

*Opening Scripture Reading*, A Teaching that We can Live our Lives according to a Kingdom that Cannot be Shaken:

**Hebrews 12:18-28**

***A Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken***

<sup>18</sup> For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” <sup>21</sup> **Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”** <sup>22</sup> *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. <sup>25</sup> **See that you do not refuse him who is speaking.** For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. <sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth, but now **he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”** <sup>27</sup> This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.*

**<sup>28</sup> Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for our God is a consuming fire.**

Opening Illustration:

*How would you, as one of God's People, Reply to the following Inquiry, and is the question Important to lives and to God's Kingdom:*

*TXT Message Inquiry this past week:*

Hi Ryan, **I have a biblical question for you.** Where in the Old Testament does it state that the borders of Israel shall not be changed and their land give to other? . . .

*TXT Message Reply to Inquiry:*

July 9, 2020

Following is my response to your TXT message this evening:

It is in Leviticus 25:23, 28 that we learn that Israel is not to be sold permanently, but would be restored during the year of Jubilee. The beauty of this picture is that Jesus returns on the Day and Year of the Proclamation of Jubilee, which we see pictured at the start of Jesus' ministry in Luke 4, where Jesus enters the Temple, following his 40 days of Temptation, and opens the Scroll of Isaiah chapter 61, and reads verse 1 and half of verse 2, Proclaiming the Year of Jubilee (which Isaiah 61 is read every year during the Feast of Atonement), being fulfilled by Jesus, but left open for complete fulfillment upon Jesus' Second Coming, when he will once again Enter the Temple, in Jerusalem (which means there will have to be a Temple built), once again, on the Feast of Atonement, he will once again open the Book of Isaiah and read verses 1 and 2, and once again Proclaim the Year of Jubilee, restoring back the Land and the People of Israel, but this time completing the Prophecy of verse 2 that Proclaims the day of vengeance of our God on the Earth. Secondly, there is a passage in Joel 3:1-2 which prophecies the gathering of all the nations to the Valley of Jehoshapat, for the Battle of Armageddon in Israel to bring Judgement on the nations that scattered the People and divided the Land, to restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem.

Then we read in Matthew 24:16, that Jesus Prophecies a time, just following the Abomination of Desolation, spoken of by the prophet Daniel, that Judea will not be under Israeli control, as they are instructed to flee the Judea mountains, amid the Greatest Tribulation to the People of God, unmatched to any other time in history; while in Revelation 11:1-5, Jesus also Prophecies that the Temple Mount will be under a Sharing Arrangement, as John is instructed to measure the Temple, but not the court outside the Temple of God, as it has been given over to the nations for 42 months, which is the same period of time that the Two Witnesses prophesy, just before the Return of Jesus. It is here that we must go back to the Book of Daniel 9:27 and see that God has set a seven year timeline in place at the signing of the division and sharing arrangement of the Land of Israel, under a Peace Plan, to be able set up all of the above prophecies to be able to occur, which 3 ½ years later we see the Abomination of Desolation, spoken of in the Book of Daniel, which in Chapter 12:11-12, also has an exact timeline that is set in motion for 1,290, before Jesus will Return. This timeline falls in line with Jesus Prophecy in Matthew 24:29-31, and will occur exactly on the Feast of Trumpets, as Jesus also prophecy's in Matthew 17:1-13, on the Mount of Transfiguration, on the Feast of Trumpets, which Jesus tells his Disciples to tell no one of the Transfiguration until after his death and resurrection; and event that prophesied the exact timing of Jesus' Second Coming, on the Feast of Trumpets, a two day Feast known as 'the day and hour unknown', and the only Feast where the High Priest is known as "the Thief in the Night", to those who are not in the Light, as read in 1 Thessalonians 5. You can also read in Revelation 20:1-6, where Jesus also teaches of the First Resurrection occurring just following the Feast of Atonement, which is exactly 10 days following the Feast of Trumpets, where Jesus, the High Priest, will fulfill the Feast of Atonement, in which he will atone for the sins of all of the Nations, by holding the False Trinity accountable for All of Sins of all time, by fulfilling the exact sacrifices needed to fulfill the Feast by sending the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet into Hell, and putting the Azazel, or who is also known as the Scapegoat, Satan into the Abyss for 1,000 years. Do read Revelation 20:1-6 again, and see who is Resurrected during the First Resurrection, and when all of the rest of the Dead will be Resurrected.

Lastly, we must read 2 Thessalonians 2, where Paul address the False Doctrine of Eminency, the Doctrine that teaches that Jesus can come at any time, and corrects the teaching to explain that the Coming of Jesus and the Resurrection will occur during the same event, just following the Great Falling Way of the Church and the prophecy of Daniel 12:10-13, the Abomination of Desolation, and the timeline 1,290 days occurring before both the Second Coming and the Rapture.

**Follow-up to the Red Heifer Report:**

**Red Heifer Update! (June, 2020/Tammuz 5780)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3F30CwkHMA>

It has been reported, by the “Temple Institute, which initiated “The Red Heifer Initiative” in 2015, for the advancement of Jewish People and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple, of which a Perfect Red Heifer is needed for the purification of those building the 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple and the actual 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple. In 2018 there were two Red Heifer’s that were born, purely RED, and as of late June of 2020, as reported in the Video LINK above, these two Red Heifers are not only still meeting the requirements of the Perfect Red Heifer, but could be used in the for the preparation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple, through the Red Heifer Purification Ceremony, as early as the end of August 2020, which at the same time, it is anticipated, that the “The Deal of the Century”, which is the Israeli “Peace Plan”, may begin or have begun in fulfillment of Daniel 9:27 prophecy of a Seven Year “Peace Plan” signed for the division and sharing arrangement of the Land of Israel, to set the stage for the End of the Age prophecies to be fulfilled, as a precursor of Jesus’ 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming and the Millennial Reign of Jesus on the Earth, before the Great White Judgement Throne of Revelation 20:11-15.

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### 9<sup>th</sup> of Av

**Between the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of Av on the Jewish calendar (July 9<sup>th</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup>), the Jewish People are observing a period of three weeks to pause and reflect on why so many tragedies have come upon us throughout our history.**

**9<sup>th</sup> of Ava: July 29<sup>th</sup>– July 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. | 3 Weeks: July 9<sup>th</sup> to July 30<sup>th</sup> 2020**

The “Three Weeks” between the fast days of 17th of Tammuz (July 9, 2020) and Tisha B’Av (July 30, 2020) have historically been days of misfortune and calamity for the Jewish people, in which God is so to speak more distant from His people.

On the 17th of Tammuz Moses broke the Tablets after the Sin of the Golden Calf, and the Roman breached the walls of Jerusalem, among other tragedies. On the 9th of Av, the nation of the Exodus cried as a result of the negative report of the Spies, and both Temples were destroyed, among other tragedies.

We observe various aspects of mourning during this time, such as not celebrating weddings or cutting our hair. The mourning becomes more intense as it gets closer to Tisha B’Av.

On Shabbat during the Three Weeks, the Haftorahs are taken from chapters in Isaiah and Jeremiah dealing with the Temple’s destruction and the exile of the Jewish people.

Agonizing over these events is meant to help us conquer those spiritual deficiencies which brought about these tragic events. Through the process of “teshuva” – self-introspection and a commitment to improve – we have the power to transform tragedy into joy. In fact, the Talmud says that after the future redemption of Israel and the rebuilding of the Temple, these days will be re-dedicated as days of rejoicing and festivity.

The story is told of Napoleon walking through the streets of Paris one Tisha B’Av. As he passed a synagogue he heard the sounds of mourning and crying. “What’s this all about?” Napoleon asked. An aide explained that the Jews were in mourning the loss of their Temple. “When did this happen?” Napoleon asked. The aide replied, “About 1700 years ago.” Napoleon said, “Certainly a people which has mourned the loss of their Temple for so long, will merit to see it rebuilt!”

<https://www.aish.com/h/9av/>

On each Sabbath that falls during these three weeks, we read special prophetic portions called **Haftarot of Admonition**, which are meant to disturb our false sense of peace. In fact, the word translated as admonition is **d’puranuta**, which means to disturb.

“‘For I am with you,’ says the Lord, ‘to save you; though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you.’” **Jeremiah 30:11**

### Reflective Scripture Reading:

#### **Obey the Truth Contained in the Gospel (the Commands of Jesus)**

“when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints . . .”

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-10**

**obey the gospel** – “make disciples . . . teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you,” **Matthew 28:19-20**

### Last Week We Talked About:

**Week 37 - BALAK (Destroyer) - Numbers 22:2–25:9; Micah 5:6–6:8; 2 Peter 2:1–22**

**In last week’s Reading, we saw the overpowering strength of God’s blessing on Israel.** When Balak, the king of Moab, sent a sorcerer named Balaam to curse Israel, he found that he could not do so; **concluding** with a man named Pinchas ending a devastating plague that had come on Israel and already killed 24,000 Israelites. The plague resulted from the Israelites participating in sexual immorality with the Midianite women.

*And in this Reading we learned the essence of the message, “**There is only one way that you may be defeated; that is, through your own sin, by turning away from God,**” as demonstrated by God’s own judgments:*

“Behold, these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the Lord.” Numbers 31:16

“<sup>14</sup> But I have a few things against you: **you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam**, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality . . . <sup>16</sup> Therefore **REPENT**. **If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.**” Revelation 2:14-16

So we asked you to take God's Instructions as your action towards REPENTANCE (defined as “stop doing is our way and start doing it God's way”), as read in Deuteronomy 18:9 and Jude 3-23:

“When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, **you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations.**” Deuteronomy 18:9

Again, although, Balaam was commissioned to pronounce a curse over Israel, he found he could only issue a blessing, saying,

“How shall I curse whom God has not cursed?” Numbers 23:8

Many might come against the nation of Israel, but no one can curse those whom Adonai Himself has blessed!

Again, God's Promise is **Everlasting** (He will Never Forget and He will Never Break)

“I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 12:3

And therefore, finally, we learn the essence of this message, “**There is only one way that you may be defeated; that is, through your own sin, by turning away from God,**” as demonstrated by God's own judgments:

“Behold, these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the Lord.” Numbers 31:16

“<sup>14</sup> But I have a few things against you: **you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam**, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality . . . <sup>16</sup> Therefore **REPENT**. **If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.**” Revelation 2:14-16

So let us take God's Instructions as our action towards REPENTANCE (defined as “stop doing is our way and start doing it God's way”), as read in Deuteronomy 18:9 and Jude 3-23:

“When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, **you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations.**” Deuteronomy 18:9

This Week:

Week 38 - PINCHAS (Phinehas / Dark Skinned)  
Numbers 25:10–29:40 (30:1); Jeremiah 1:1–2:3; 1 Peter 3:8–4:19

## “Are We Conquering the Land?”

Every soul has a “*portion in the land*” - a piece of G-d's world that he or she have been charged to sanctify. Thus a person's mission in life can be seen as consisting of two primary objectives:

- developing the material resources which have been placed under his/her control or influence as a “home for G-d” - a place that serves and houses the Divine truth . . .

**Personally, Conquering our Own Lives as a Place where God Dwells, a Home of Divine Truth.**

- The latter objective is the essence of the command to “conquer the Land of Canaan” and **transform it into** a “Holy Land” . . .

**Together, as God's People, Conquering Our World and Transforming it into His Promised Land, a World where God Rules and Reigns, where He Dwells, His Home.**

**“In the beginning”; A dwelling place for G-d**

Genesis 1:1-4

*The Creation of the World*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

**Why?** Our Sages explain that G-d's motive in creating the universe was “*a desire for a dwelling in the earth* (“*lower realms*”).” A dwelling means a home, a place where one's essence is manifest. The term “*lower realms*” (*earth*) refers to our material universe, in which G-dliness cannot ordinarily be perceived.

G-d wants His dwelling to be part and parcel of *this earth* (“lower realms”). His intent is not to nullify the limitations of our material existence, but rather to manifest Himself *within* those limitations.

### Where Opposites Meet

G-d wants man to exist in a universe which by its very nature seems to separate creation from its Creator. And **the intent is that man realize the connection for himself, and develop it until the world proceeds to the state of ultimate fulfillment:** “*The world will be filled with the knowledge of G-d as the waters cover the ocean bed.*”

For G-d is neither light nor darkness, neither finite nor infinite. No worldly quality nor its opposite can define Him. **When, however, we see two apparently contradictory qualities joining, we can appreciate that this is possible only because He has manifested Himself.**

**Precisely such a manifestation will characterize the Era of the Redemption (the Messianic Era), when it will be revealed that the physical world has indeed become G-d’s dwelling.**

### Two Beginnings

To ensure that the *earth* (“lower realms”) would be capable of transformation into a “dwelling” for Him, G-d embedded two distinct elements within creation from the outset:

“A **commandment** is a *candle*, and the **Torah** (G-d’s teaching and instruction), **light**.” By the light of Torah, G-d’s people can thus reveal the G-dly intent with which the world is *filled/permeated/infused/saturated/impregnated with the presence and knowledge of G-d*, and demonstrate that it is G-d’s dwelling.

### Partners in Creation

The simple meaning of the word is “*In the beginning*,” indicating that creation is only the first phase in an ongoing process.

This highlights the importance of man’s contribution. For **man is intended to be G-d’s “partner in creation,”** helping G-d realize His desire for a dwelling. **G-d created the material world, but left to man the task of revealing the spiritual within it.**

**So it is that man begins in a world of darkness, and endeavors to endow it with light.** And each glimmer of light kindles others, for “*a little light banishes a great deal of darkness,*” and **leads to the ultimate light of Redemption,** when it will be openly revealed that the world is G-d’s dwelling.

**“G-d looked into the Torah and created the world. Man looks into the Torah and maintains the world.”**

**As we study the teaching and instruction of G-d (Torah), we have the potential to renew creation, and bring it to its ultimate goal.**

[https://www.chabad.org/therebbe/article\\_cdo/aid/82382/jewish/In-the-Garden-of-the-Torah-Bereishis.htm](https://www.chabad.org/therebbe/article_cdo/aid/82382/jewish/In-the-Garden-of-the-Torah-Bereishis.htm)

The New Testament’s bold assertion that man is the dwelling place – the temple – of God begins with the announcement of the Apostle John that the Second Person of the godhead had now become a man and come down to earth as **Immanuel** – “*God with us.*”

**And the Word became flesh and DWELT** (Greek: *eskenosen* = ‘tabernacled’) **among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John 1:14)**

Shortly after the Passover in Jerusalem Jesus confirmed that He was in some special sense the actual temple of God, greater and more important than the Second Temple he was visiting:

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers at their business. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all, with the sheep and oxen, out of the temple; and he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; you shall not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” His disciples remembered that it was written, “**Zeal for thy house will consume me.**” The Jews then said to him, “**What sign have you to show us for doing this?**” **Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he spoke of the temple of his body.** When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken. **John 2:13-22**

Our normal, reasonable, daily service, he says, is to present our bodies, as temples to God’s service:

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, **that you may prove what is the will of God**, what is good and acceptable and perfect. **Romans 12:1, 2**

and,

**Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?** If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. **For God’s temple is HOLY, and that temple you are.** **1 Corinthians 3:16-17**

<http://www.templemount.org/whytemp.html>

**(This was the failing of the “generation of the desert”: while they achieved an “Exodus from Egypt” - a liberation from the bounds that constrict the soul – they were unwilling to assume the challenge of “conquering the land” - transforming the material world into a home for G-d.)**

*The problem we have faced throughout these past few weeks, or for the Israelites in the story, for the past 38 years, is this ever present danger of False Teachers, False Prophets, and Contagious Complainers at the highest levels of the People of God:*

**We have seen a pattern here of the Wrath of God on His people ONLY being STOPPED once the perpetrators were held accountable, which we learn are those who are in leadership who are spreading the infectious false teachings/narratives, and ultimately being HELD ACCOUNTABLE for their false reports:**

**Ezekiel 34:10**

“Thus says the Lord God, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them.”

**“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God:  
and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”**

**1 Peter 4:17**

**The Spies:**

**Numbers 14:36-45**

<sup>36</sup> So the men Moses had sent to explore the land, who returned and made the whole community grumble against him by spreading a bad report about it—<sup>37</sup> these men who were responsible for spreading the bad report about the land were struck down and died of a plague before the Lord. <sup>38</sup> Of the men who went to explore the land, only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh survived.

<sup>39</sup> When Moses reported this to all the Israelites, they mourned bitterly. <sup>40</sup> Early the next morning they set out for the highest point in the hill country, saying, “Now we are ready to go up to the land the Lord promised. Surely we have sinned!”

<sup>41</sup> But Moses said, “Why are you disobeying the Lord’s command? This will not succeed! <sup>42</sup> Do not go up, because the Lord is not with you. You will be defeated by your enemies, <sup>43</sup> for the Amalekites and the Canaanites will face you there. Because you have turned away from the Lord, he will not be with you and you will fall by the sword.”

<sup>44</sup> Nevertheless, in their presumption they went up toward the highest point in the hill country, though neither Moses nor the ark of the Lord’s covenant moved from the camp. <sup>45</sup> **Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and attacked them and beat them down all the way to Hormah.**

**Korah:**

**Numbers 16:35-50**

<sup>35</sup> And fire came out from the Lord and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense.

<sup>49</sup> But 14,700 people died from the plague, in addition to those who had died because of Korah. <sup>50</sup> Then Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance to the tent of meeting, for the plague had stopped.<sup>[c]</sup>

**Balaam:**

**Numbers 25:1-9**

*Baal Worship at Peor*

<sup>1</sup> While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. <sup>2</sup> These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. <sup>3</sup> So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel. <sup>4</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, **“Take all the chiefs of the people and HANG THEM in the sun before the Lord, that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel.”** <sup>5</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.

**Numbers 31:7-16**

<sup>7</sup> They warred against Midian, as the Lord commanded Moses, and killed every male. <sup>8</sup> **They killed the kings of Midian with the rest of their slain, Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian. And they also killed Balaam the son of Beor with the sword.**

<sup>16</sup> Behold, these, on Balaam’s advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the Lord.

**Revelation 2:14**

<sup>14</sup> But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.

**Deuteronomy 23:5**

But the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam; instead . . .

***the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Lord your God loved you.***

*This problem among God’s People will completely be addressed in the Last Days before the rule and reign of the Messiah on the earth for the next 1,000, as we will Read in Revelation 17 & 18, where we will see how God truly feels about leadership of His Church, and his call to His people to respond accordingly, otherwise they too, will suffer the leaderships same demise:*

**Revelation 18:1-8**

*The Fall of Babylon*

<sup>1</sup> After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. <sup>2</sup> And he called out with a mighty voice,

“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!  
She has become a dwelling place for demons,  
a haunt for every unclean spirit,  
a haunt for every unclean bird,  
a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.  
<sup>3</sup>For all nations have drunk  
the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality,  
and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her,  
and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”  
<sup>4</sup>Then I heard another voice from heaven saying,  
“**Come out of her, my people,  
lest you take part in her sins,  
lest you share in her plagues;**  
<sup>5</sup>for her sins are heaped high as heaven,  
and God has remembered her iniquities . . .  
<sup>8</sup>**For this reason her plagues will come in a single day,**  
death and mourning and famine,  
and she will be burned up with fire;  
**for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.”**

#### Revelation 17:3-6

##### *Babylon the Great Prostitute on the Beast*

<sup>3</sup>Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup>The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls (The Catholic Church). She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. <sup>5</sup>The name written on her forehead was a mystery:

babylon the great  
the mother of prostitutes (All of the Churches)  
and of the abominations of the earth.

<sup>6</sup>I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God’s holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus . . .

<sup>9</sup>“This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits (Rome – known as the city on seven hills).

<sup>15</sup>Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. <sup>16</sup>The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. <sup>17</sup>For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God’s words are fulfilled. <sup>18</sup>The woman you saw is the great city (Rome) that rules over the kings of the earth.”

*The question is, ‘Are We Conquering the Land?’ as God has called us, which is simply defined as:*

#### **Imposing on it a higher purpose and function!**

*And as we learned last week, ‘How are We to Achieve Conquering the Land?’:*

“When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations.” Deuteronomy 18:9

*And as we see in the Book of Acts 17:6, the Land being Conquered successfully, as God intended it be done: learned last week, ‘How are We to Achieve Conquering the Land?’: “These men who have turned the world upside down.”*

*Let’s start where we left off last week, the Baal Worship at Peor:*

#### Numbers 25:1-9

##### *Baal Worship at Peor*

While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to **whore** with the daughters of Moab. <sup>2</sup>These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. <sup>3</sup>So Israel **yoked** (yoked/attached to their teachings) himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel. <sup>4</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, “**Take all the chiefs of the people and hang them in the sun before the Lord, that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel.**” <sup>5</sup>And Moses said to the judges of Israel, “Each of you kill those of his men who have **yoked** (yoked/attached to their teachings) themselves to Baal of Peor.”

<sup>6</sup>And behold, one of the people of Israel came and brought a Midianite woman to his family, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole congregation of the people of Israel, while they were weeping in the entrance of the tent of meeting. <sup>7</sup>When **Phinehas** the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose and left the congregation and took a spear in his hand <sup>8</sup>and went after the man of Israel into the chamber and pierced both of them, the man of Israel and the woman through her belly. Thus the plague on the people of Israel was stopped. <sup>9</sup>Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were **twenty-four thousand.**

#### Numbers 25:10-30:1

#### Numbers 25:10-18

**Today we need Men & Women, who Love God with All of their Heart, All of their Mind, All of their Soul, and All of their Strength, in putting God's Ways above Mans ways and traditions:**

*The Zeal of Phinehas*

<sup>10</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, <sup>11</sup> “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel, in that he was jealous with my jealousy among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in my jealousy. <sup>12</sup> Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him my covenant of peace, <sup>13</sup> and it shall be to him and to his descendants after him the covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the people of Israel.’”

<sup>14</sup> The name of the slain man of Israel, who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, chief of a father's house belonging to the Simeonites. <sup>15</sup> And the name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi the daughter of Zur, who was the tribal head of a father's house in Midian.

<sup>16</sup> And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>17</sup> “Harass the Midianites and **strike them down** (conquer them by establishing the presence of God in your lives, being HOLY, separating yourselves from them completely and without reservation, not looking back), <sup>18</sup> for they have harassed you with their wives, with which they beguiled you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of the chief of Midian, their sister, who was killed on the day of the plague on account of Peor.”

#### God Honors Truth in Action

We must not think we are too weak or too timid or too young or too old — or whatever excuse we use — to fulfill our mission in God's plan. If God is in it, He will give the strength, grace, wisdom, and boldness to do His will.

**Pinchas**, for instance, was not yet an elder in the community, yet **he was the only one who took action against the sin that was destroying his own people.**

Others had witnessed the open sin in the community, but they apparently did nothing (*even Moses, Aaron and his sons*).

**When we stand by and wait for our leaders or friends to confront sin or the slanderous attacks against Israel in front of us, the sin or the lie just grows and infects more people.** As it is said — a little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Sometimes God is calling us to help correct a problem by speaking life into the situation — speaking truth, writing truth, living lives filled with truth is a powerful weapon against sin, especially lies.

As well, speaking blessings and words of life over those who are courageously speaking truth can bring anointing and power to them that they may not have had access to before. It builds them up in strength and helps them to persevere in the storm that comes to all who stand for righteousness.

You may be slandered for speaking life, but **“even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed.** Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened. But in your hearts revere Messiah as Lord . . . For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.” (1 Peter 3:14–15, 17)

#### Matthew 13:31-35 and Mark 4:30-34

. . . He spoke another parable to them, “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three pecks of meal, until it was all leavened.” . . .

The parable of the leaven illustrates that the kingdom of God changes everything it comes in contact with. Leaven is a change agent. It changes the characteristics of all that it is put into. Jesus would later equate teaching with leaven (Matthew 16:11-12). Teaching, whether true or false corrupts or changes the mind, either for good or evil. When the leaven or the kingdom of God in this case, is introduced into the spirit, soul, and body of someone, the entire nature of the person will be changed.

#### Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

##### Matthew 16:5-12 and Mark 8:13-21

And leaving them, He again embarked and went away to the other side. And they had forgotten to take bread; and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them. And Jesus said to them, **“Watch out and BEWARE of the LEAVEN of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”** And they began to discuss among themselves, saying, “It is because we took no bread.” But Jesus, aware of this, said, “You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart? **HAVING EYES, DO YOU NOT SEE? AND HAVING EARS, DO YOU NOT HEAR?** And do you not remember, when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?” They said to Him, “Twelve.” “And when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?” And they said to Him, “Seven.” *“How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”* **Then they understood that He did not say to BEWARE of the leaven of bread, but of THE TEACHING of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**

Sometime later Jesus reminded the disciples to beware of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. He likened their teaching to leaven (Matthew 16:12). As leaven permeates every part of the substance in which it is placed, so too does teaching (James 3:1-3, 1:24-26). What people are taught affects them for a lifetime.

#### 1 John 3:3-10

<sup>3</sup> **And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**

<sup>4</sup> Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. **Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.** <sup>8</sup> Whoever

makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. *The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.* <sup>9</sup> **No one born of God makes a practice of sinning**, for God's seed (teaching/leaven) abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: **whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.**

#### 1 John 2:3-6

<sup>3</sup> And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. <sup>4</sup> **Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar**, and the truth is not in him; <sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is **perfected**. By this we may know that we are in him: <sup>6</sup> **whoever says he abides in him ought to WALK IN THE SAME WAY in which he walked.**

*What does a Zealot look like:*

i.e. Zealously

#### John 2:13-22

*Jesus Cleanses the Temple #1 (Passover Preparations – removing the leaven from his own house)*

<sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup> **And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.** <sup>16</sup> And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.” <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

<sup>18</sup> So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking about the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

#### Matthew 21:12-22

*Jesus Cleanses the Temple #2 (Passover Preparations – removing the leaven from his own house)*

<sup>12</sup> And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “It is written, ‘**My house shall be called a house of prayer,**’ but you make it a **den of robbers.**”

<sup>14</sup> **And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them.** <sup>15</sup> But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant, <sup>16</sup> and they said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read, ““Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise?””

<sup>17</sup> And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there.

*Jesus Curses the Fig Tree*

<sup>18</sup> In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry. <sup>19</sup> And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, **he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves.** And he said to it, “**May no fruit ever come from you again!**” **And the fig tree withered at once.**

<sup>20</sup> When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, “*How did the fig tree wither at once?*” <sup>21</sup> And Jesus answered them, “**Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree (called out the false teachers and prophets), but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen.**” <sup>22</sup> And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”

#### Numbers 26:1-65

*Census of the New Generation*

**26 After the plague**, the Lord said to Moses and to Eleazar the son of Aaron, the priest, <sup>2</sup> **“Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, from twenty years old and upward, by their fathers' houses, all in Israel who are able to go to war.”** <sup>3</sup> And Moses and Eleazar the priest spoke with them in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying, <sup>4</sup> “Take a census of the people, from twenty years old and upward,” as the Lord commanded Moses. The people of Israel who came out of the land of Egypt were . . .

<sup>51</sup> . . . the list of the people of Israel, 601,730.

<sup>52</sup> The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>53</sup> “Among these the land shall be divided for inheritance according to the number of names. <sup>54</sup> To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance; every tribe shall be given its inheritance in proportion to its list. <sup>55</sup> But the land shall be divided by lot. According to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit. <sup>56</sup> Their inheritance shall be divided according to lot between the larger and the smaller . . .

<sup>63</sup> These were those listed by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who listed the people of Israel in the plains of Moab **by the Jordan at Jericho.** <sup>64</sup> But among these there was not one of those listed by Moses and Aaron the priest, who had listed the people of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai. <sup>65</sup> **For the Lord had said of them, “They shall die in the wilderness.” Not one of them was left, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.**

#### Counting Souls

As G-d sees it, **the soul of man is a spark of His own fire** – a spark with the potential to reflect the infinite goodness and perfection of its source.



When G-d instructs that we be counted, it is an expression of our highest common denominator. On the Divine census sheet, our differences are transcended to reveal the simple fact of our being – a fact which **expresses what is best in us**, and from which stems all that is good in us.

He counts us to accentuate our soul of souls, to give expression to its essence and to make it more accessible to our material-bound lives.

When G-d counts us, He is stimulating the highest and loftiest part of our being, the spark of Divinity which lies at the core of our soul.

*Based on the teaching's of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson.*

### Numbers 27:1-11

**Today we need Men & Women, who pursue God's promises and ways to lift up Others above themselves, ultimately, simply obeying God's commandments to Activate the light of the world as God intended, that Others might see and be drawn to the Indwelling Presence of God in the earth today:**

**Today we need Men & Women, who Love Others more than themselves, to content for their Eternity and no longer their own Prosperity: The Daughters of Zelophehad**

Then drew near **the daughters of Zelophehad . . .** from the clans of Manasseh ("God has made me forget entirely my troubles/afflictions) the son of Joseph. The names of **his daughters were: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.** <sup>2</sup> And they stood before Moses and before Eleazar the priest and before the chiefs and all the congregation, at the entrance of the tent of meeting, saying, <sup>3</sup>“Our father died in the wilderness. He was not among the company of those who gathered themselves together against the Lord in the company of Korah, but died for his own sin. And he had no sons. <sup>4</sup>**Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son? Give to us a possession among our father's brothers (if we are considered “Seed”).”**

<sup>5</sup> **Moses brought their case before the Lord.** <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, <sup>7</sup>“**The daughters of Zelophehad are right. You shall give them possession of an inheritance among their father's brothers and transfer the inheritance of their father to them.** <sup>8</sup> And you shall speak to the people of Israel, saying, **“If a man dies and has no son, then you shall transfer his inheritance to his daughter.** <sup>9</sup> **And if he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers.** <sup>10</sup> **And if he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father's brothers.** <sup>11</sup> **And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the nearest kinsman of his clan, and he shall possess it. And it shall be for the people of Israel a statute and rule, as the Lord commanded Moses.”**”

### Numbers 27:8

“And you shall speak to the people of Israel, saying, **“If a man dies and has no son, then you shall transfer his inheritance to his daughter.”**”

Every soul has a *“portion in the land”* – a piece of G-d's world that he or she have been charged to sanctify.

**(This was the failing of the "generation of the desert": while they achieved an "Exodus from Egypt" – a liberation from the bounds that constrict the soul – they were unwilling to assume the challenge of "conquering the land" – transforming the material world into a home for G-d.)**

This is the law of life revealed by the daughters of Tzelafchad: **Not all conquests are achieved by overpowering one's adversary. At times, receptiveness and empathy are equally, if not more, effective in overcoming the hostility of the "enemy" and transforming its very nature . . .** in the world and transforming it into a "home for G-d" . . . the Transforming of the Mind:

“Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind,**  
that by **testing you may discern what is the will of God,**  
what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

**Romans 12:2**

**God infused Eternity in our hearts and minds.** The Law was already considered, but not acted on yet, until these four women declared the Heart of the Father.

*“Even before a word is on my tongue,  
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.”*

**Psalm 139:4**

In a spiritual sense, the Lord is our portion — **He is a God of justice and will give us our inheritance if we boldly ask for it and believe that we deserve it.**

### 1 John 3:17

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

### i.e. Acts 3:6-16

<sup>6</sup> But Peter said, **“I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”** <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup> And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him

walking and praising God,<sup>10</sup> and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

*Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico*

<sup>11</sup> While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. <sup>12</sup> And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant<sup>[a]</sup> Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup> And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus<sup>[b]</sup> has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

#### **i.e. Proverbs 24:11-12**

Rescue those who are being taken away to death;  
hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.

<sup>12</sup> If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,”  
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?  
Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it,  
and will he not repay man according to his work?

#### **James 5:20**

<sup>20</sup> let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*What does Devotion to God look like:*

#### **i.e. Devotion**

#### **Acts 5:1-11**

*Ananias and Sapphira*

<sup>1</sup> But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,<sup>2</sup> and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. <sup>3</sup> But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? <sup>4</sup> While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”<sup>5</sup> **When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last.** And great fear came upon all who heard of it. <sup>6</sup> The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.  
<sup>7</sup> After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.” And she said, “Yes, for so much.” <sup>9</sup> But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.”<sup>10</sup> **Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last.** When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. <sup>11</sup> And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

#### **i.e. High-handed Sin / Deliberate Sin – Consequences**

#### **Hebrews 10:26-31**

<sup>26</sup> **For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,**<sup>27</sup> but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>29</sup> How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?<sup>30</sup> For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.”<sup>31</sup> It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

#### **Hebrews 12:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,**<sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

*Do Not Grow Weary*

<sup>3</sup> **Consider him who endured** from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. <sup>4</sup> **In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.**<sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
*nor* be weary when reproved by him.

<sup>6</sup> **For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives.”**

<sup>7</sup> **It is for discipline that you have to endure.** God is treating you as sons. *For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?*<sup>8</sup> **If you are left without discipline,** in which all have participated, **then you are illegitimate children** and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. **Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?**<sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but **he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.**<sup>11</sup> For the moment *all discipline seems painful* rather than pleasant, but **later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**

<sup>12</sup> *Therefore* lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,<sup>13</sup> and **make straight paths for your feet,** so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

**<sup>14</sup> Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.**

<sup>15</sup> See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; <sup>16</sup> that *no one is sexually immoral or unholy* like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup> For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

## 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

*The Ministry of Reconciliation*

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. <sup>12</sup> We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. <sup>13</sup> For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup> and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.<sup>[a]</sup> The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling<sup>[b]</sup> the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## 2 Thessalonians 1:7-12

when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire, **inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus . . .**

*1 John 2:4*

**Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar**

. . . <sup>9</sup> **They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction**, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, <sup>10</sup> when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. <sup>11</sup> To this end we always pray for you, **that our God may MAKE YOU WORTHY . . .**

*Luke 6:40*

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

*And this was what all man was Created for:*

### Matthew 28:19-20

<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

*John 10:10*

**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**

## Numbers 27:12-30:1

**Today we need Men & Women, Anointed by God to Succeed the leadership today who are have Failed in Teaching God’s people How to Enter the Promised Land:**

*Joshua to Succeed Moses*

<sup>12</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “Go up into this mountain of Abarim and see the land that I have given to the people of Israel. <sup>13</sup> When you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was, <sup>14</sup> because you rebelled against my word in the wilderness of Zin when the congregation quarreled, failing to uphold me as holy at the waters before their eyes.” (These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.) <sup>15</sup> Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, <sup>16</sup> “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation <sup>17</sup> who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.” <sup>18</sup> So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. <sup>19</sup> Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight. <sup>20</sup> You shall invest him with some of your authority, that all the congregation of the people of Israel may obey. <sup>21</sup> And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the Lord. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the people of Israel with him, the whole congregation.” <sup>22</sup> And Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and made him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation, <sup>23</sup> and he laid his hands on him and commissioned him as the Lord directed through Moses.

**“He cares not just for the nation of Israel as a whole, but also for each and every individual within His Kingdom: “He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him.” Psalm 145:19**

In his last days, Moses also had a desire — he asked the Lord to appoint a new shepherd for his sheep.

### God Honors Godly Leadership

**Being anointed for leadership over a group of people is a sacred trust that we may not take lightly.**

**We all need Godly leadership:** we were created to be governed — to come under **samchut** (authority). **Without a shepherd, we are scattered and helpless sheep, exposed to attack on all sides.**

Even though God is the ultimate authority, and *Jesus* is our Great Shepherd, He will also ordain leaders to help guide and support us in our walk with Him, as did the great Biblical leadership of Moses and later Joshua.

God anointed *Jesus* to lead His followers into the promised Messianic Era.

### Numbers 27:-12-30:1

**Today we need Men & Women, Faithful Enough to RETURN TO GOD, and no longer practicing the things of this World:**

*Daily Offerings*

**28** The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Command the people of Israel and say to them, ‘My offering, my food for my food offerings, my pleasing aroma, you shall be careful to offer to me at its appointed time.’ . . .

#### Sabbath Offerings

<sup>9</sup>“On the Sabbath day, two male lambs a year old without blemish, and two tenths of an ephah of fine flour for a grain offering, mixed with oil, and its drink offering:<sup>10</sup> this is the burnt offering of every Sabbath, besides the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.

#### Monthly Offerings

<sup>11</sup>“At the beginnings of your months, you shall offer a burnt offering to the Lord . . .

#### Passover Offerings

<sup>16</sup>“On the fourteenth day of the first month is the Lord's Passover, <sup>17</sup>and on the fifteenth day of this month is a feast. Seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten. <sup>18</sup>On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work . . .

#### Offerings for the Feast of Weeks

<sup>26</sup>“On the day of the firstfruits, when you offer a grain offering of new grain to the Lord at your Feast of Weeks, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work . . .

#### Offerings for the Feast of Trumpets

**29** “On the first day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work . . .

#### Offerings for the Day of Atonement

<sup>7</sup>“On the tenth day of this seventh month you shall have a holy convocation and afflict yourselves. You shall do no work . . .

#### Offerings for the Feast of Booths

<sup>12</sup>“On the fifteenth day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation . . .

<sup>35</sup>“**On the eighth day you shall have a solemn assembly.** You shall not do any ordinary work . . .

<sup>39</sup>“These you shall offer to the Lord at your appointed feasts, in addition to your vow offerings and your freewill offerings, for your burnt offerings, and for your grain offerings, and for your drink offerings, and for your peace offerings.”

<sup>40</sup> So Moses told the people of Israel everything just as the Lord had commanded Moses.

#### Men and Vows

**30** Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the people of Israel, saying, **“This is what the Lord has commanded.**

#### “Return to the Lord”

<sup>8</sup> Although he was a son, he **learned obedience through what he suffered.** <sup>9</sup> And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him. . . .

*(Warning Against Apostasy)* <sup>11</sup> About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since **you have become dull of hearing.** <sup>12</sup> *For though by this time you ought to be teachers,* you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, <sup>13</sup> for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

#### Hebrews 5:8-14

**Our daily sacrifice of devotion and service**, bringing “Our Best” to God in all facets of **our life** (emotionally, spiritually, physically, financially, and with all our strength), in communion with God and restoration of communion with God through **repentance** (by stopping to do things our own way and our starting to do things God’s way), which is given to us through our new beginnings or by our setting ourselves apart for holiness, as a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that we might proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light, according to God’s ways, identified in the DNA of his new beginnings (as he created, from the beginning of time, in each new day, each new week, each new month, each new year, and each divine festival or renewal of faith of God’s divine appointment of *His redemption, restoration, and return* of mankind back to God’s ways and not our own); which are seen as a means of **transitioning from a time of isolation back into the community by first drawing close to God**, *in our acknowledging him in all of our ways, that he might direct our paths*. It is a special moment of thanksgiving, in these “new beginnings”, that both mankind and one’s faith in God survive the pain and risk of the trials and tribulations of this life.

This important juncture reminds us that **transitions matter**; as we move from one phase to the next in our lives, **we should first draw close to God with thanksgiving**, again, by daily giving “Our Best” to God in all our ways and restoring our communion with God *through repentance*, by stopping to do things our own way and our starting to do things God’s way.

#### Deuteronomy 30:1-6

*Repentance and Forgiveness*

<sup>1</sup> “And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, <sup>2</sup> and **return to the Lord your God**, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I

command you today, with **all** your heart and with all your soul. <sup>3</sup> **then** the Lord your God will **restore** your fortunes and have mercy on you, and **he will gather you** again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. <sup>4</sup> *If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you,* and from there he will take you. <sup>5</sup> And the Lord your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. <sup>6</sup> And the Lord your God will **circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring**, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. <sup>7</sup> And the Lord your God will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you.

**Word to the Church Today:**

**Jeremiah 6:16-21**

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord: “**Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.**” But they said, “We will not walk in it.” <sup>17</sup> I set watchmen over you, saying, “Pay attention to the sound of the trumpet!” But they said, “We will not pay attention.”

<sup>18</sup> Therefore hear, O nations, and know, O congregation, what will happen to them. <sup>19</sup> Hear, O earth; behold, **I am bringing disaster upon this people**, the fruit of their devices, **because they have not paid attention to my words; and as for my law, they have rejected it.**

<sup>20</sup> What use to me is **frankincense** (“in their actions and speech” – here they had purchased a license to go on in sin, they were so far from being pleasing to God that they were deliberately angering God) that comes from Sheba, or sweet cane from a distant land? *Your burnt offerings* are not acceptable, nor *your sacrifices* pleasing to me. <sup>21</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord: “Behold, **I will lay before this people stumbling blocks against which they shall stumble;** fathers and sons together, neighbor and friend shall perish.”

**Haggai 1:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, <sup>4</sup> “**Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?**” <sup>5</sup> Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: **Consider your ways.**”

**Ezekiel 22:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> Her priests have done violence to my law and have **profaned my holy things.** They have **made no distinction between the holy and the common**, neither have **they taught the difference between the unclean and the clean**, and **they have disregarded my Sabbaths**, so that I am profaned among them. <sup>27</sup> Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain.”

*“Strive for . . . holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”*

**Hebrews 12:14**

*“You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.”*

**Leviticus 20:26**

*“You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

**Matthew 5:48**

*“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”*

**Deuteronomy 7:6, 14:2, 26:18**

*“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”*

**1 Peter 2:9**

Therefore, we must begin to live out those Holy Lives that God has not just spoken, but created us for. Choosing Holiness in the Mundane, not because one day is greater than another, but because God “Choose” one day to be greater than another as it pertains to every area of our lives.

**Next Week’s Reading & Location:**

**Week 39 - MATOT-MASEI (Tribes-Journeys)**  
**Numbers 30:2–36:13; Jeremiah 2:4–28, 3:4, 4:1–2; Matthew 23:1–25:46**