shall make** its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it. **And you shall overlay** it with bronze. **Also you shall make** its pans to receive its

ashes, and its shovels and its basins and its forks and its firepans; **you shall make** all its utensils of bronze. **You shall make** a grate for it, a network of bronze; and on the network **you shall make** four bronze rings at its four corners. **You shall put** it under the rim of the altar beneath, that the network may be midway up the altar. And **you shall make** poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze. The poles shall be put in the rings, and the poles shall be on the two sides of the altar to bear it. **You shall make** it hollow with boards; **as it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make it.**" Exodus 27:1-8 NKJV

- (f) Flashback: Don't you remember how specific Moses was about where you can make offerings...*"Do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see...!"*

1. **"These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to possess,** all the days that you live on the earth. You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things. **"But you shall seek the place where the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go. There you shall take** your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. And there you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you and your households, in which the Lord your God has blessed you. ***{8} "You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes—** for as yet you have not come to the rest and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you. **But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies** round about, so that you dwell in safety, then there will be the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide. **There you shall bring all that I command you:** your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, and all your choice offerings which you vow to the Lord. And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you. **Take heed to yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see; but in the place which the Lord chooses,** in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you." Deuteronomy 12:1-14 NKJV

- (2) The Warning (There is war in warning: *"The children of Israel wanted **to go to war against them.**"* Joshua 22:12)

- (a) **Warning:** Peor

1. **"Is the iniquity of Peor not enough for us,** from which **we are not cleansed till this day,** although there **was a plague** in the congregation of the Lord, but that you must turn away this day from following the Lord? And it shall be, **if you rebel** today against the Lord, that tomorrow **He will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel.**" Joshua 22:17-18 NKJV

(b) An alternative offer...

1. "Nevertheless, **if the land of your possession is unclean, then cross over to the land of the possession of the Lord, where the Lord's tabernacle stands**, and take possession among us; **but do not rebel against the Lord, nor rebel against us, by building yourselves an altar besides the altar of the Lord our God.**"
Joshua 22:19 NKJV

(3) **Warning:** Achan

(a) The Achan thing was not that long ago!

1. "**Did not Achan** the son of Zerah **commit a trespass in the accursed thing**, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? And **that man did not perish alone** in his iniquity.' "" Joshua 22:20 NKJV

THE ALTAR OF WITNESS

2. The Critical Nature of Altars

A. Altars of... You can't just make any old Altar!

(1) Moses—

(a) The Altar of His Way and not My Way

1. "Then the Lord said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. You shall not make anything to be with Me—gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves. **An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you. And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it.** Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed on it.'" Exodus 20:22-26 NKJV

(2) Noah (after the flood)

(a) The Altar of Deliverance and Covenant

1. "Then **Noah built an altar to the Lord**, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar." Genesis 8:20 NKJV

(3) Abraham

(a) The Altar of Promise

1. "Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." **And there he built an altar to the Lord**, who had appeared to him." Genesis 12:7 NKJV

(b) The Altar of Separation (after Abram's separation from Lot)

1. "Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, **and built an altar there to the Lord.**" Genesis 13:18 NKJV

(c) The Altar of Provision (at the sacrifice of Isaac)

1. "And Abraham said, "My son, **God will provide** for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. **And Abraham built an altar there** and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. "" Genesis 22:8-9 NKJV

(4) Isaac

(a) The Altar of God's Name

1. "Then he went up from there to Beersheba. And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for **I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake.**" **So he built an altar there and called on the name of the Lord,** and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well." Genesis 26:23-25 NKJV

(5) Jacob (after his safe reunion with Esau)

(a) The Altar of "God is the God of Israel"

1. "And he [Jacob] bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money. **Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel.**" Genesis 33:19-20 NKJV

(b) The Altar of Purity (as Jacob returns to Bethel)

1. "Then God said to Jacob, "**Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God,** who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother." **And Jacob said to his household** and to all who were with him, "**Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments.** Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone." Genesis 35:1-3 NKJV

(6) And back to Moses...(at the delivery of God's commands to the people)

(a) The Marriage Altar

1. "So Moses came and **told the people all the words of the Lord** and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "**All the words which the Lord has said we will do.**" And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. And he rose early in the morning, **and built an altar at the foot of the mountain,** and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, **who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings** of oxen to the Lord. And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. **Then he took the Book of the Covenant** and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "**All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.**" And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words."" Exodus 24:3-8 NKJV
2. **The Betrothal:** "*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*" John 14:3 NKJV
3. **The Wedding:** "*Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.*" Revelation 19:7 NKJV

B. The Explanation

- (1) Praise Yahweh that Phinehas and the 10 elders held off going to war in order to get an explanation, before they dropped the hammer!

(a) Here is the reason...

1. "Then the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh **answered and said** to the heads of the divisions of Israel:" Joshua 22:21 NKJV
- (b) And here is our submission to your determination...
 1. ""The Lord God of gods, the Lord God of gods, He knows, and let Israel itself know—**if it is in rebellion, or if in treachery against the Lord, do not save us this day.**" Joshua 22:22 NKJV
- (c) We are accountable to Yahweh
 1. **"If we have built ourselves an altar to turn from following the Lord,** or if to offer on it burnt offerings or grain offerings, or if to offer peace offerings on it, **let the Lord Himself require an account."** Joshua 22:23 NKJV
- (d) Fear of the Lord!
 1. "But in fact **we have done it for fear, for a reason, saying,** 'In time to come **your descendants may speak to our descendants,** saying, **"What have you to do with the Lord God of Israel? For the Lord has made the Jordan a border between you and us,** you children of Reuben and children of Gad. **You have no part in the Lord."** So your descendants would make our descendants cease fearing the Lord.'" Joshua 22:24-25 NKJV
- (e) We DID NOT build the altar to use...
 1. "Therefore we said, **'Let us now prepare to build ourselves an altar, not for burnt offering nor for sacrifice, but that it may be a witness between you and us and our generations after us,** that we may perform the service of the Lord **before Him** with our burnt offerings, with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; **that your descendants may not say to our descendants in time to come, "You have no part in the Lord."** '" Joshua 22:26-27 NKJV
- (f) Can it be any more clear than this?
 1. "Therefore we said that it will be, when they say this to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say, **'Here is the replica of the altar of the Lord** which our fathers made, though **not for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness** between you and us.'" Joshua 22:28 NKJV
- (g) Not an Alter of the Altar
 1. **"Far be it from us that we should rebel against the Lord, and turn from following the Lord this day, to build an altar for burnt offerings,** for grain offerings, or for sacrifices, besides the altar of the Lord our God which is before His tabernacle.'" Joshua 22:29 NKJV
- (h) The Settlement
 1. "Now **when Phinehas the priest and the rulers** of the congregation, the heads of the divisions of Israel who were with him, heard the words that the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh spoke, it pleased them. Then Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh, **"This day we perceive that the Lord is among us, because you have not committed this treachery against the Lord.** Now you have delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the Lord.'" Joshua 22:30-31 NKJV
- (i) The Report

1. “And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the rulers, **returned** from the children of Reuben and the children of Gad, from the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and **brought back word** to them. **So the thing pleased the children of Israel**, and the children of Israel blessed God; they spoke no more of going against them in battle, to destroy the land where the children of Reuben and Gad dwelt.” Joshua 22:32-33 NKJV

(j) The Altar of Witness

1. “The children of Reuben and the children of Gad **called the altar, Witness**, “For **it is a witness between us that the Lord is God.**”” Joshua 22:34 NKJV

MY ALTER OR HIS ALTAR?

3. Competing Altars—Inherent Problems with Altered Altars.

A. His Way or My Way (Standard Operating Procedure)

(1) LAW—SOP—LAW

(a) When you cross into the promised land and possess it...

1. “Now **this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you**, that **you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess**, that you may fear the Lord your God, to **keep all His statutes and His commandments** which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.” Deuteronomy 6:1-2 NKJV

(b) Do! (Walk in all **His** ways)

1. “**But take careful heed** to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, **to love the Lord** your God, **to walk in all His ways**, to **keep His commandments**, to **hold fast to Him**, and to **serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.**” So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents.” Joshua 22:5-6 NKJV
2. “*If you love Me, keep My commandments.*” John 14:15 NKJV
3. “*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.*” I John 5:2-3 NKJV
4. “*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,*” Colossians 3:23 NKJV Title

(c) Don’t! (Follow the dictates of **your** own heart!)

1. “so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, **whose heart turns away today from the Lord** our God, **to go and serve the gods of these nations**, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘**I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart**’—**as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.**” Deuteronomy 29:18-19 NKJV
2. “Who is the wise man who may understand this? And who is he to whom the mouth of the Lord has spoken, that he may declare it? **Why does the land perish and burn** up like a wilderness, so that no one can pass through? And the Lord said, “**Because they have forsaken My law** which I set before them, and

have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it, **but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts** and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them,"" Jeremiah 9:12-14 NKJV

3. ""And it shall be, when you show this people all these words, and they say to you, '**Why has the Lord pronounced all this great disaster against us? Or what is our iniquity? Or what is our sin that we have committed against the Lord our God?**' then you shall say to them, 'Because your fathers have forsaken Me,' says the Lord; **'they have walked after other gods** and have served them and worshiped them, and have forsaken Me and **not kept My law**. And you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, **each one follows the dictates of his own evil heart**, so that no one listens to Me.'" Jeremiah 16:10-12 NKJV
4. "Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; **They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the Lord**. They continually say to those who despise Me, 'The Lord has said, "You shall have peace" '; And to **everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'** "" Jeremiah 23:16-17 NKJV Title

B. Jots, Tittles, Yods & Iotas

(1) Don't change letters!

(a) Who you are...

1. ""**You are the salt of the earth**; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. **"You are the light of the world**. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **Let your light so shine** before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:13-16 NKJV

(b) How you act...

1. ""**Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.** {18} For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, **one jot or one tittle [not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen] will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled**. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called **least in the kingdom** of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called **great in the kingdom of heaven**. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness ***exceeds the righteousness** of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:17-20 NKJV

(2) The original Letters

(a) If you obey...

1. "The Lord your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the Lord will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers, **if you obey the voice of the Lord your God**, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in **this Book of the Law**, and if you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. **For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious [difficult]** for you, nor is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, '**Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?**' Nor is it beyond

the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.”

Deuteronomy 30:9-16 NKJV

(b) When you enter the promised land—His rest (See: [The Promise Remains](#))...

1. “Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘I am the Lord your God. According to the doings of the land of **Egypt**, where you dwelt, **you shall not do**; and according to the doings of the land of **Canaan**, where I am bringing you, **you shall not do**; nor shall you walk in their ordinances. **You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them:** I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, **which if a man does, he shall live by them:** I am the Lord.” Leviticus 18:1-5 NKJV

(3) Today’s letters

(a) Paul supports Y’shua’s words, (“*not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen will change*”), and Moses words, which makes total sense because Moses was writing about Y’shua! (Note Y’shua speaking: “*For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; **for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?***” John 5:46-47 NKJV)

1. “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being **ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.** For **Christ is the end of the law** for righteousness to everyone who believes. For **Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, “The man who does those things shall live by them.” But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):” Romans 10:1-8 NKJV**

(b) The next section is a revelation is seemingly ALWAYS missed by Christians today... it comes directly from Moses’ words...

1. “**It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us,** that we may hear it and do it?’ Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.” Deuteronomy 30:12-14 NKJV

(c) Paul’s revelation...

1. “**Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):”**

(d) He is preaching "The sinners payer!"

1. **"that if you confess with your mouth** the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9-10 NKJV

C. Are you eating from His Altar or your own Alter?

(1) The story continues

(a) More books to be written...

1. "This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. **And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.** Amen." John 21:24-25 NKJV

(2) You are His letter!

(a) Don't alter letters. Be careful how your letter reads!

1. "Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, **epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation** from you? **You are our epistle** written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly **you are an epistle of Christ**, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart." II Corinthians 3:1-3 NKJV

(3) The right Altar

(a) We have an Altar

1. **"We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat."** Hebrews 13:10 NKJV
2. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies **a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

(4) Living off the right food

(a) Those from the past were permitted to eat from the Altar...

1. **"Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar?** Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should **live from the gospel.**" I Corinthians 9:13-14 NKJV
2. **"The priests, the Levites—all the tribe of Levi—shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel; they shall eat the offerings of the Lord made by fire, and His portion. Therefore they shall have no inheritance among their brethren; the Lord is their inheritance,** as He said to them." Deuteronomy 18:1-2 NKJV

(b) Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines...

1. "Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. **Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines.** For it is good that the heart be established by

grace, **not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.**" Hebrews 13:7-9 NKJV

2. **"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.** But do not forget **to do good and to share**, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.** Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you." Hebrews 13:15-17 NKJV

(c) Equipping

1. **"Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, **make you complete in every good work to do His will** [*equip you with everything good for doing his will*], working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."** Hebrews 13:20-21 NKJV
2. **"And I appeal to you, brethren, **bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words.**"** Hebrews 13:22 NKJV

D. Alter or Altar? *"We have an altar [or alter] from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat."* Heb. 13:10

(1) Can I buy a vowel? (*altar* or alter)

(a) God's word is PURE!

1. **"Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? **What is His name, and what is His Son's name, If you know? Every word of God is pure;** He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. **Do not add to His words,** Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar." Proverbs 30:4-6 NKJV (SEE INTRODUCTION)**

(b) You are God's Word...be PURE!

1. **"You are our epistle written in our hearts, **known and read by all men;** clearly **you are an epistle of Christ...**" II Corinthians 3:2-3 NKJV**

(c) Explanation

1. **"For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, **not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear** from the Law until everything is accomplished." Matthew 5:18 NIV**