



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Joshua 23-24
- II Corinthians 6:14-17

INTERSPECIES MARRIAGE

- Inculturation
- Witness Tampering

You feel like you're all in. You use all the words and you sport the tidy little package called modern Christianity. You live in the world but are no longer part of the world, at least that's the party line. Yet, you cannot overlook the obvious, you are here... "in the world." It's all around you; they are all around you. They live among you; that is an unavoidable fact. Among you, yes, but in you? That is the part that is completely optional.

There's the rub; that is the choice. You are in the world, but is the world in you? The scriptures teach, nay they warn, do not intermarry—do not consummate with those who live among you who are not of you. If you do, they will get in you and you will get in them. It will be as if your thin fragile parchment became bonded with theirs, glued over every square inch to one another. Just try to separate them, to tear them one from the other, and all you will produce is fragments of both, still laminated together.

It only gets worse when one tampers with their witness. What might that look like? Oh, it's likely much more common than you notice on any regular basis. Included in this species are all those who would swear that they are following the Lord. But, they're not. And, you might not easily notice them because they work tirelessly to look good on the outside. Survival instincts prevail when animals are desperate to stay alive. This species will do anything necessary to appear like they are committed to the Lord, even though they happily consummate their relationship with the world daily.

Are you using your animal survival instincts to substitute a sin that is harder to recognize, for one that is obvious, just so you can remain undetected among those who care about sin? It's just like sowing tares among the wheat. It's all kosher on the packaging; it's facon bacon. If you are hiding, only one question remains—are you simply struggling with sin, or do you not care? God has no problem dealing with your sin, as long as you do! It's when you don't struggle with your sin, when your sin does not bother you, that God's anger burns. If you are wrestling against entanglements with the affairs of the world, tempted to carry a label that makes you appear right with God, like imitation crab, then there's good news—when you are weak, He is strong. But, if you feel no regret or guilt about your sins and addictions, you may sadly discover that both pieces of parchment were cut from the same animal all along.

PROPHETIC SEED:

“Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the Lord your God. Or else, **if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations**—these that remain among you—and **make marriages with them**, and **go in to them and they to you**, know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they **shall be snares and traps to you**, and **scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish** from this good land which the Lord your God has given you.” Joshua 23:11-13 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“...he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” **He says, “shall become one flesh.”**” I Corinthians 6:16 NKJV

“**Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?** For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “**I will dwell in them And walk among them.** I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” Therefore “**Come out from among them and be separate,** says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.”” II Corinthians 6:14-17 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

Introduction

Last week the cities of refuge were assigned (as Moses was told there would be), cities of protection for anyone who has killed someone unintentionally or by accident. The forty-eight cities with their common-lands were assigned to the Levites in which to dwell (Remember: they have no land inheritance). The Levite families and names of the cities were offered in clear detail.

Then we saw that a great controversy arose between the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, the tribes who inherited their land on the east side of the Jordan, and their brothers on the west side of the Jordan. The men of those 2^{1/2} tribes were obligated to stay and fight in the promise land until the land was settled and their brothers had rest. They completed what was required of them on the west side, and they were released to return to their inheritance and their families. However, on their return to settle their land on the east side, they erected an altar. Their brothers (the 9^{1/2} tribes) were infuriated; they assumed it had been done as a grievous violation and insult against Yahweh, and they were ready to go to war over it.

What they discovered upon investigation was quite the opposite. The Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh

had erected it as a “duplicate” altar, not on which to offer sacrifices, but instead to act as a witness to all generations that they were forever connected with their brothers on the other side of the Jordan. They worshiped the same God, and followed the same laws. It all ends well! (See: [Pick a Vowel](#))

This week is the final portion of Joshua. Joshua delivers his farewell address to the children of Israel and Yahweh delivers a powerful history lesson to the people. Joshua then lays down the gauntlet; make a final choice! Choose Yahweh and get rid of all your foreign god, even the mention of their names, or choose to mix paganism into your faith in the One True God. Warning: don’t make any intimate connections with the pagans remaining in the land of your inheritance; if you do, they will drag you into their idolatry.

And here is the most serious of warnings. As always, follow Yahweh and all His commands forever, wherever you go: but, here also you must know, that as you make your final choice about to whom you will commit your entire life, if you choose Yahweh and then go back to foreign gods, there will be no path back for you. You will be destroyed. So, choose carefully because your own words will be the witness against you. Joshua says, “My choice is simple; I choose to serve Yahweh!” The people decide to join him; “We too choose Yahweh!”

Then Joshua wrote down their agreement in the Book of the Law of Yahweh to serve as a witness to their commitment. Afterwards, Joshua returned to the land of his inheritance and he died there at one hundred and ten years old. Eleazar, the high priest, died shortly after.

Joshua 23

Joshua's Farewell Address

1. We don't know exactly how old Joshua was when he entered the promised land, but we know when he spied out the land after being in the wilderness for one year, Caleb, who was with him, was forty years old (See Joshua 14:7). It is likely they were of similar age.
2. Minimally, he would have been older than 20, otherwise it would not have been an exception that he did not die in the wilderness.
3. Scholars agree that he must have been 30-40 years of age when he spied out the land, and we know Israel was relegated to 39 additional years in the wilderness after that debacle. So, at the least, he was sixty years old as he crossed the Jordan, and more likely he was closer Caleb's age (40 while spying), which would make him around 80 years old at the crossing.

4. Now, he is advanced in age and ready to die (we see at the end of Joshua 24 that he is 110 when he dies), which means he was in the promised land approximately 30-50 years.

5. **He called for the elders and delivered his final words:**

(a) You see everything Yahweh did to the nations you conquered and how He fought for you....

(b) You see how the land was divided and which nations still have survivors inhabiting the land...

(c) Some pagans still live among you in your possessed lands, but Yahweh intends to expel, to drive them out of your sight.

(d) And as you are consistently reminded (see Joshua 22:5 & Deuteronomy 6:1-2 as great examples): be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses!

(e) Stay straight down the middle path of obedience; don't turn aside to the right or to the left.

(f) What would turning aside look like? Blending in with these nations, so you start to become indistinguishable from them!

6. **Joshua warns them—take heed:**

(a) Don't even mention the name of their fake gods, nor cause others to become interested in knowing more about them.

(b) Don't serve their fake gods. Hold on tight to Yahweh.

- (c) Yahweh defeated these stronger nations for you and no one was able to stand against you (one of you chased a thousand of them).
- (d) Their fake gods could not help these defeated nations, so why would you turn around and join them!
- (e) If you cling to the remnant of these nations who dwell among you (for instance, by intermarrying and consummating that marriage with them), Yahweh will allow them to remain among you.
- (f) If they stay, they will certainly become a snare and trap! (See [Easily Entanglements](#) & II Peter 2:20-22 and Hebrews 12:1-2 about the trap of dabbling in your old pagan ways.)
- (g) Those pagan bonds will become scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes—until one day you perish from the promised land!

7. Promises...

- (a) **Yahweh has provided every good thing He promised:** Listen, Joshua says, “I am ready for burial, and you know that not one good thing has failed that God promised [See also Joshua 21:43-45].” (*Note: Peter also issues a powerful reminder to God’s people in II Peter 1:1-15 before his death.*)
- (b) **An equal but opposite promise:** As sure as every good thing came to pass that God promised when you were obedient, so

Yahweh will bring upon you every harmful thing, if you get entangled with these pagans and their gods.

- (c) God's anger will burn against you, and you shall perish quickly from the good land which He has given you.

Joshua 24

The Covenant at Shechem

- 8. Joshua gathers the elders of Israel before God (their heads, judges, and officers) and delivers his final words before his death (Like Jacob did in Genesis 49 and Moses Did in Deuteronomy 33 before their deaths).
- 9. **Joshua relays a history lesson from Yahweh to the people:**
 - (a) In the old days your forefathers, like Abraham, were from the other side of the River and they served pagan gods.
 - (b) I took Abraham out of that land and brought him to Canaan, and multiplied his descendants through Isaac.
 - (c) Isaac's sons were Jacob and Esau. Esau got the mountains of Seir to possess, and Jacob [who was renamed Israel] went down to Egypt (and was free until the time of Moses).
 - (d) Then I sent Moses and Aaron to free Israel, and I plagued Egypt, until the exodus.

- (e) The Egyptians chased after Israel soon after they were freed, and trapped them against the Red Sea. Then I separated Israel from them with a cloud of darkness.
- (f) Ultimately, I drowned the entire Egyptian army with their chariots and horses.
- (g) Your decedents saw the whole thing, as I brought them into the wilderness (for 40 years).
- (h) Many enemies came against them, like the Amorites, and Balak who enlisted the corrupt prophet Balaam to curse them, but Israel had victory over all of them.
- (i) Then, they crossed the Jordan and defeated Jericho and every other nation that came against them.
- (j) I gave them land for which they did not labor, cities to dwell in that they did not build, and fruit of the vineyards and olive groves that they did not plant.
- (k) Bonus: You can read other history lessons from Stephen before he was martyred in Acts 7 & the about the faith history of Israel in Hebrews 11.

10. Back to the Present (admonition/reminders):

- (a) Fear and Serve Yahweh!
- (b) Serve Him in sincerity and in truth!
- (c) Put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt!

11. Here is the ultimatum (decide which is evil and which is good):

- (a) Choose whom you will serve!
- (b) Will you serve Yahweh?
- (c) Will you serve the gods on the other side of the river?
- (d) Will you serve the gods of the pagans in the promised land?

12. Joshua chooses:

- (a) As for me and my house, we will serve Yahweh!

13. The people choose:

- (a) We won't forsake the Lord to serve other gods!
- (b) Yahweh brought us out Egypt!
- (c) Yahweh drove our enemies out of this land!
- (d) We will serve Yahweh; He is our God!

14. Joshua warns:

- (a) You cannot serve Yahweh and foreign gods at the same time!
- (b) Yahweh is a jealous God!
- (c) He **will not forgive you** if you say you choose Him and then forsake Him to serve foreign gods!
- (d) See: [Darkness You Can Feel](#) & [The Sin that Leads to Death](#)
- (e) See Deuteronomy 29:15-29 & I John 5:16-17

15. The Three Step Opt-in:

- (a) Step One: "We will serve the Lord!"

- (b) Joshua affirms step one: “You are witnesses against yourselves because you have acknowledged Yahweh as THE ONE AND ONLY GOD!”
- (c) Step Two: “We are witnesses!”
- (d) Joshua affirms step two: “Put away your foreign gods; incline your heart to the Lord God of Israel.”
- (e) Step Three: “We will serve Yahweh, and His voice we will obey!”
- (f) Joshua affirms step three: Joshua makes a covenant with the people that day!

16. Bonus: (See Pharaoh’s step-by-step opt-in and what happens if you do, and then renege on your word!)

- (a) (Exodus 5:2) It starts off with Moses’ first encounter with Pharaoh... Pharaoh says, “I don’t know who Yahweh is; I’ve never heard of Him.” (This is actually a safe place to be, at least temporarily.)
- (b) (Exodus 8:8-10) By the time we get to the second plague—frogs, Pharaoh begins to acknowledge that Yahweh is God. This will later leave him with no excuse!
- (c) (Exodus 8:19) Pharaoh’s spiritual advisors inform him that he is dealing with the true God in the third plague—Lice.
- (d) (Exodus 8:25-28) Pharaoh says, “He is the Lord, but He is your Lord [not mine].” The fourth plague—Flies

- (e) (Exodus 9:27-28) The home stretch before the point of no return—after the seventh plague of Fiery Hail. Pharaoh says, “I’m a sinner; Yahweh is righteous; pray for me.”
- (f) (Exodus 10:3-17) Pharaoh is right on the edge of no way back by the eight plague—Locusts.
- (g) Look closely at his final decent into total darkness. It is beyond doubt at this point that Pharaoh has gone from *“Who is the LORD...I do not know the LORD”* in Exodus 5:2 to *“I have sinned against Yahweh; He is God; please forgive my sin; Pray to Yahweh for me to take away from me this death”* in Exodus 10:16-17. If he takes the next step away from Yahweh after this, there is no way back. And that is exactly what he does during the plague of darkness! (Exodus 10:21-29)
- (h) “THE POINT OF NO RETURN”, for the unpardonable sin, the sin that leads to death, to be committed, the offender **must first acknowledge that Yahweh is the one true God, and then turn away!**
- (i) To study this topic intently, see: [Darkness You Can Feel](#) & [The Sin that Leads to Death](#)

17. Joshua then writes the agreement into the Book of the Law of God. He takes a large stone and sets it up as a monument to commemorate the occasion!

18. "Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord which He spoke to us. It will serve as a witness to you, lest you deny your God."" (Joshua 24:27)
19. Note: The stone heard it? The stone is the Rock, and the Rock is Christ; He is the witness!
- (a) *"Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ."* I Corinthians 10:1-4 NKJV
20. Joshua then lets the people depart to their inheritance.

The Death of Joshua and Eleazar

21. Joshua dies at one hundred and ten years old and is buried within the borders of his inheritance.
22. Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the Lord which He had done for Israel.
23. The bones of Joseph are buried as well.
24. Then, Eleazar died and they buried him in a hill belonging to Phinehas his son.

INCULTURATION

1. Interspecies marriages don't work!

A. Fundamentals of Staying Separate

(1) Right Down the Middle!

(a) The Book of the Law of Moses

1. "Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, **lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left, and lest you go among these nations, these who remain among you. You shall not make mention of the name of their gods**, nor cause anyone to swear by them; you shall not serve them nor bow down to them," Joshua 23:6-7 NKJV

- a) We are consistently reminded to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses!

b) Other examples...

- 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***," Deuteronomy 6:1 NKJV

2) “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.” Joshua 22:5 NKJV

- c) Stay straight down the middle path of obedience; don’t turn aside to the right or to the left.
- d) Don’t even mention the name of fake gods, nor cause others to become interested in knowing more about them.
- e) What does turning aside look like?
 - 1) *Intermarrying and consummating with pagan people.*
- f) This is what we call “Interspecies Marriage.” Why?
 - 1) *Because when you become a child of God, you change species!*
- g) If you do join as one with an unbeliever in an “Interspecies Marriage”, you will start to become indistinguishable from your pagan spouse!
- h) We will have more on the different species later in the notes.

(2) Bonded Parchments

(a) Marriage and Consummation

1. “Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the Lord your God. Or else, **if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations—** these that remain among you—and **make marriages** with them, and **go in to them** and they to you, **know for certain** that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they **shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish** from this good land which the Lord your God has given you.” Joshua 23:11-13 NKJV

- a) If you cling to the remnant of these nations who dwell among you (for instance, by intermarrying and consummating that marriage), Yahweh will allow them to remain among you and become snares, traps scourges to you!
- b) **Scourge:** an instrument of punishment; a person or thing that causes great trouble or suffering

(b) Snares, Traps and Easy Entanglements

1. “For if, **after they have escaped the pollutions of the world** through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior

Jesus Christ, they are **again entangled in them and overcome**, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For **it would have been better for them not to have known** the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them." II Peter 2:20-21 NKJV

2. "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..." Hebrews 12:1 NKJV
 - a) If you are blessed enough for God to have pulled you out of your death spiral, and you choose to reengage in the sins and addictions of your past, and you become consumed by them, it will end worse for you than had you never left your pagan ways behind.
 - b) Run from every lustful temptation; despise every sin that will easily ensnare and trap you!
 - c) If the pagans remain in your midst because you have chosen to consummate with them, they will

certainly become pollution which will entangle, ensnare, and overcome you!

- d) See [Easily Entanglements](#) about the trap of dabbling in your old pagan ways.

(3) Inculturation

(a) A slow insidious mutation!

1. ...the **gradual acquisition** of the characteristics and norms of a culture or group by a person, another culture, etc.
2. ...the **adaptation** of Christian liturgy to a non-Christian cultural background.
 - a) There are certain things in life in which “tolerance” SHOULD NOT be tolerated!
 - b) Adapting Christianity to common culture is one of those things.
 - c) Unfortunately—doing so has a long history—stemming way back to the time in which Rome, under the Emperor Constantine, adopted “Christianity” as the State Religion and then blended Roman paganism into it!
 - d) In **313 CE**, the emperor issued the Edict of Milan, which granted Christianity—as well as most other religions—legal status. He then blended religions!

- e) From there, the slow insidious mutation progressed over the centuries (that is the definition of cancer, by the way).
- f) The result: at present we have tens of thousands of denominations, most with mixtures of the DNA, characteristics and norms of common culture and pagan practices blended in—the parchments of two animals bonded together!

(b) Inculturation creeps in slowly!

1. “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For **men will be [characteristics (DNA) of the species with whom you should not intermarry nor consummate]** *lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power.* And from such people turn away! **For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins,** led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the

knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was." II Timothy 3:1-9 NKJV

- a) This sort [*deniers of true Godliness*] creep into households and make captives [*a slow insidious mutation*]...II Timothy 3:6)
- b) Once those who are willing to redefine godliness get into the house of God, it is a short walk to captivity—consummation!
- (c) What you should expect if you do intermarry!
 - 1. "Do not be deceived: **"Evil company corrupts good habits."** Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame." I Corinthians 15:33-34 NKJV
 - 2. "Or do you not know that **he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her?** For "the two," **He says, "shall become one flesh."**" I Corinthians 6:16 NKJV
 - a) When you consummate with a harlot you become one with the harlot!

- b) Evil always corrupts that with which it has intercourse!
- c) That is why we are told... ***“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*** I John 2:15 NKJV

3. Consummation

- a) ...to make a marriage or relationship complete by having sexual intercourse—complete (a transaction or attempt); make perfect!
- b) As in... *he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her...*(I Cor. 6:16); or, *make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you...*(Joshua 23:12)

(4) An equal but opposite promise...

- (a) The ultimate fruit of consummating a relationship with Pagans (being joined to a harlot)...

1. “Therefore it shall come to pass, that **as all the good things have come upon you** which the Lord your God promised you, **so the Lord will bring upon you all harmful things**, until He has destroyed you from this good land which the Lord your God has given you. **When you have transgressed the covenant** of the

Lord your God, which He commanded you, and have **gone and served other gods**, and bowed down to them, then **the anger of the Lord will burn against you**, and you shall **perish quickly** from the good land which He has given you.”” Joshua 23:15-16 NKJV

- a) As sure as every good thing came to pass that God promised when you were obedient, so Yahweh will bring upon you every harmful thing, if you get entangled with these pagans and their gods.
- b) God’s anger will burn against you, and you shall perish quickly from the promised land.
- c) Bottom line:
 - 1) *Don’t marry and consummate with pagans!*
(Joshua 23:12)
 - 2) *Don’t join to a harlot in one body with her!*
(I Cor. 6:16)
 - 3) *Don’t love the world or the things in the world!*
(I John 2:15)

B. Imitation Crab & Facon Bacon

(1) Imitations

- (a) ...a thing intended to simulate or copy something else, like Tares for Wheat:

1. “Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, **his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat** and went his way. But **when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.** So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? **How then does it have tares?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’** The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ But he said, ‘**No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together** until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “**First gather together the tares** and bind them in bundles to **burn them**, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ” Matthew 13:24-30 NKJV

- a) What a beautiful parable to demonstrate how difficult it is to “separate parchments” once they are “sown together.”
- b) Both look the same as they “grow together”, the imitation and the real, and it takes the hand of God to pull them apart.

c) The safest bet is to not let the tares get in your wheat field in the first place!

d) Bottom line:

1) *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!*

(Joshua 23:12)

2) *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her!*

(I Cor. 6:16)

3) *Don't love the world or the things in the world!*

(I John 2:15)

(b) That is why we are warned to reject and avoid the ways of Egypt and the ways of Canaan...

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

- a) You **came from** a pagan world—don't ever again do what they were doing.
- b) You are **still living** in a pagan world—don't ever do what they are doing.
- c) Why?
 - 1) *"[You] are not of the world, just as [Y'shua is] not of the world."* John 17:16
- d) Bottom line:
 - 1) *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!*
(Joshua 23:12)
 - 2) *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her!*
(1 Cor. 6:16)
 - 3) *Don't love the world or the things in the world!*
(1 John 2:15)
- e) See [Pick a Vowel](#) for extensive teachings on Leviticus 18:1-5.
- (c) **Warning:** Doing pagan things and saying it's okay because you are doing them for Yahweh WILL NOT make pagan practices acceptable!
 - 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.**" Deuteronomy 12:1-4 NKJV

- a) When God brings you into your new world, don't still practice the paganism from that world.
- b) Instead, utterly destroy (remove) everything from your life that the pagans use to worship their fake gods!
- c) And...here is the **MOST IMPORTANT** part (the excuse MOST Christians use to continue participating in inculturation...) "We're not doing those things to worship pagan Gods, we are doing them for Jesus!"
- d) **Reminder:** inculturation
 - 1) ...the **gradual acquisition** of the characteristics and norms of a culture or group by a person, another culture, etc.

- 2) ...the **adaptation** of Christian liturgy to a non-Christian cultural background.
- e) **Warning:** The Golden Calf was fashioned to worship Yahweh, not foreign Gods—and how did that turn out?
 - 1) *“And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and ***made a molded calf.*** Then they said, ***“This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!”*** So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, ***“Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord.”***” Exodus 32:4-5 NKJV*
 - 2) *“So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about ***three thousand men of the people fell that day.***” Exodus 32:28 NKJV*
- f) God’s words says...***“You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things.”*** (Deut. 12:4)
- g) Bottom line:
 - 1) *Don’t marry and consummate with pagans!*
(Joshua 23:12)
 - 2) *Don’t join to a harlot in one body with her!*
(I Cor. 6:16)

3) *Don't love the world or the things in the world!*

(1 John 2:15)

(2) Examples of Inculturation

(a) Tree Adultery

1. "Thus says the Lord: **"Do not learn the way of the Gentiles;** Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them. **For the customs of the peoples are futile;** For one **cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple. They are upright, like a palm tree, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot go by themselves.** Do not be afraid of them, For they cannot do evil, Nor can they do any good." Inasmuch as there is none like You, O Lord (You are great, and Your name is great in might), Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your rightful due. For among all the wise men of the nations, And in all their kingdoms, There is none like You. **But they are altogether dull-hearted and foolish; A wooden idol is a worthless doctrine.** Silver is beaten into plates; It is brought from Tarshish,

And gold from Uphaz, The work of the craftsman And of the hands of the metalsmith; Blue and purple are their clothing; They are all the work of skillful men. But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation. **Thus you shall say to them: “The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens.”**” Jeremiah 10:2-11 NKJV

- a) Let’s walk through this pagan practice and see if you can recognize it...
 - 1) It’s a way of the Gentiles (a pagan practice).
 - 2) The custom is futile. What custom?
 - I. Cut a tree from the forest.
 - II. Decorate it with silver and gold.
 - III. Fasten it with nails so that it will not topple.
 - 3) The people who practice this are altogether dull-hearted and foolish!
 - 4) The wooden idol is a worthless doctrine (custom, practice)!
 - 5) The custom and the fake god it worships shall perish from the earth (so why bother!).

b) Yes, you guessed it, its a Christmas tree. And God's words says...

1) *"You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things."* (Deut. 12:4)

2) *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!*
(Joshua 23:12)

3) *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her!*
(I Cor. 6:16)

4) *Don't love the world or the things in the world!*
(I John 2:15)

(b) You can keep your pagan feasts!

1. "Woe to you who **desire the day of the Lord!** For what good is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness, and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him! Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it? "I hate, **I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.** Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. **Take away from Me the noise of**

your songs, For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.” Amos 5:18-23 NKJV

- a) Who is this addressing?
 - 1) Those who desire the day of the Lord!
- b) Who are they?
 - 1) Those who today call themselves Christians!
- c) Yahweh HATES pagan feast days and the “sacred assemblies” that gather and proclaim they are doing it all for Him.
- d) He will not accept it!
- e) Their worship is like noise to Him!
- f) What will it be like for those who identify as God’s children, yet marry and consummate with the world (chase pagan practices)? It will be darkness and not light so...
 - 1) *“You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things.” (Deut. 12:4)*
 - 2) *Don’t marry and consummate with pagans! (Joshua 23:12)*
 - 3) *Don’t join to a harlot in one body with her! (I Cor. 6:16)*
 - 4) *Don’t love the world or the things in the world! (I John 2:15)*

C. Identifying Species (the DNA of the Child of God Species)

(1) We are in the WORLD but no longer part of the WORLD

(a) Once born-again, you are no longer of this world!

1. "If you were of the world, **the world would love its own [Pagan DNA Species]**. Yet because **you are not of the world [Child of God DNA Species]**, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." John 15:19 NKJV

a) There is a good indicator that you have become a different species...the other species hates you!

b) So, don't consummate a relationship with the species that hates you, or you will get stuck, like two pieces of parchment glued together!

(b) Out of This world (Separated by the Truth)

1. "'I pray for them. **I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me**, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. **Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You.** Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. **While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name.** Those whom You gave Me I have kept;

and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. **But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.** I have given them Your word; **and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.** I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. **They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.** And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be **sanctified by the truth.**" John 17:9-19 NKJV

- a) Let's reason through this DNA transplant:
 - 1) Y'shua is not praying for pagans that remain in world; He is praying for those His Father has given to Him to change their DNA.
 - 2) He is not of the world they were part of, so He has to set them apart from the world while He was with them.

- 3) He teaches them about their separation (new DNA), so they will be joyful (no matter what happens).
- 4) They must understand that the world (pagan human DNA) will hate them because they are no longer of the world (they now have child of God DNA), just as He is not of the world (He has Son of God DNA).
- 5) He does not want them removed from of the world (they are meant to live among the pagans).
- 6) He leaves them so they can demonstrate their separation (their new DNA).
- 7) However, He wants them protected from the devil (don't intermarry nor consummate with the pagan human DNA!).
- 8) And this is how we got the same DNA as Y'shua: (Same DNA = God's children are not of the world and Y'shua is not of the world)
- 9) His children were **sanctified by the truth** (the Word of God).
- 10) He sends God's children (with God's DNA) into the pagan world to do the same for others!

(c) Y'shua's Kingdom is NOT of this world...

1. "Jesus answered, **"My kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; **but now My kingdom is not from here."** Pilate therefore said to Him, **"Are You a king then?"** Jesus answered, **"You say rightly that I am a king.** For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have **come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth.** **Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."** Pilate said to Him, **"What is truth?"** And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all." John 18:36-38 NKJV

a) Pilate gets a DNA lesson:

- 1) Y'shua tells him, "My kingdom is not of this world. It's not from here."
- 2) In Y'shua's world, He is the king.
- 3) He came into the pagan world to bring truth.
- 4) Everyone who is of the truth hears His voice.
- 5) Pilate asks Him, "What is truth?"
- 6) Truth: the Word of God separates species. One is part of an earthly kingdom with its DNA; the other is part of God's kingdom with His DNA!

7) Pilate had no problem with this reality!

D. Spotting Species (reading DNA)

(1) Do not love the world

(a) The things of the world (pagan DNA)

1. **“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father **but is of the world.** And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” I John 2:15-17 NKJV

a) The lust of the flesh...

b) The lust of the eyes...

c) The pride of life...

d) If you love those things you are of those things!

(b) Those who pretend to have God DNA, but don't, eventually show their cards and leave!

1. “Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. **They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us;** but they went out that they might

be made manifest, that none of them were of us." I

John 2:18-19 NKJV

- a) Those with God's DNA stay out of the world.
- b) Those faking it go back into the world!
- (c) You should be able to tell the difference!
 - 1. "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and **you know all things.** I have not written to you **because you do not know the truth, but because you know it,** and that no lie is of the truth." I John 2:20-21 NKJV

- a) You are anointed to know the truth! There is that word again...Truth!
- b) The truth is the Word of God
- c) The word of God sanctifies and separates species.
- d) One species is part of an earthly kingdom with its DNA
- e) The other species is part of God's kingdom with His DNA!

(2) Come out of this world

- (a) Come out of Babylon (the pagan world) my people!
(Read Revelation 18:1-8) Babylon is going down, so...

- 1. "**Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.** For her sins

have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and **repay her double** according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her."

Revelation 18:4-6 NKJV

a) The world and all its pagan practices are going down!

b) Get out! If you have become intermarried, get a divorce!

c) If you have become unequally yoked with it, or had communion with it, or have been in agreement with it (II Corinthians 6:14-16)...

"Come out from it and be separate [the Word of Truth does that]... Do not touch what is unclean " (II Corinthians 6:17)

1) *"You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things."* (Deut. 12:4)

2) *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!* (Joshua 23:12)

3) *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her!* (I Cor. 6:16)

4) *Don't love the world or the things in the world!* (I John 2:15)

E. Same Species Marriage vs. Interspecies Marriage

(1) Inter-species vs. Intra-species

(a) Inter (between, among)

1. “Or else, if indeed you do go back, and **cling to the remnant of these nations**—these that remain among you—and **make marriages with them, and go in to them** and they to you,” Joshua 23:12 NKJV

- a) We have already learned what the wrong marriage looks like!

(b) Intra (inside, within)

1. **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
2. **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

- a) The Right Marriage requires the same species!

(2) The Bridegroom Species

(a) A being of light...

1. “Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and **He was transfigured before them.**

His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.” Matthew 17:1-2 NKJV

a) Y’shua gives us a preview of what the glorified species looks like.

b) It is a body filled with light

(b) After the resurrection...

1. “Now when she had said this, she turned around and **saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.**” John 20:14 NKJV

a) Y’shua is not recognizable in His new glorified body!

(c) On the road to Emmaus

1. “Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them. Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. **Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.** And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He

opened the Scriptures to us?" So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" **And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them** in the breaking of bread. Now as they said these things, **Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them**, and said to them, "Peace to you." **But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.**" Luke 24:28-37 NKJV

- a) The men on the road conversed with Y'shua and they could not recognize Him until He made Himself "known."
- b) Then He vanished! (Glorified species can do that!)
- c) Then He appears out of nowhere—and they think they see a "spirit"! (Glorified species can do that!)
- (d) Passing through walls!
 - 1. "Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when **the doors were shut** where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, **Jesus came and stood in the midst**, and said to them, "Peace be with you."" John 20:19 NKJV

a) Glorified species can do that!

(3) The Bride Species

(a) Flesh and Blood vs. Light

1. “Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, **and we shall be changed.**” I Corinthians 15:50-52 NKJV

a) Human bodies have flesh and blood!

b) Glorified bodies have light in place of blood!

c) When you are resurrected you will be changed (transfigured) from flesh and blood to beings of light!

(4) Interspecies Marriage is not recommended!

(a) Repeat: Do not be unequally yoked together!

1. “**Do not be unequally yoked** together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And **what communion has light with darkness?** And what accord has **Christ with Belial?** Or what part has a **believer with an**

unbeliever? And what **agreement has the temple of God with idols?** For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." Therefore "**Come out from among them And be separate,** says the Lord. **Do not touch what is unclean,** And I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty."" II Corinthians 6:14-18 NKJV

- a) Let's take it step-by-step again!
 - 1) Do not be unequally yoked...
 - 2) No fellowship between righteousness and lawlessness...
 - 3) No communion between light and darkness...
 - 4) No accord between Christ and Belial...
 - 5) No union between believer and unbeliever..
 - 6) No agreement between the temple of God and idols... (BTW: you are the temple of God)
 - 7) Therefore "Come out from among the pagan world and be separate." (Do not engage in interspecies marriage!)
 - 8) Do not touch what is unclean (Do not consummate that union!)

(b) Biding with a Harlot (Gluing together two parchments)!

1. “Do you not know that **your bodies are members of Christ?** Shall I then take the **members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!** Or do you not know that **he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her?** For “**the two,**” He says, “**shall become one flesh.**” But **he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.** Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality **sins against his own body.**” I Corinthians 6:15-18 NKJV

a) Let’s take it step-by-step...

- 1) You are betrothed to Christ (set to be in that intra-species marriage).
- 2) Don’t you dare unite with a harlot (the pagan world) in an interspecies marriage!
- 3) If you do, you will become ONE FLESH because that is what marriage does.
- 4) Instead, join to the Lord in marriage (one spirit).
- 5) Sexual immorality in this life is akin to interspecies marriage!

(c) How do you separate from your pagan first wife? (Open your eyes and see Romans 7 like never before!)

1. “Or do you not know, brethren **(for I speak to those who know the law)**, that the law has dominion over a man as long **as he lives**? For **the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives**. But if the husband dies, **she is released from the law of her husband**. So then **if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress**; but if her husband dies, **she is free from that law**, so that she **is no adulteress**, though she has married another man. **Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another**—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. For **when we were in the flesh**, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. **But now we have been delivered** from the law, **having died to what we were held by**, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.” Romans 7:1-6 NKJV

a) Let’s take it step-by-step...

- 1) You must understand the law to grasp this!
- 2) This law is in effect as long as you are alive.

- 3) The marriage bond is unbreakable as long as both spouses live (2 parchments glued together!)
- 4) If there is a death, the bond is released.
- 5) If there is an attempt to bind to another before a spouse dies, that is called adultery.
- 6) If there is a death, then you are free from that marriage law and there is no adultery.
- 7) **Key Point:** You died with Christ. You are free to remarry (this time to Christ, the same species).
- 8) **Conclusion:** The law that bound you to (the harlot, sin, the devil, wrong species) was severed when you died with Christ.
- 9) If you are free to marry another—Pick Christ!
- 10) Note: Read ALL of Romans 6 which describes the death perfectly.
- 11) **Excerpts:** *“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus **were baptized into His death?** {5} For if we have been **united together in the likeness of His death,** certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, {11} Likewise you also, reckon **yourselves to be dead indeed to sin,** but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. {14} For sin*

*shall not have dominion over you, for **you are not under law [of marriage to sin]** but under grace [the power that resurrected you from death].” Romans 6:3, 5, 11, 14 NKJV*

(d) Think about it this way...

1. “Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit**, which are God’s.” I Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV

a) You are the temple of the Holy Spirit

b) You don’t belong to yourself because He purchased you at great cost.

c) It was the choice Y’shua made in garden when He decided to stay and die vs. return to His Father in Heaven.

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

d) If He wished to keep His Bride (that’s you!), He had to stay as a bondservant (and die) because according to the law of the ***Hebrew servant**, if He

came in as a ****bondservant** without a bride, and was then given a bride (that's you!), if He then wants to go free (not die), He has to leave without His bride. Y'shua chose to stay—that is the price He paid for you (His bride). So, don't engage in interspecies marriage!

- a) * ““Now these are the judgments which you shall set before them: **If you buy a Hebrew servant [Y'shua]**, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. **If he comes in by himself [He did!]**, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. **If his master has given him a wife [you were given to Him to be His bride]**, and she has borne him sons or daughters, **the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself.** But if the servant plainly says, ‘I love my master **[He loves His Father]**, my wife **[He loves you!]**, and my children; **I will not go out free,**’ then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, **and his master shall pierce [on the cross] his**

ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever
[He never goes back to His original form—He
instead resurrects with as a glorified species so
when you get your glorified species body, you
can be married as the SAME SPECIES].” Exodus
21:1-6 NKJV

- b) ** “Let this mind be in you which was also in
Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did
not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
but made Himself of no reputation, **taking the
form of a bondservant, and coming in the
likeness of men [He left His Spirit form behind
and He will never go back because He chose to
keep His bride!]**. And being found in
appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and
**became obedient to the point of death, even
the death of the cross.**” Philippians 2:5-8 NKJV

WITNESS TAMPERING

2. Making Critical Decisions

A. Main Point

- (1) Back to Joshua 24
 - (a) Admonition and Reminder

1. ""Now therefore, **fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth**, and **put away the gods** which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord!" Joshua 24:14 NKJV

- a) Fear and Serve Yahweh!
- b) Serve Him in sincerity and in truth! (God's Word is truth and it separates God's people from pagans!)
- c) Put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt!

(2) Here is the ultimatum...

- (a) Decide which is evil and which is good

1. "And **if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**" Joshua 24:15 NKJV

- a) Choose whom you will serve!
- b) Will you serve Yahweh?
- c) Will you serve the other gods?
- d) **Joshua chooses:** We will serve Yahweh!

(3) The people choose...

- (a) Yahweh is the ONE who delivered us!

1. “So the people answered and said: **“Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods;** for the Lord our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. And the Lord drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. **We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God.”**” Joshua 24:16-18 NKJV

- a) We won’t forsake the Lord to serve other gods!
- b) Yahweh is the One Who brought us out of Egypt!
- c) Yahweh drove our enemies out of this land!
- d) We will serve Yahweh; He is our God!

(4) Joshua warns...

- (a) Yahweh is holy and jealous!

1. “But Joshua said to the people, **“You cannot serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God;** He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. If you forsake the Lord **and serve foreign gods**, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good.”” Joshua 24:19-20 NKJV

- a) You cannot serve Yahweh and foreign gods at the same time!
- b) Yahweh is a holy and jealous God!
- c) He **will not forgive you** if you say you choose Him and then forsake Him to serve foreign gods!
- d) That is called... * the Sin that leads to death!
 - 1) * *"The **Lord would not spare him [never forgive him]**; for then the anger of the Lord and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him, and the Lord would blot out his name from under heaven."* Deuteronomy 29:20 NKJV
 - 2) * *"If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. **There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.**"* I John 5:16-17 NKJV

(5) The Three Step Opt-in:

- (a) Step-by-Step

1. Step One: "And the people said to Joshua, "No, but **we will serve the Lord!**" Joshua 24:21 NKJV
2. Joshua affirms step one: "So Joshua said to the people, "**You are witnesses against yourselves** that you have chosen the Lord for yourselves, to serve Him."... Joshua 24:22a NKJV
3. Step Two: "**We are witnesses!**" Joshua 24:22b NKJV
4. Joshua affirms step two: ""Now therefore," he said, "**put away the foreign gods** which are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord God of Israel." Joshua 24:23 NKJV
5. Step Three: "And the people said to Joshua, "**The Lord our God we will serve**, and His voice we will obey!" Joshua 24:24 NKJV
6. Joshua affirms step three: "So **Joshua made a covenant with the people** that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem." Joshua 24:25 NKJV

(6) The Covenant

(a) No going back...

1. "Then Joshua wrote **these words in the Book of the Law of God**. And he took a large stone, and set it up

there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord.” Joshua 24:26 NKJV

- a) Joshua then writes the agreement into the Book of the Law of God.
 - b) He takes a large stone and sets it up as a monument to commemorate the occasion!
2. “Behold, **this stone shall be a witness** to us, for **it has heard all the words of the Lord** which He spoke to us. **It will serve as a witness** to you, lest you deny your God.”” Joshua 24:27 NKJV
- a) The stone heard it? The stone is the Rock, and the Rock is Christ; and Christ is the witness!
 - 1) *“Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. **For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.**”* I Corinthians 10:1-4 NKJV
3. “So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance.” Joshua 24:28 NKJV

- a) Joshua then lets the people depart to their inheritance.

(7) A bridge too far...

- (a) You can't go back once you cross that bridge!

1. "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

- a) If you say He is your God and you say you have escaped the sins of your past...
- b) And you choose to go back and get in bed with those sins (those foreign gods, the pagan world), and you bind in marriage to those sins (interspecies marriage), the outcome will be the worst it could possibly be!

- 1) *"You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things."* (Deut. 12:4)
- 2) *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!*
(Joshua 23:12)
- 3) *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her!*
(1 Cor. 6:16)
- 4) *Don't love the world or the things in the world!*
(1 John 2:15)

B. The step-by-step path to the "Sin that leads to death!"

(1) Pharaoh's journey into darkness—a path you don't want to take!

(a) It starts off with Moses' first encounter with Pharaoh..."I don't know your God!"

1. "And Pharaoh said, **"Who is the LORD,** that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? **I do not know the LORD,** nor will I let Israel go."" Exodus 5:2 NKJV

a) As you will see, it is not possible to commit the "sin that leads to death" if you don't first "know Yahweh." Of course it is bad to "not know Yahweh," yet it is not irredeemable.

(b) Pharaoh begins to acknowledge that Yahweh is God

1. **"Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Entreat the LORD** that He may take away the

frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD.” And Moses said to Pharaoh, “Accept the honor of saying when I shall intercede for you, for your servants, and for your people, to destroy the frogs from you and your houses, that they may remain in the river only.” So he said, “Tomorrow.” And he said, “**Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.**” Exodus 8:8-10 NKJV

- a) By the time we get to the second plague, frogs (swamp creatures), Pharaoh begins to acknowledge that Yahweh is God—this will later leave him with no excuse!
- (c) Others affirm this new reality!
 - 1. “Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “**This is the finger of God.**” But Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said.” Exodus 8:19 NKJV
 - a) Even his own spiritual advisors inform him that this is the true God during the third plague—Lice
- (d) He is God, but not my God!

1. “Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said,
“Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.”... So
Pharaoh said, “I will let you go, that you may
sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness;
only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for
me.”” Exodus 8:25, 28 NKJV
 - a) He is the Lord, but He’s your Lord, not mine...the
fourth Plague—Flies
- (e) The home stretch to the point of no return...
 1. “And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron,
and said to them, **“I have sinned this time. The LORD
is righteous, and my people and I are wicked.
Entreat the LORD,** that there may be no more mighty
thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go,
and you shall stay no longer.”” Exodus 9:27-28 NKJV
 - a) After the seventh plague of Fiery Hail, Pharaoh
makes a critical acknowledgement: “I’m a sinner;
Yahweh is righteous; pray for me.”
- (f) Pharaoh is right on the edge of no return by the eighth
plague—Locusts
 1. **How long will you refuse to humble yourself?** “So
Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to
him, **“Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews:**

‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me.’

Exodus 10:3 NKJV

2. **Pharaoh even received a final warning from within his own camp: Don’t you see?** “Then Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long shall this man be a snare to us? **Let the men go**, that they may serve the LORD their God. **Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?**”” Exodus 10:7 NKJV
3. **Pharaoh’s FINAL shot at repentance; is it real; will it stick?** “Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, “**I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the LORD your God, that He may take away from me this death only.**”” Exodus 10:16-17 NKJV
 - a) Look closely at Pharaoh’s decent into total darkness.
 - 1) It is beyond doubt at this point that Pharaoh has gone from “*Who is the LORD...I do not know the LORD*” (Exodus 5:2) to “*I have sinned against Yahweh; He is God; please forgive my*

sin; Pray to Yahweh for me to take away from me this death.” (Exodus 10:16-17)

- b) To commit the unpardonable sin “THE POINT OF NO RETURN”, the sin that leads to death, the offender **must first acknowledge that Yahweh is the one true God, and then turn away (to other Gods)!**
- c) From Exodus 10:21-14:31...
 - 1) Then Darkness Descends over Egypt (Pharaoh). He can no longer repent as a response to God’s chastisement. Instead, his fate is sealed by his own words.
 - 2) Before the Death of the Firstborn, Pharaoh CANNOT turn back!
 - 3) Even after all this, because Pharaoh no longer has any capacity (possibility) to repent, he displays total and complete obstinance toward the one TRUE GOD
 - 4) The end is total destruction of God’s enemies and deliverance of His people
- (2) The decent into Total Darkness in a nutshell!
 - (a) Who better than Paul could describe such?

1. **“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men,** who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, **so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God,** nor were thankful, but became **futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.** Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. **Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts,** to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **For this reason God gave them up to vile passions.** For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is

against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. **And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind**, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, **haters of God**, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, **knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death**, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

Romans 1:18-32 NKJV

- a) Decent into Total Darkness! No excuses:
punishment is coming—you have met all the legal requirements to commit “the sin that leads to death.”

- 1) They knew God...

- 2) They entertained futile thoughts...
- 3) Their foolish hearts became dark...
- 4) They were given over to lusts and vile passions...
- 5) Why? Because they knew God, but don't retain God in their knowledge (like we just saw with Pharaoh)...
- 6) God then gives them over to a debased mind...
- 7) They become dreadful as they practice all sorts of sin—They HATE GOD!
- 8) And in the END, the righteous judgment of God is that those who practice such things are put to death (like Pharaoh and his entire army).

(3) The unpardonable sin!

- (a) Space does not permit, in this study, to elaborate on what it means to blaspheme the Holy Spirit, but these teachings will give you every detail. ([The Sin that Leads to Death](#) & [Darkness You Can Feel](#))

(b) The Bottom Line:

1. *"You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things."* (Deut. 12:4)
2. *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!* (Joshua 23:12)

3. *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her! (1 Cor. 6:16)*
4. *Don't love the world or the things in the world! (1 John 2:15)*

Summary: INCULTURATION

1. Interspecies marriages don't work!

A. Fundamentals of Staying Separate

(1) Right Down the Middle!

(a) The Book of the Law of Moses

1. We are consistently reminded to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses!
2. Stay straight down the middle path of obedience; don't turn aside to the right or to the left.
3. Don't even mention the name of fake gods, nor cause others to become interested in knowing more about them.
4. What does turning aside look like? *Intermarrying and consummating with pagan people.*
5. This is what we call "Interspecies Marriage." Why? *Because when you become a child of God, you change species!*

6. If you do join as one with an unbeliever in an “Interspecies Marriage”, you will start to become indistinguishable from your pagan spouse!
7. We will have more on the different species later in the notes.

(2) Bonded Parchments

(a) Marriage and Consummation

1. If you cling to the remnant of these nations who dwell among you (for instance, by intermarrying and consummating that marriage), Yahweh will allow them to remain among you and become snares, traps scourges to you!
2. **Scourge:** an instrument of punishment; a person or thing that causes great trouble or suffering

(b) Snares, Traps and Easy Entanglements

1. If you are blessed enough for God to have pulled you out of your death spiral, and you choose to reengage in the sins and addictions of your past, and you become consumed by them, it will end worse for you than had you never left your pagan ways behind.
2. Run from every lustful temptation; despise every sin that will easily ensnare and trap you!

3. If the pagans remain in your midst because you have chosen to consummate with them, they will certainly become pollution which will entangle, ensnare, and overcome you!
4. See [Easily Entanglements](#) about the trap of dabbling in your old pagan ways.

(3) Inculturation

(a) A slow insidious mutation!

1. ...the **gradual acquisition** of the characteristics and norms of a culture or group by a person, another culture, etc.
2. ...the **adaptation** of Christian liturgy to a non-Christian cultural background.
 - a) There are certain things in life in which “tolerance” SHOULD NOT be tolerated!
 - b) Adapting Christianity to common culture is one of those things.
 - c) Unfortunately—doing so has a long history—stemming way back to the time in which Rome, under the Emperor Constantine, adopted “Christianity” as the State Religion and then blended Roman paganism into it!

- d) In **313 CE**, the emperor issued the Edict of Milan, which granted Christianity—as well as most other religions—legal status. He then blended religions!
 - e) From there, the slow insidious mutation progressed over the centuries (that is the definition of cancer, by the way).
 - f) The result: at present we have tens of thousands of denominations, most with mixtures of the DNA, characteristics and norms of common culture and pagan practices blended in—the parchments of two animals bonded together!
- (b) Inculturation creeps in slowly!
- 1. This sort [*deniers of true Godliness*] creep into households and make captives [*a slow insidious mutation*]...II Timothy 3:6)
 - 2. Once those who are willing to redefine godliness get into the house of God, it is a short walk to captivity—consummation!
- (c) What you should expect if you do intermarry!
- 1. When you consummate with a harlot you become one with the harlot!
 - 2. Evil always corrupts that with which it has intercourse!

3. That is why we are told... ***“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*** I John 2:15 NKJV

4. Consummation

- a) ...to make a marriage or relationship complete by having sexual intercourse—complete (a transaction or attempt); make perfect!
- b) As in... *he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her...*(I Cor. 6:16); or, *make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you...*(Joshua 23:12)

(4) An equal but opposite promise...

(a) The ultimate fruit of consummating a relationship with Pagans (being joined to a harlot)...

1. As sure as every good thing came to pass that God promised when you were obedient, so Yahweh will bring upon you every harmful thing, if you get entangled with these pagans and their gods.

2. God's anger will burn against you, and you shall perish quickly from the promised land.

3. Bottom line:

- 1) *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!*(Joshua 23:12)

- 2) *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her!* (I Cor. 6:16)
- 3) *Don't love the world or the things in the world!* (I John 2:15)

B. Imitation Crab & Facon Bacon

(1) Imitations

(a) ...a thing intended to simulate or copy something else, like Tares for Wheat:

1. What a beautiful parable to demonstrate how difficult it is to “separate parchments” once they are “sown together.”
2. Both look the same as they “grow together”, the imitation and the real, and it takes the hand of God to pull them apart.
3. The safest bet is to not let the tares get in your wheat field in the first place!
4. Bottom line:

- 1) *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!*(Joshua 23:12)
- 2) *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her!* (I Cor. 6:16)
- 3) *Don't love the world or the things in the world!* (I John 2:15)

(b) That is why we are warned to reject and avoid the ways of Egypt and the ways of Canaan...

1. You **came from** a pagan world—don't ever again do what they were doing.

2. You are **still living** in a pagan world—don't ever do what they are doing.

3. Why?

1) *"[You] are not of the world, just as [Y'shua is] not of the world."* John 17:16

4. Bottom line:

1) *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!* (Joshua 23:12)

2) *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her!* (1 Cor. 6:16)

3) *Don't love the world or the things in the world!* (1 John 2:15)

d) See [Pick a Vowel](#) for extensive teachings on Leviticus 18:1-5.

(c) **Warning:** Doing pagan things and saying it's okay because you are doing them for Yahweh WILL NOT make pagan practices acceptable!

1. When God brings you into your new world, don't still practice the paganism from that world.

2. Instead, utterly destroy (remove) everything from your life that the pagans use to worship their fake gods!
3. And...here is the **MOST IMPORTANT** part (the excuse MOST Christians use to continue participating in inculturation...) "We're not doing those things to worship pagan Gods, we are doing them for Jesus!"
4. **Reminder:** inculturation
 - 1) ...the gradual acquisition of the characteristics and norms of a culture or group by a person, another culture, etc.
 - 2) ...the adaptation of Christian liturgy to a non-Christian cultural background.
5. **Warning:** The Golden Calf was fashioned to worship Yahweh, not foreign Gods—and how did that turn out?
6. God's words says...**"You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things."** (Deut. 12:4)
7. Bottom line:
 - 1) *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!*(Joshua 23:12)
 - 2) *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her!* (1 Cor. 6:16)

3) *Don't love the world or the things in the world! (1 John 2:15)*

(2) Examples of Inculturation

(a) Tree Adultery

1. Let's walk through this pagan practice and see if you can recognize it...
 - 1) It's a way of the Gentiles (a pagan practice).
 - 2) The custom is futile. What custom?
 - I. Cut a tree from the forest.
 - II. Decorate it with silver and gold.
 - III. Fasten it with nails so that it will not topple.
 - 3) The people who practice this are altogether dull-hearted and foolish!
 - 4) The wooden idol is a worthless doctrine (custom, practice)!
 - 5) The custom and the fake god it worships shall perish from the earth (so why bother!).
2. Yes, you guessed it, its a Christmas tree. And God's words says...
 - 1) *"You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things."* (Deut. 12:4)
 - 2) *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!*(Joshua 23:12)

3) *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her!* (I Cor. 6:16)

4) *Don't love the world or the things in the world!* (I John 2:15)

(b) You can keep your pagan feasts!

1. Who is this addressing?

1) Those who desire the day of the Lord!

2. Who are they?

1) Those who today call themselves Christians!

3. Yahweh HATES pagan feast days and the "sacred assemblies" that gather and proclaim they are doing it all for Him.

4. He will not accept it!

5. Their worship is like noise to Him!

6. What will it be like for those who identify as God's children, yet marry and consummate with the world (chase pagan practices)? It will be darkness and not light so...

1) *"You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things."* (Deut. 12:4)

2) *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!* (Joshua 23:12)

3) *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her!* (I Cor. 6:16)

4) *Don't love the world or the things in the world!* (I John 2:15)

C. Identifying Species (the DNA of the Child of God Species)

(1) We are in the WORLD but no longer part of the WORLD

(a) Once born-again, you are no longer of this world!

1. There is a good indicator that you have become a different species...the other species hates you!\
2. So, don't consummate a relationship with the species that hates you, or you will get stuck, like two pieces of parchment glued together!

(b) Out of This world (Separated by the Truth)

1. Let's reason through this DNA transplant:
 - 1) Y'shua is not praying for pagans that remain in world; He is praying for those His Father has given to Him to change their DNA.
 - 2) He is not of the world they were part of, so He has to set them apart from the world while He was with them.
 - 3) He teaches them about their separation (new DNA), so they will be joyful (no matter what happens).

- 4) They must understand that the world (pagan human DNA) will hate them because they are no longer of the world (they now have child of God DNA), just as He is not of the world (He has Son of God DNA).
 - 5) He does not want them removed from of the world (they are meant to live among the pagans).
 - 6) He leaves them so they can demonstrate their separation (their new DNA).
 - 7) However, He wants them protected from the devil (don't intermarry nor consummate with the pagan human DNA!).
 - 8) And this is how we got the same DNA as Y'shua: (Same DNA = God's children are not of the world and Y'shua is not of the world)
 - 9) His children were sanctified by the truth (the Word of God).
 - 10) He sends God's children (with God's DNA) into the pagan world to do the same for others!
- (c) Y'shua's Kingdom is NOT of this world...
1. Pilate gets a DNA lesson:
 - 1) Y'shua tells him, "My kingdom is not of this world. It's not from here."

- 2) In Y'shua's world, He is the king.
- 3) He came into the pagan world to bring truth.
- 4) Everyone who is of the truth hears His voice.
- 5) Pilate asks Him, "What is truth?"
- 6) Truth: the Word of God separates species. One is part of an earthly kingdom with its DNA; the other is part of God's kingdom with His DNA!
- 7) Pilate had no problem with this reality!

D. Spotting Species (reading DNA)

- (1) Do not love the world
 - (a) The things of the world (pagan DNA)
 1. The lust of the flesh...
 2. The lust of the eyes...
 3. The pride of life...
 4. If you love those things you are of those things!
 - (b) Those who pretend to have God DNA, but don't, eventually show their cards and leave!
 1. Those with God's DNA stay out of the world.
 2. Those faking it go back into the world!
 - (c) You should be able to tell the difference!
 1. You are anointed to know the truth! There is that word again...Truth!
 2. The truth is the Word of God

3. The word of God sanctifies and separates species.
4. One species is part of an earthly kingdom with its DNA
5. The other species is part of God's kingdom with His DNA!

(2) Come out of this world

(a) Come out of Babylon (the pagan world) my people!

(Read Revelation 18:1-8) Babylon is going down, so...

1. The world and all its pagan practices are going down!
2. Get out! If you have become intermarried, get a divorce!
3. If you have become unequally yoked with it, or had communion with it, or have been in agreement with it (II Corinthians 6:14-16)... "Come out from it and be separate [the Word of Truth does that]... Do not touch what is unclean " (II Corinthians 6:17)
 - 1) *"You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things."* (Deut. 12:4)
 - 2) *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!*(Joshua 23:12)
 - 3) *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her!* (I Cor. 6:16)

4) *Don't love the world or the things in the world! (I John 2:15)*

E. Same Species Marriage vs. Interspecies Marriage

(1) Inter-species vs. Intra-species

(a) Inter (between, among)

1. We have already learned what the wrong marriage looks like!

(b) Intra (inside, within)

1. The Betrothal then Wedding
2. The Right Marriage requires the same species!

(2) The Bridegroom Species

(a) A being of light...

1. Y'shua gives us a preview of what the glorified species looks like.
2. It is a body filled with light

(b) After the resurrection...

1. Y'shua is not recognizable in His new glorified body!

(c) On the road to Emmaus

1. The men on the road conversed with Y'shua and they could not recognize Him until He made Himself "known."
2. Then He vanished! (Glorified species can do that!)

3. Then He appears out of nowhere—and they think they see a “spirit”! (Glorified species can do that!)
- (d) Passing through walls!
 1. Glorified species can do that!
- (3) The Bride Species
 - (a) Flesh and Blood vs. Light
 1. Human bodies have flesh and blood!
 2. Glorified bodies have light in place of blood!
 3. When you are resurrected you will be changed (transfigured) from flesh and blood to beings of light!
- (4) Interspecies Marriage is not recommended!
 - (a) Repeat: Do not be unequally yoked together!
 1. Let’s take it step-by-step again!
 - 1) Do not be unequally yoked...
 - 2) No fellowship between righteousness and lawlessness...
 - 3) No communion between light and darkness...
 - 4) No accord between Christ and Belial...
 - 5) No union between believer and unbeliever..
 - 6) No agreement between the temple of God and idols... (BTW: you are the temple of God)

- 7) Therefore “Come out from among the pagan world and be separate.” (Do not engage in interspecies marriage!)
 - 8) Do not touch what is unclean (Do not consummate that union!)
- (b) Biding with a Harlot (Gluing together two parchments)!
1. Let’s take it step-by-step...
 - 1) You are betrothed to Christ (set to be in that intra-species marriage).
 - 2) Don’t you dare unite with a harlot (the pagan world) in an interspecies marriage!
 - 3) If you do, you will become ONE FLESH because that is what marriage does.
 - 4) Instead, join to the Lord in marriage (one spirit).
 - 5) Sexual immorality in this life is akin to interspecies marriage!
- (c) How do you separate from your pagan first wife? (Open your eyes and see Romans 7 like never before!)
1. Let’s take it step-by-step...
 - 1) You must understand the law to grasp this!
 - 2) This law is in effect as long as you are alive.
 - 3) The marriage bond is unbreakable as long as both spouses live (2 parchments glued together!)

- 4) If there is a death, the bond is released.
- 5) If there is an attempt to bind to another before a spouse dies, that is called adultery.
- 6) If there is a death, then you are free from that marriage law and there is no adultery.
- 7) **Key Point:** You died with Christ. You are free to remarry (this time to Christ, the same species).
- 8) **Conclusion:** The law that bound you to (the harlot, sin, the devil, wrong species) was severed when you died with Christ.
- 9) If you are free to marry another—Pick Christ!
- 10) Note: Read ALL of Romans 6 which describes the death perfectly.
- 11) **Excerpts Romans 6:** "...were baptized into His death? {5} ...united together in the likeness of His death, {11} ...reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, {14} ...you are not under law [of marriage to sin] but under grace [the power that resurrected you from death].

(d) Think about it this way...

1. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit
2. You don't belong to yourself because He purchased you at great cost.

3. It was the choice Y'shua made in garden when He decided to stay and die vs. return to His Father in Heaven.
4. If He wished to keep His Bride (that's you!), He had to stay as a bondservant (and die) because according to the law of the **Hebrew servant**, if He came in as a **bondservant** without a bride, and was then given a bride (that's you!), if He then wants to go free (not die), He has to leave without His bride. Y'shua chose to stay—that is the price He paid for you (His bride).
So, don't engage in interspecies marriage!
 - a) You were given to Him to be His bride
 - b) He loves His Father
 - c) He loves you!
 - d) He never goes back to His original form—He instead resurrects with as a glorified species so when you get your glorified species body, you can be married as the SAME SPECIES].
 - e) He left His Spirit form behind and He will never go back because He chose to keep His bride!.

Summary: WITNESS TAMPERING

2. Making Critical Decisions

A. Main Point

(1) Back to Joshua 24

(a) Admonition and Reminder

1. Fear and Serve Yahweh!
2. Serve Him in sincerity and in truth! (God's Word is truth and it separates God's people from pagans!)
3. Put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt!

(2) Here is the ultimatum...

(a) Decide which is evil and which is good

1. Choose whom you will serve!
2. Will you serve Yahweh?
3. Will you serve the other gods?
4. **Joshua chooses:** We will serve Yahweh!

(3) The people choose...

(a) Yahweh is the ONE who delivered us!

1. We won't forsake the Lord to serve other gods!
2. Yahweh is the One Who brought us out of Egypt!
3. Yahweh drove our enemies out of this land!
4. We will serve Yahweh; He is our God!

(4) Joshua warns...

(a) Yahweh is holy and jealous!

1. You cannot serve Yahweh and foreign gods at the same time!
2. Yahweh is a holy and jealous God!
3. He **will not forgive you** if you say you choose Him and then forsake Him to serve foreign gods!

a) That is called... * the Sin that leads to death!

(5) The Three Step Opt-in:

(a) Step-by-Step

1. Step One: "...**we will serve the Lord!**"
2. Joshua affirms step one: "'**You are witnesses against yourselves...**"
3. Step Two: "**We are witnesses!**"
4. Joshua affirms step two: "...**put away the foreign gods.**"
5. Step Three: "...**The Lord our God we will serve...**" Jo
6. Joshua affirms step three: "So **Joshua made a covenant with the people...**"

(6) The Covenant

(a) No going back...

1. Joshua then writes the agreement into the Book of the Law of God.

2. He takes a large stone and sets it up as a monument to commemorate the occasion!
3. The stone heard it? The stone is the Rock, and the Rock is Christ; and Christ is the witness!
4. "So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance."

(7) A bridge too far...

(a) You can't go back once you cross that bridge!

1. If you say He is your God and you say you have escaped the sins of your past...
2. And you choose to go back and get in bed with those sins (those foreign gods, the pagan world), and you bind in marriage to those sins (interspecies marriage), the outcome will be the worst it could possibly be!
 - 1) *"You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things."* (Deut. 12:4)
 - 2) *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!* (Joshua 23:12)
 - 3) *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her!* (1 Cor. 6:16)
 - 4) *Don't love the world or the things in the world!* (1 John 2:15)

B. The step-by-step path to the "Sin that leads to death!"

(1) Pharaoh's journey into darkness—a path you don't want to take!

(a) It starts off with Moses' first encounter with Pharaoh..."I don't know your God!"

1. As you will see, it is not possible to commit the "sin that leads to death" if you don't first "know Yahweh." Of course it is bad to "not know Yahweh," yet it is not irredeemable.

(b) Pharaoh begins to acknowledge that Yahweh is God

1. By the time we get to the second plague, frogs (swamp creatures), Pharaoh begins to acknowledge that Yahweh is God—this will later leave him with no excuse!

(c) Others affirm this new reality!

1. Even his own spiritual advisors inform him that this is the true God during the third plague—Lice

(d) He is God, but not my God!

1. He is the Lord, but He's your Lord, not mine...the fourth Plague—Flies

(e) The home stretch to the point of no return...

1. After the seventh plague of Fiery Hail, Pharaoh makes a critical acknowledgement: "I'm a sinner; Yahweh is righteous; pray for me."

- (f) Pharaoh is right on the edge of no return by the eighth plague—Locusts
1. How long will you refuse to humble yourself?
 2. Pharaoh even received a final warning from within his own camp: Don't you see?
 3. Pharaoh's FINAL shot at repentance; is it real; will it stick?
 4. Look closely at Pharaoh's decent into total darkness.
 - 1) It is beyond doubt at this point that Pharaoh has gone from *"Who is the LORD...I do not know the LORD"* (Exodus 5:2) to *"I have sinned against Yahweh; He is God; please forgive my sin; Pray to Yahweh for me to take away from me this death."* (Exodus 10:16-17)
 5. To commit the unpardonable sin "THE POINT OF NO RETURN", the sin that leads to death, the offender **must first acknowledge that Yahweh is the one true God, and then turn away (to other Gods)!**
 3. From Exodus 10:21-14:31...
 - 1) Then Darkness Descends over Egypt (Pharaoh). He can no longer repent as a response to God's chastisement. Instead, his fate is sealed by his own words.

- 2) Before the Death of the Firstborn, Pharaoh
CANNOT turn back!
 - 3) Even after all this, because Pharaoh no longer has
any capacity (possibility) to repent, he displays
total and complete obstinance toward the one
TRUE GOD
 - 4) The end is total destruction of God's enemies and
deliverance of His people
- (2) The decent into Total Darkness in a nutshell!
- (a) Who better than Paul could describe such?
1. Decent into Total Darkness! No excuses: punishment
is coming—you have met all the legal requirements
to commit “the sin that leads to death.”
 - 1) They knew God...
 - 2) They entertained futile thoughts...
 - 3) Their foolish hearts became dark...
 - 4) They were given over to lusts and vile passions...
 - 5) Why? Because they knew God, but don't retain
God in their knowledge (like we just saw with
Pharaoh)...
 - 6) God then gives them over to a debased mind...
 - 7) They become dreadful as they practice all sorts of
sin—They HATE GOD!

8) And in the END, the righteous judgment of God is that those who practice such things are put to death (like Pharaoh and his entire army).

(3) The unpardonable sin!

(a) Space does not permit, in this study, to elaborate on what it means to blaspheme the Holy Spirit, but these teachings will give you every detail. ([The Sin that Leads to Death](#) & [Darkness You Can Feel](#))

(b) The Bottom Line:

1. *"You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things."* (Deut. 12:4)
2. *Don't marry and consummate with pagans!* (Joshua 23:12)
3. *Don't join to a harlot in one body with her!* (1 Cor. 6:16)
4. *Don't love the world or the things in the world!* (1 John 2:15)

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. What are the people being told specifically not to do in Joshua 23:11-13?

- A. If they do what they are being told not to do, what are they warned will be the consequences?
- B. How does this passage relate to II Peter 2:20-21?
- C. How does I Corinthians 6:16 and 15:33-34 explain why they (and you) would be at such great risk?

2. What is the ultimate “fruit” of consummating a relationship with pagans according to Joshua 23:15-16?

- A. Use Matthew 13:24-30 to explain why it is so difficult to separate from pagan relationships once consummated?
- B. How does Leviticus 18:1-5 warn us not to get into those relationships in the first place?

3. Deuteronomy 12:1-4 clearly instructs God’s people that they may not participate in pagan practices, even if the intention is to worship Yahweh with them...

- A. Please explain!
- B. Define inculturation.
- C. How was the incident with the Golden Calf in Exodus 32 an exact violation of Deuteronomy 12:1-4? (Hint: Exodus 32:4-5)

- D. What modern-day practice is being described in Jeremiah 10:2-11?
- E. How do most Christians (once they recognize such) reason their continued practice of such? Now, relate that reasoning to Deuteronomy 12:1-4 and Exodus 32:4-5.
- F. What do you think Yahweh thinks about it? (See Amos 5:18-23)
- G. Bonus: What must you change in light to these new facts?

4. When we become children of God, it is clear that we change species...

- A. Use John 15:19; 17:9-19; and 18:36-38 to craft a statement in support of this concept.
- B. What precisely causes the transition?
- C. Because we become a new species in Christ, you can now go back to Joshua 23:11-13 and explain how the warning is to not intermarry or consummate with a “different species.”

5. Spotting the DNA of different species:

- A. Describe the DNA and Character traits of the Pagan Species. (See I John 2:15-19)
- B. According to I John 2:20-21, how can you be certain of the skillset to spot DNA?
- C. In the very end, what are we warned to do in relation to those with pagan DNA? (See Revelation 18:4-6)

6. We, as God's children, are the betrothed bride of Christ (See: John 14:3 and Revelation 19:7).

- A. Please describe the DNA and character traits of the Bridegroom Species. (See: Matthew 17:1-2; John 20:14; Luke 24:28-37; John 20:19)
- B. Please describe the DNA and character traits of the Bride Species. (See: I Corinthians 15:50-52)
- C. Explain why we are then considered the same species, thus permitted to marry.

7. According to II Corinthians 6:14-18, why is interspecies marriage is not permitted?

- A. What is I Corinthians 6:15-18 describing when you keep Joshua 23:11-13 in mind.
- B. What makes separation from this transgression so difficult when you keep Matthew 13:24-30 in mind?
- C. Read Romans 6:1 to 7:6. What is the only way to break the bond of a previous interspecies marriage? (Help: refer to sermon notes pages 45-48)
- D. I Corinthians 6:19-20 inspires us to count the cost of our redemption before we do anything foolish. Read Philippians 2:5-8 and Exodus 21:1-6 and relate those passages to the real price Y'shua paid. (Help: refer to sermon notes pages 48-50)

8. Joshua 24:14-27 is the quintessential passage in the Bible that teaches us about the critical nature of our decision to follow God...

- A. Describe the warnings about serving fake Gods once you choose to follow Yahweh.
- B. Describe the three step opt-in process in Joshua 24:21-25.
- C. Describe what Joshua says will serve as a witness to the people's decision. (See Joshua 24:26-27)
- D. How might the rock of Joshua 24:26-27 be related to I Corinthians 10:1-4?

9. Bonus: read the sermon notes pages 57-64...

- A. Describe in your own words the step-by-step path to the "sin that leads to death!"