



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- Job 42:1-3; Jonah 1:3
- Genesis 32:24; 50:20
- Jeremiah 29:11; 4:3-4
- Ezekiel 36:26

SURRENDER MY RIGHTS

- Surrender Agendas
- Practice Flexible
- The Four J's: Job, Jonah, Jacob, and Joseph

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

"Beloved, now we are children of God. **It is not yet revealed what we will be; but we know that when He is revealed, we will be like Him**, for we will see Him just as He is." 1 John 3:2 WEBUS

"...'Who is this **who hides counsel without knowledge?**' therefore **I have uttered that which I didn't understand, things too wonderful for me, which I didn't know.**" Job 42:3 WEBUS

"But **Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of Yahweh...**" Jonah 1:3 WEBUS

"**Jacob was left alone, and wrestled** with a man there until the breaking of the day." Genesis 32:24 WEBUS

"As for you, **you meant evil** against me, but **God meant it for good**, to save many people alive, as is happening today." Genesis 50:20 WEBUS

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,” says Yahweh, “thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 WEBUS

“...I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26 WEBUS

“...Break up your fallow ground, and don’t sow among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to Yahweh, and take away the foreskins of your heart...” Jeremiah 4:3-4 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION:

Cease resistance; abandon control of your life entirely, and come into complete submission to God. That’s what it means to surrender. When Y’shua returns, some of you will be like Him. And for that transformation to occur, it requires that you surrender your own agenda and practice being flexible.

Pray this without ceasing: “God, I recognize that my agendas, my personal intentions and motives, may not necessarily match Your plans and strategies for me. I admit that an agenda cemented in stone is like a shackle around my neck. I know You have removed my heart of stone and replaced it with a heart of flesh. It’s time for me to align my life with Your reality. I am ready to surrender and to be flexible. Resistance is futile. I can run, but I can’t hide. I can fight,

but I can't win. At some point, my exhaustion will cause me to fall into Your loving arms. My destiny is inevitable; so why not allow myself to experience Your full embrace right now, before I waste any more time? God, I know You have a plan for me and it's a good plan. I know it is my responsibility, and it's time, to align my life with Your agenda, and no longer fight to align Your agenda with my life."

Whoever won't surrender their own agendas and instead practice being flexible with whatever the Lord has for them simply won't become like Him.

SURRENDER THAT I HAVE ANY RIGHTS AT ALL!

1. Surrender My Rights: Surrender Agendas & Practice Flexible

A. Surrender Agendas

(1) **Introduction:** a personal agenda is like a cemented in stone shackle around your neck. But, God has removed your heart of stone and replaced it with a heart of flesh. It's time for your life to align with that reality.

(a) **Surrender Agendas:** Recognize that your personal intentions and motives may not necessarily match God's plans and strategies for you.

(b) We will explore the lives of four men to see this very idea in action: **Job, Jonah, Jacob and Joseph.**

(c) Note: ***"If you're not changing it you're choosing it!"***

1. “Then Job answered Yahweh: **“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be restrained. You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ therefore I have uttered that which I didn’t understand, things too wonderful for me, which I didn’t know.”** Job 42:1-3

WEBUS

- a) Job is the perfect introduction to the **Surrendered Agenda**.
- b) He was innocent, so he thought he was doing the right thing by defending his choices and actions, when he finally comes to realize, ***“I have uttered that which I didn’t understand.”***

(2) A Heart of Stone to a Heart of Flesh

- (a) This is what it takes to align your agenda with God’s agenda for you!
 1. “For I will take you from among the nations **and gather you out of all the countries,** and will bring you into your own land. **I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean.** I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. **I will also give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. I will take away the stony heart out of**

your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. I will put my **Spirit** within you, and **cause you to walk in my statutes.** You will keep my ordinances and do them." Ezekiel 36:24-27 WEBUS

- a) God's children act predictably throughout history.
 - b) He delivers them—they rebel—He scatters them into the nations—and then He cleanses them.
 - c) The only way for them (and us) to ***"to walk in His statutes," to "obey Yahweh's voice and do all His commandments,"*** is to have an encounter with the Holy Spirit and to receive a heart transplant.
- (b) The heart of stone to heart of flesh heart transplant takes place when ***"Yahweh circumcises your heart."***
1. "It shall happen, when all these things have come on you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you shall call them to mind **among all the nations where Yahweh your God has driven you, and return to Yahweh your God and obey his voice** according to all that I command you today, you and your children, **with all your heart and with all your soul, that then Yahweh your God will release you from captivity,** have compassion on you, and will return and gather you from all the peoples where

Yahweh your God has scattered you. If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of the heavens, from there Yahweh your God will gather you, and from there he will bring you back. Yahweh your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you will possess it. He will do you good, and increase your numbers more than your fathers. **Yahweh your God will circumcise your heart,** and the heart of your offspring, **to love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.** Yahweh your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. **You shall return and obey Yahweh's voice, and do all his commandments** which I command you today. Yahweh your God will make you prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your ground, for good; for Yahweh will again rejoice over you for good, as he rejoiced over your fathers, **if you will obey Yahweh your God's voice, to keep his commandments** and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, **if you turn to Yahweh your God**

with all your heart and with all your soul."

Deuteronomy 30:1-10 WEBUS

a) Ezekiel saw it in the Spirit, but what he prophesied was nothing new. Even before God's chosen people crossed into the Promised Land to receive their inheritance, Moses prophesied (in Deuteronomy 30)...

- 1) They would rebel and be scattered among the nations.
- 2) They would return to Yahweh and obey His voice (all His commands), with their whole heart and soul, and Yahweh would release them from captivity.
- 3) Their repentance would be possible only because Yahweh would circumcise their hearts.
- 4) Their new hearts would give them new life, and allow them to love Yahweh with all their heart and soul.
- 5) They would return to Yahweh and be prosperous—but only if they obey Yahweh and keep his commandments and statutes that are written in the book of the law.
- 6) In other words—surrender personal agendas!

(3) But this shackle around my neck (this need to pursue my own agenda), it's too difficult to deal with...

(a) Y'shua says, if you let Him carry your burden, it will not be too difficult!

1. ""Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. **Take my yoke upon you and learn from me**, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you will find rest for your souls. **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**""

Matthew 11:28-30 WEBUS

a) To truly understand "***my yoke is easy, and my burden is light,***" Let's look at what happened to you when you confessed Y'shua as Lord and Savior...

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

WEBUS

(4) Let's look at the passages in Romans 10:5-8 that led to your confession of faith. See [Cognitive Dissonance](#)

- (a) It is revealing how Paul matches Romans 10:5-8 with Moses' words from Deuteronomy 30:11-14, theme for theme. But why should we be surprised? Y'shua taught us that Moses was writing about Him...
1. *"For **if you believed Moses**, you would believe me; for **he wrote about me**."* John 5:46 WEBUS
 - a) Deuteronomy 30 refers to all of God's commandments, as that is precisely what Deuteronomy is, a second telling of God's laws.
 - b) Moreover, the entire theme of the chapter is that with a circumcised heart you will return to the Lord and obey His commandments, and they will not be too difficult to obey.
 - (b) Paul claims that Moses introduced us to the righteousness of the law and Paul is teaching us that it is synonymous with the righteousness of faith because the law can only be obeyed by faith, and under those conditions it is not too difficult.
 1. **Moses writes:** "For **this commandment** which I command you today **is not too hard** for you or too distant." Deuteronomy 30:11 WEBUS

2. **Paul writes:** “For **Moses writes** about **the righteousness of the law**, “**The one who does them will live by them.*”” Romans 10:5 WEBUS
 - a) Paul see the ***righteousness of the law as not too difficult*** (under certain conditions). He explains...
 - b) (*Leviticus 18:5) Moses writes in Leviticus 18:1-5 that obedience to God’s commands brings life!
 - (c) The righteousness of faith: Paul teaches that God’s law is equivalent to Christ!
1. **Moses writes:** “**It is not in heaven**, that you should say, “**Who will go up for us to heaven, bring it to us**, and proclaim it to us, **that we may do it?**”” Deuteronomy 30:12 WEBUS
 2. **Paul writes:** “But **the righteousness which is of faith** says this, “**Don’t say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’** (that is, **to bring Christ down**);” Romans 10:6 WEBUS
 - a) Obedience is not too difficult (if Christ is in you)!
 - b) Christ is to whom Moses is prophetically referring; “*For **if you believed Moses**, you would believe me; for **he wrote about me.***” John 5:46
 - (d) The righteousness of faith: Again, Paul equates God’s law to Christ!

1. **Moses writes:** “Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who will go over the sea for us, **bring it to us, and proclaim it to us, that we may do it?**””
Deuteronomy 30:13 WEBUS
2. **Paul writes:** “or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, **to bring Christ up from the dead.**)”” Romans 10:7 WEBUS
 - a) Obedience is not too difficult (if Christ is in you)!
 - b) Christ is to whom Moses is prophetically referring;
“...**he wrote about me.**” John 5:46
- (e) Obedience to God’s law is not too difficult; it’s as easy as Christ in you! That is the word of faith Paul is preaching.
1. **Moses writes:** “But **the word is very near to you**, in your mouth and **in your heart, that you may do it.**”
Deuteronomy 30:14 WEBUS
2. **Paul writes:** “But what does it say? “**The word is near you**, in your mouth and **in your heart;**” **that is, the word of faith which we preach:**” Romans 10:8
WEBUS
 - a) Can you acknowledge that the word Paul draws down from Deuteronomy emphasizes that when

God's word is in your heart (in context, your circumcised heart), you will be able to obey it?

- b) And can you also acknowledge that he says that is what he has been preaching?
- (f) The biggest revelation is yet to be come...and it's what comes next!

- 1. "that if you will **confess with your mouth** that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **For with the heart one believes resulting in righteousness**; and with the mouth confession is made resulting in salvation."

Romans 10:9-10 WEBUS

- a) The word of faith that Paul is preaching is that with Christ in you, with a circumcised heart, obeying God is not too difficult.
- b) And, that is to what you are confessing.
 - 1) In Christ, the righteousness of the law and the righteousness of faith are equivalent, because it is only by faith that you can obey God's law.
 - 2) And with Christ, with your circumcised heart, it is not too difficult to obey God's law.
- c) It is also important to acknowledge that without Christ, obedience to the law is impossible, and

with Him it is still necessary—just no longer too difficult! And doing so is precisely how we prove our love for God.

1) “For ***this is loving God, that we keep his commandments. His commandments are not grievous.*** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world: ***your faith.***” 1 John 5:3-4
WEBUS

2) “...***His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.***”
Matthew 11:30

(5) It's time for your life to align with God's reality.

(a) Life and death (His agenda, not your own).

1. “**Behold, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and evil.** For I command you today to love Yahweh your God, to walk in his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances, that you may live and multiply, and that Yahweh your God may bless you in the land where you go in to possess it. **But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away and worship other gods, and serve them,** I declare to you today that you will surely perish. You will not prolong

your days in the land where you pass over the Jordan to go in to possess it. **I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore choose life, that you may live,** you and your descendants, **to love Yahweh your God, to obey his voice, and to cling to him; for he is your life, and the length of your days,** that you may dwell in the land which Yahweh swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.” Deuteronomy 30:15-20 WEBUS

- a) Make a choice: heaven and earth will witness for or against you. You have before you...
 - 1) **Life, prosperity and blessings:** if you love Yahweh; walk in His ways; keep His commandments, statutes, and ordinances.
 - 2) **Death, evil and curses:** if your heart turns away and is drawn to worship other gods.
 - 3) **Choose life:** love Yahweh, obey His voice, and cling to Him; He is your life; and He chooses how long you will live.

(6) Personal intentions and motives may not necessarily match God's plans and strategies for you.

(a) When making plans, say, “If the Lord wills...”

1. “Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow let’s go into this city and spend a year there, trade, and make a profit.” **Yet you don’t know what your life will be like tomorrow.** For what is your life? For you are a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. **For you ought to say, “If the Lord wills,** we will both live, and do this or that.” But now you glory in your boasting. All such boasting is evil. **To him therefore who knows to do good and doesn’t do it, to him it is sin.”** James 4:13-17 WEBUS

a) When contemplating your future:

- 1) **Don’t say...** this is my plan; and this is what I am going to do. You really have no idea what will happen in the next moment. You don’t even know when you will take your last breath. Life is too short to waste any time striving to do your own thing.
- 2) **Do say...** “If it is the Lord’s will, I’ll wake with breath in my lungs tomorrow and He will allow me to work for Him one more day!” The secret to life is to do whatever God tells you to do; those who are negligent are living in sin.

B. Practice Flexible

- (1) **Introduction:** Resistance is futile. You can run, but you can't hide. You can fight, but you can't win. At some point, your exhaustion will cause you to fall into the loving arms of your Creator. Your destiny is inevitable; so, why not allow yourself to experience His full embrace right now, before you waste any more time?
- (a) **Practice Flexible:** God has a plan for you and it's a good plan. Your responsibility is to align your life with His agenda, not to align His agenda with your life.
 1. "For **I know the thoughts that I think toward you [the plans I have for you],**" says Yahweh, "thoughts of peace, and not of evil, **to give you hope and a future.**" Jeremiah 29:11 WEBUS
 - a) God's plan for you is good. What will ruin God's plan is your deceived, corrupt, and hard heart.
 - 1) "*The **heart is deceitful** above all things and it is **exceedingly corrupt.** Who can know it? "I, **Yahweh, search the mind. I try the heart,** even to give every man **according to his ways,** according to **the fruit of his doings.**"*" Jeremiah 17:9-10 WEBUS

**(2) From the bareness of a corrupt immovable heart of stone
to the harvest of a obedient pliable heart of flesh...**

(a) The admonition: when man sows his own plans in his own heart, they don't bear fruit.

1. "For **Yahweh says to the men of Judah** and to Jerusalem, "**Break up your fallow ground**, and don't **sow among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to Yahweh, and take away the foreskins of your heart**, you men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; **lest my wrath go out like fire**, and burn so that no one can quench it, because of the evil of your doings."
Jeremiah 4:3-4 WEBUS

a) Your heart must be circumcised unto Yahweh or you will forever be planting your own seeds, in infertile soil, in fields infiltrated with invasive weeds.

b) This very passage in Jeremiah is to what Y'shua was referring in His parable of the seeds and four soils, specifically the seed sown in the third soil type...

1) "*He spoke to them many things in parables, saying, "Behold, a farmer **went out to sow**. {7} Others fell among thorns. **The thorns grew up and choked them.**"* Matthew 13:3, 7 WEBUS

c) The soil is very definitely a metaphor for the heart in this parable, which further confirms Y'shua's reference to Jeremiah's prophesy, "***Circumcise yourselves to Yahweh, and take away the foreskins of your heart.***"

1) "***When anyone hears the word of the Kingdom and doesn't understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart.*** This is what was sown by the roadside." Matthew 13:19 WEBUS

d) When Y'shua explains the meaning of the parable, He teaches us that when seeds are sown in a field with infertile soil, infiltrated with invasive weeds (a hard, corrupt, and immovable heart), it's as if God's plans for your life are choked off by the things of the world and by chasing after wealth. This never bears kingdom fruit.

1) "***What was sown among the thorns, this is he who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.***" Matthew 13:22
WEBUS

2) **The harvest of a deceived corrupt heart:** “*to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.”* Jer. 17:10

(b) The Remedy: a circumcised pliable heart of flesh (and the work of the law written in your heart)...

1. “**For it isn’t the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be justified** (for when Gentiles who don’t have the law do by nature the things of the law, these, not having the law, are a law to themselves, in that **they show the work of the law written in their hearts**, their **conscience testifying** with them, and their thoughts among themselves accusing or else excusing them)” Romans 2:13-15 WEBUS

- a) Hearing God’s word is one thing; anyone can hear it. Obeying God’s word is altogether different.
- b) Doing God’s law is a matter of faith-based-obedience, the power to do so being fueled by God’s grace in those who are justified by God.
- c) The work of the law written in the heart is an analogue to the circumcised heart.

- d) In fact, chronic disobedience to God's commands is a sure sign that your heart is indeed uncircumcised.
- 1) *"For circumcision indeed profits, **if you are a doer of the law**, but if you are a transgressor of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. **If therefore the uncircumcised keep the ordinances of the law, won't his uncircumcision be accounted as circumcision?**"*
Romans 2:25-26 WEBUS
- e) This all points back to Y'shua's parable and Jeremiah's prophesy:
- 1) *"If you sow your seeds in infertile soil and among invasive weeds, you will hear God's word and let the lusts of this world choke it out of you. Instead, circumcise your heart unto Yahweh; cultivate the soil of your heart and rid your fields of invasive weeds, so you are not sowing where nothing godly will ever grow."*
- f) Or, as the apostle Paul so eloquently explains...
- 1) *"Won't those who are physically uncircumcised, but fulfill the law, judge you, who with the letter and circumcision are a transgressor of the law?"*

*For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly,
neither is that circumcision which is outward in
the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly,
and circumcision is that of the heart, in the
spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from
men, but from God.” Romans 2:27-29 WEBUS*

g) Remember (Deut. 30:15-20)...

- 1) **Choose life:** love Yahweh, obey His voice, and cling to Him; He is your life; and He chooses how long you will live.

C. The Four J's and Agendas: Job, Jonah, Jacob, and Joseph

(1) Job: *“I have uttered that which I didn't understand, things too wonderful for me, which I didn't know.”*

(a) Resistance is futile. You can run, but you can't hide. You can fight, but you can't win. At some point, your exhaustion will cause you to fall into the loving arms of your Creator. Your destiny is inevitable; so, why not allow yourself to experience His full embrace right now, before you waste any more time?

1. “There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job. **That man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God, and turned away from evil.”**

Job 1:1 WEBUS

- a) The story begins with the truth that Job had done nothing wrong, nothing deserving of what was about to come.
- b) And even so, we learn from his horrific tribulations that he too had an agenda, a cemented in stone shackle around his neck. How is that possible?
 - 1) *“The **heart is deceitful** above all things and it is **exceedingly corrupt**. Who can know it? “I, **Yahweh, search the mind. I try the heart**, even to give every man **according to his ways**, according to **the fruit of his doings**.””* Jeremiah 17:9-10 WEBUS
- c) Job was *“**blameless and upright**”* going into his testing, but what the testing proved was that Job could not help himself; he insisted on defending himself every step of the way. And when Yahweh had finally heard enough...
 - 1) *“Then Yahweh answered Job out of the whirlwind, “**Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man, for I will question you, then you answer me!**”* Job 38:1-3 WEBUS

- 2) (In Job 38:1-41 & 39:1-30) Yahweh makes it perfectly clear that Job was nowhere to be found when He created and orchestrated everything in creation. *“Where were you when...?”, and “Who was it that...?”*
- d) Job realizes he has said way too much already; in fact he likely realizes he should have never said a single word in his own defense. Now, he’d rather not answer any questions, but Yahweh says, *“Man up; you will answer Me!”*
- 1) *“Moreover Yahweh answered Job, **“Shall he who argues contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it.”** Then Job answered Yahweh, “Behold, I am of small account. **What will I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth. I have spoken once, and I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further.**” Then Yahweh answered Job out of the whirlwind: **“Now brace yourself like a man. I will question you, and you will answer me.”** Job 40:1-7 WEBUS*
- 2) (In Job 40:8-24 & Job 41:1-34) We get more clarity on who is God and who is not!

- e) Job realizes and admits that he has been talking about things that he knows nothing about!
- 1) *“Then Job answered Yahweh: “I know that you can do all things, and that **no purpose of yours can be restrained**. You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ therefore **I have uttered that which I didn’t understand, things too wonderful for me, which I didn’t know.**”* Job 42:1-3 WEBUS
- f) We might even see what comes next as Job’s “born-again” experience. Job’s heart of stone must be replaced with a heart of flesh. It’s time for Job to align his life completely with God’s agenda. Job KNEW ABOUT Yahweh; but now he comes to KNOW Yahweh!
- 1) *“You said, ‘Listen, now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you will answer me.’ **I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.**”* Job 42:4-6 WEBUS
- 2) **Surrender Agendas:** to recognize that your personal intentions and motives may not have matched God’s plans and strategies for you.

g) Job's friends are rebuked (Job 42:7-9) and Job is restored double for his trouble!

1) ***"Yahweh restored Job's prosperity when he prayed for his friends. Yahweh gave Job twice as much as he had before."*** Job 42:10 WEBUS

2) *"So Yahweh blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning..."* Job 42:12 WEBUS

(2) Jonah: *"Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of Yahweh."*

(a) Resistance is futile. You can run, but you can't hide. You can fight, but you can't win. At some point, your exhaustion will cause you to fall into the loving arms of your Creator. Your destiny is inevitable; so, why not allow yourself to experience His full embrace right now, before you waste any more time?

1. **"Now Yahweh's word came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach against it, for their wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of Yahweh.** He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid its fare, and went down into it, to go with them to

Tarshish from the presence of Yahweh.” Jonah 1:1-3

WEBUS

- a) Yahweh had a plan for Jonah, but Jonah had his own agenda!
 - 1) Yahweh told Jonah to, “Arise, go to Nineveh.”
 - 2) But, Jonah fled to Tarshish and from the presence of Yahweh.
- (b) You can run, but you can’t hide!
 - 1. **“But Yahweh sent out a great wind on the sea,** and there was a mighty storm on the sea, so that the ship was likely to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and every man cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone down into the innermost parts of the ship and he was laying down, and was fast asleep. So the ship master came to him, and said to him, “What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God! Maybe your God will notice us, so that we won’t perish.” They all said to each other, “Come! Let’s cast lots, that we may know who is responsible for this evil that is on us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they asked him, “Tell us, please, for whose cause this evil is on us. What is

your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? Of what people are you?" He said to them, **"I am a Hebrew, and I fear Yahweh, the God of heaven,** who has made the sea and the dry land." Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "What have you done?" **For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of Yahweh, because he had told them.** Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may be calm to us?" For the sea grew more and more stormy. He said to them, **"Take me up, and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will be calm for you; for I know that because of me this great storm is on you."**

Nevertheless the men rowed hard to get them back to the land; but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. Therefore they cried to Yahweh, and said, "We beg you, Yahweh, we beg you, don't let us die for this man's life, and don't lay on us innocent blood; for you, Yahweh, have done as it pleased you." **So they took up Jonah and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased its raging.** Then the men feared Yahweh exceedingly; and they offered

a sacrifice to Yahweh and made vows.” Jonah 1:4-16

WEBUS

- a) Storms always follow those running from God!
 - 1) “Run and God will insert Himself to “break apart” your boat (plan).
 - 2) Others will be adversely affected by your rebellion, even while you remain asleep—unaware of the pain you are causing.
 - 3) God will use whatever or whomever it takes to wake you up—even if it takes giving a supernatural revelation to a pagan!
 - 4) Someone will intervene, if necessary, to make you remember who you are, whom you serve, and that you are running from God.
 - 5) You will be reminded that you are responsible for the consequences of your actions and that you must do something about it to fix the problem.
 - 6) Eventually you will be forced to “own up.”
“This storm is my fault!”
 - 7) And even if those around you try to cover for you, it won’t last.

8) *“So they took up Jonah and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased its raging.”*

(c) Jonah was running in the opposite direction, but God had a different agenda...

1. **“Yahweh prepared a huge fish to swallow up Jonah,** and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.” Jonah 1:17 WEBUS

a) Jonah leapt into the sea (still hoping to avoid God’s agenda)...

1) The storm instantly stopped.

2) The innocent victims of Jonah’s rebellion were spared.

3) Jonah was apprehended by God and given a 72-hour “time out” to reflect.

b) Jonah has “regrets” and “repents.” He agrees to surrender his own agenda and to obey God’s calling (Jonah 2:1-9).

1) ***“But I will sacrifice to you with the voice of thanksgiving. I will pay that which I have vowed. Salvation belongs to Yahweh.”***” Jonah 2:9 WEBUS

c) God deposits Jonah smack in the middle of His agenda for Jonah’s life.

- 1) *“Then Yahweh spoke to **the fish, and it vomited out Jonah on the dry land.**”* Jonah 2:10 WEBUS

(d) Yahweh’s word came to Jonah a second time...

1. **“Yahweh’s word came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I give you.” So Jonah arose, and went to Nineveh,** according to Yahweh’s word. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey across. Jonah began to enter into the city a day’s journey, and he cried out, and said, **“In forty days, Nineveh will be overthrown!” The people of Nineveh believed God;** and they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from their greatest even to their least.”

a) The first time, Jonah fled from the presence of the Lord and chased his own agenda.

- 1) This time Jonah follows the Lord’s agenda and the results are miraculous.

- 2) The pagans believed God and repented!

b) And Yahweh saw their repentant hearts and relented from punishing them.

- 1) *“**God saw their works,** that they turned from their evil way. **God relented** of the disaster*

which he said he would do to them, and he didn't do it." Jonah 3:10 WEBUS

(e) But, somehow, Jonah hated the idea that God would forgive these pagans...

1. **"But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. He prayed to Yahweh, and said, "Please, Yahweh, wasn't this what I said when I was still in my own country? Therefore I hurried to flee to Tarshish, for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness, and you relent of doing harm. Therefore now, Yahweh, take, I beg you, my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."** Yahweh said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"
- Jonah 4:1-4 WEBUS

a) Jonah reveals another agenda of his corrupt heart.

- 1) He was distraught that Yahweh would not destroy these people after he went out of his way to expose their sins.
- 2) Jonah would rather be dead than witness them be forgiven.
- 3) Yahweh is clear here; that is not His heart at all towards anyone who repents.

(f) The vine... Jonah 4:5-11

1. “Yahweh said, “**You have been concerned for the vine, for which you have not labored**, neither made it grow; which came up in a night and perished in a night. **Shouldn’t I be concerned for Nineveh**, that great city, in which are more than one hundred twenty thousand persons who can’t discern between their right hand and their left hand, and also many animals?””Jonah 4:10-11 WEBUS
 - a) Jonah just can’t get over his own agenda!
 - 1) Jonah is more concerned that the vine that sprang up to give him shade withered, than he is for the lives of his fellow humans.
 - b) Jonah’s response is very SAD!
 - 1) **Shackled Agendas Deceive**

(3) Jacob: *“Jacob was left alone, and wrestled with a man there until the breaking of the day.”*

- (a) Resistance is futile. You can run, but you can’t hide. You can fight, but you can’t win. At some point, your exhaustion will cause you to fall into the loving arms of your Creator. Your destiny is inevitable; so, why not allow yourself to experience His full embrace right now, before you waste any more time?

1. “Jacob was left alone, **and wrestled with a man there until the breaking of the day.** When **he saw that he didn’t prevail against him,** the man touched the hollow of his thigh, and the hollow of Jacob’s thigh was strained as he wrestled. The man said, “Let me go, for the day breaks.” **Jacob said, “I won’t let you go unless you bless me.”** He said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob”. **He said, “Your name will no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have fought with God and with men, and have prevailed.”** Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” He said, “Why is it that you ask what my name is?” So he blessed him there.” Genesis 32:24-29 WEBUS

- a) Jacob’s inevitable destiny is Israel!
 - 1) Jacob wrestled with God and God saw that Jacob was relentless.
 - 2) Jacob said, “I won’t let you go unless you bless me.”
 - 3) For his persistence, Jacob is renamed Israel—it becomes his new identity.
 - 4) Jacob: a supplanter, or one who tries to replace another or supersede something.

- 5) Israel: one who fights with God and prevails.
- b) You too have a new name, a new identity.
Embrace it! Your destiny is inevitable; don't waste any more time running from it?
- 1) ***“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.”*** 2
Corinthians 5:17 WEBUS
- 2) ***“Don't lie to one another, seeing that **you have put off the old man** with his doings, **and have put on the new man**, who is being renewed in knowledge after the image of his Creator,”***
Colossians 3:9-10 WEBUS
- c) Your name will no longer be called Jacob—one who attempts to supersede God's plan, but Israel, one who overcomes with God!
- 1) “Therefore **remember that once you, the Gentiles** in the flesh, who are called “uncircumcision” by that which is called “circumcision” (in the flesh, made by hands), that you were **at that time separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of the**

promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off are made near** in the blood of Christ.” Ephesians 2:11-13 WEBUS

(4) Joseph: *“Don’t be afraid, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to save many people alive, as is happening today.”*

(a) Resistance is futile. You can run, but you can’t hide. You can fight, but you can’t win. At some point, your exhaustion will cause you to fall into the loving arms of your Creator. Your destiny is inevitable; so, why not allow yourself to experience His full embrace right now, before you waste any more time?

1. Joseph was given clear prophetic dreams about his grand calling in life.
2. But Joseph made a number of strategic errors with how he presented those dreams to his family (father and brothers).
3. Inevitably, Yahweh used a long season of trials and testing, blessings and favor, to craft Joseph into the man who He would use to save His people (the world).

(b) As a servant in Potiphar’s house...

1. **“Joseph was brought down to Egypt. Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh’s, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the hand of the Ishmaelites that had brought him down there. Yahweh was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man. He was in the house of his master the Egyptian. His master saw that Yahweh was with him, and that Yahweh made all that he did prosper in his hand. Joseph found favor in his sight. He ministered to him, and Potiphar made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.”** Genesis 39:1-4

WEBUS

- a) After Joseph is sold into slavery, he was purchased by Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh’s guard.
- b) The favor of Yahweh is over Joseph’s life and everything he touches prospers.
- c) Of course, this does not go unnoticed by Potiphar, who wisely puts Joseph in charge of everything in his estate, and he watches his household flourish.
 - 1) Unfortunately, the season of favor comes to an abrupt end as Potiphar’s wife pursues Joseph sexually and eventually accuses him of rape, even though he is completely innocent.

2) Potiphar has him thrown in prison.

(c) As a prisoner...

1. **“Joseph’s master took him, and put him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were bound, and he was there in custody. But Yahweh was with Joseph, and showed kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. The keeper of the prison committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever they did there, he was responsible for it. The keeper of the prison didn’t look after anything that was under his hand, because Yahweh was with him; and that which he did, Yahweh made it prosper.”** Genesis 39:20-23

WEBUS

- a) Again we Yahweh’s favor is over Joseph and he thrives in prison.
- b) The prison warden puts Joseph in charge of the entire prison and all the prisoners.
- c) The warden placed so much responsibility into Joseph’s hands, that he didn’t have to do anything himself to keep the prison running perfectly.
 - 1) There are two important fellow prisoners serving time with Joseph.

2) One is the King's Baker and the other is the King's Cup Bearer.

3) Each has a prophetic dream that Joseph interprets with inspiration from God.

(d) As a dream interpreter (Part I)...

1. "Within three more days, Pharaoh will lift up your head, and **restore you to your office. You will give Pharaoh's cup into his hand**, the way you did when you were his cup bearer. **But remember me** when it is well with you. Please show kindness to me, and make mention of me to Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house." Genesis 40:13-14 WEBUS

a) Both the King's Baker and the King's Cup Bearer have disturbing dreams...

1) Yahweh interprets the dreams through Joseph.

2) It is bad news for the baker and great news for the cup bearer.

3) One will be executed; one will be released.

4) The interpretation proves accurate.

5) As the cup bearer is being released from prison, Joseph asks him to bring to Pharaoh's attention that he is undeserving of the sentence he is serving in prison; he is an innocent man.

b) He will eventually do so, but not until TWO YEARS later!

- 1) ***“At the end of two full years, Pharaoh dreamed, and behold, he stood by the river.”***

Genesis 41:1 WEBUS

(e) As a dream interpreter (Part II)...

1. “Pharaoh said to his servants, **“Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?”**

Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Because God has shown you all of this, **there is no one so discreet and wise as you. You shall be over my house.** All my people will be ruled according to your word. Only in the throne I will be greater than you.” Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Behold, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.””

Genesis 41:38-41 WEBUS

a) Pharaoh has two disturbing dreams...

- 1) None of Pharaoh’s magicians or servants can interpret the dreams.
- 2) Pharaoh is becoming increasingly frustrated when the cup bearer finally remembers his fellow prisoner who was skilled at interpreting dreams.

- 3) He informs pharaoh about Joseph who has him brought to the King's Court to interpret his dreams.
 - 4) Pharaoh is so impressed by his interpretation, for which Joseph gives Yahweh credit, that he puts him second in charge over all of Egypt, and the manager of grain collection, storage, and distribution program that will eventually "save the world."
- b) This is about whom Y'shua was referring in His prophetic end-of-the-age discourse in Matthew 24. **His admonition:** we are to be like Joseph when He returns at the **end of the age**.
- 1) *“**Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord has set over his household, to give them their food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his Lord finds doing so when he comes.** Most certainly I tell you that he will set him over all that he has.”* Matthew 24:45-47

WEBUS

(f) As a preserver of life...

1. "Then Joseph couldn't control himself before all those who stood before him, and he called out, "Cause

everyone to go out from me!" No one else stood with him, while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. He wept aloud. The Egyptians heard, and the house of Pharaoh heard. Joseph said to his brothers, **"I am Joseph! Does my father still live?"** His brothers couldn't answer him; for they were terrified at his presence. Joseph said to his brothers, **"Come near to me, please."** They came near. He said, **"I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. Now don't be grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are yet five years, in which there will be no plowing and no harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to save you alive by a great deliverance. So now it wasn't you who sent me here, but God, and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, Lord of all his house, and ruler over all the land of Egypt."** Genesis 45:1-8 WEBUS

- a) Everything in Pharaoh's dreams played out exactly how it was interpreted by Joseph.

- 1) A great seven-year famine came upon Egypt and the surrounding world.
 - 2) But, not before there were seven years of double portion harvest.
 - 3) Under Joseph's supervision, Egypt stored enough grain in the seven years of abundance to provide for its own survival and for those in the surrounding area.
 - 4) **God's Agenda:** Joseph's family (Israel) and their future generations were preserved alive because Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and persevered through seasons of favor and suffering.
 - 5) It was not on Joseph's agenda to live his life in Egypt as a slave, a prisoner, and eventually a prince, but it was Yahweh's agenda.
 - 6) *"God sent me before you to preserve life. It wasn't you who sent me here, but God."*
- b) After the death of their father Jacob, Joseph's brothers remained cautious, not sure if Joseph would exact revenge, now that their father was no longer there to protect them. Joseph's response

comes from a man who clearly knows that he lived a life according to God's agenda and not his own.

- 1) *"Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid, for am I in the place of God? As for you, **you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to save many people alive, as is happening today.**"*

Genesis 50:19-20 WEBUS

- 2) In other words: *"**God sent me** before you to preserve life. **It wasn't you who sent me here, but God.**"*

(5) Here I am. Send me!

- (a) You too have have the responsibility to align your life with God's agenda, not attempt to align God's agenda with your life.

1. "I heard the Lord's voice, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, **"Here I am. Send me!"**" Isaiah 6:8 WEBUS

- a) We see God's agenda clearly playing out in the lives of the **Four J's**: Job, Jonah, Jacob, and Joseph.

- (b) Now, add your name to that list!

1. "But now I come to you, and I say these things in the world, that they may have my joy made full in themselves. **I have given them your word.** The world

hated them because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **I pray not that you would take them from the world, but that you would keep them from the evil one.** They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth. **As you sent me into the world, even so I have sent them into the world.** For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. **“Not for these only do I pray, but for those also who will believe in me through their word,** that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that you sent me. **The glory which you have given me, I have given to them, that they may be one, even as we are one,** I in them, and you in me, that they may be perfected into one, **that the world may know that you sent me and loved them, even as you loved me.”**

John 17:13-23 WEBUS

- a) In the upper room discourse, on the night He was betrayed, just hours before His illegal trials and crucifixion, this was Y'shua's prayer to His Father for His disciples, ***and through them for us.***

- 1) “Father, I have passed on Your word to them; as You, sent Me into the world, I have now send them into the world.”
- 2) May the world be able to recognize Me by who they become as they reflect My love.
- 3) Don’t eliminate their trials along the way (*that would certainly be their preference, their own agenda*).
- 4) Instead, protect them from the Devil through their trials, as they minister to the world (*that would be God’s agenda*).

Prayer: I SURRENDER MY OWN AGENDA (*Father, I recognize that my agendas, my personal intentions and motives, may not necessarily match Your plans and strategies for me. I admit that an agenda cemented in stone is like a shackle around my neck. I know You have removed my heart of stone and replaced it with a heart of flesh. It’s time for me to align my life with Your reality.*) I WILL PRACTICE BEING FLEXIBLE (*I am ready to surrender and to be flexible. Resistance is futile. I can run, but I can’t hide. I can fight, but I can’t win. At some point, my exhaustion will cause me to fall into Your loving arms. My destiny is inevitable; so why not allow myself to experience Your full embrace right now, before I waste*

any more time? God, I know You have a plan for me and it's a good plan. I know it is my responsibility, and it's time, to align my life with Your agenda, and no longer fight to align Your agenda with my life.)

ASSIGNMENT #8

1. Pray about and meditate on these Scriptures:

- A. *"For **the word of God** is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.**"* Hebrews 4:12-13 WEBUS
- B. *"But there is **nothing covered up that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.**"* Luke 12:2 WEBUS
- C. *"For **God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.**"*
Ecclesiastes 12:14 WEBUS
- D. *"For **no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ. But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, each man's work will be revealed. For the Day will***

*declare it, because it is **revealed in fire**; and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man's work is."* 1 Corinthians 3:11-13 WEBUS

E. *"For the time has come for **judgment** to begin with the household of God. If it **begins first with us**, what will happen to those who don't obey the Good News of God?"* 1 Peter 4:17 WEBUS

2. **Surrender Agendas:** *"Then Job answered Yahweh: **"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be restrained.** You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' therefore **I have uttered that which I didn't understand, things too wonderful for me, which I didn't know.**"* Job 42:1-3 WEBUS

A. Search your heart humbly and honestly.

- 1) Do you recognize that your agendas—your personal intentions and motives, may not necessarily match God's plans and strategies for you?
- 2) Do you admit that an agenda cemented in stone is like a shackle around your neck?
- 3) Do you acknowledge that God has already removed your heart of stone and replaced it with a heart of flesh?
- 4) Do you agree that it's time for you to align your life with God's reality?

- 5) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it. Who will hold you accountable to surrender your agendas?

3. Practice Flexible: *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you [the plans I have for you],” says Yahweh, “thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you hope and a future.”* Jeremiah 29:11 WEBUS

A. Are you ready to surrender and to be flexible?

- 1) Will you acknowledge that any further resistance is futile?
- 2) Will you accept that you can run from God, but you can’t hide?
- 3) Will you concede that you can fight God, but you can’t win?
- 4) Will you admit that at some point, your exhaustion will cause you to fall into God’s loving arms?
- 5) Will you acquiesce that your destiny is inevitable, and that you should allow God’s full embrace right now, before you waste any more time?
- 6) Will you willingly surrender to God’s good plan for you?
- 7) Will you begin to align your life with God’s agenda, and no longer fight to align God’s agenda with your life?

- 8) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it. Who will hold you accountable to become open and flexible to God's plan for you?