



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

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

Title:

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

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
2. “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
3. “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

(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

(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

(3) Inculturation

(a) 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

(b) 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
3. "**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. 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

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

(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

(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

2. "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

3. "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

(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

(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

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

(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

(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

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
 - (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
 - (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
- (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

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
- (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
 - (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
 - (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
 - (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
- (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
- (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

(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

(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
2. "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
2. "*Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless **not My will, but Yours, be done.**"*" Luke 22:42 NKJV
3. ""Now these are the judgments which you shall set before them: **If you buy a Hebrew servant [Y'shual],** 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

4. "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

(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

(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

(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

2. *“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
3. *“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
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
3. *“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
4. *“So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance.”* Joshua 24:28 NKJV

(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

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
 - (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
 - (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
 - (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
 - (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
 - (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
- (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