

Revelation The Scriptures!

Chapter One

Verses 1-3 “*This is the revelation which God gave to Yeshua the Messiah*, so that He could show His servants what **must happen** *very soon*. He communicated it by sending His Angel to His servant Yochanan (John) who bore witness to the Word of God and to the testimony of Yeshua the Messiah, as much as He saw. ***Blessed are the readers and hearers of the words of this prophecy, provided they obey the things written in it! For the time is near!***”

Insight: To what degree the New Testament writers regarded the End as imminent is debatable. However, they did urge believers to stay alert for the Messiah to return without warning, like a thief in the night (Matthew 24:32-25:30, Mark 13:32-37, I Thessalonians 5:2-3, 2 Peter 3:10)

Verses 4-6 “**From:** Yochanan:

To: The **seven** Messianic communities in the province of Asia: “Grace and *shalom* to you from the One who is, who was and who is coming; from the sevenfold Spirit before His throne; and from Yeshua the Messiah, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the earth’s kings. To Him, the one who loves us, who has freed us from our sins at the cost of His blood, who has caused us to be a kingdom, that is, *Cohanim* for God, His Father — to Him be the glory and the rulership forever and ever. *Amen.*”

Insight: The number seven frequently represents completion and perfection in the Tanakh (Bible). God ended His work of creation on the seventh day. (Genesis 2:1-3) There are many other uses of the word seven appearing in the Bible. Likewise, seven or seventh appears nearly sixty times in the book of Revelation, hinting at “completion” in its words. Noah took seven of each clean animal on board the Ark. (Genesis 7:2) Joseph predicted seven years of plenty and seven of famine. (Genesis 41) The number appears over and over in connection with sacrifices and temple rituals. (Leviticus 4:3-4, 13:5-6)

Insight: *Cohanim*, are members of the Priesthood. This group of ancient priestly class can claim descent from a single male ancestor. According to biblical accounts, the Jewish priesthood began about 3, 000 years ago when Moses anointed his older brother Aaron the first high priest.

Verse 7-8 “Look! He is coming with the clouds! Every eye will see Him, including those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the Land will mourn Him.” Yes! Amen!”

Insight: The Tanakh speaks of the day when the entire Jewish people will recognize Yeshua, who was pierced at His execution, as Messiah and fully identified with God; “me whom they pierced” (Zechariah 12:10; see “The Return of the Messiah, Zechariah 12-14. As a midrash, the phrase “those who pierced Him” is not limited to Jews, nor does it

make only the Jews and the Gentiles historically responsible for Yeshua's physical death. Rather, it includes all who have not acknowledged His atoning sacrificial death, as well as all for whom He died.

***“I am the ‘A’ and the ‘Z,’” says ADONAI,
God of heaven’s armies,
the One who is, who was and who is coming.”***

“I Am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending saith the Lord.”

Revelation 1:8

God is always first and will surely be last!

Verse 9 “I, Yochanan, am a brother of yours and a fellow-sharer in the suffering, kingship and perseverance that comes from being united with Yeshua. I had been exiled to the island called Patmos for having proclaimed the message of God and borne witness to Yeshua.”

Insight: Patmos is a small barren rocky island in the Aegean Sea off the southwest coast of modern Türkiye. It more or less faces the city of Ephesus where John had been serving as pastor of the church until cruel Emperor Domitian, had him banished because of his testimony.

Verses 10-11 “I came to be, in the Spirit, on the Day of the Lord; and I heard behind me a loud voice, like a trumpet saying, “Write down what you see on a scroll, and send it to the seven Messianic communities — Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea!”

Insight Alternative understandings: (1) John's body remained where it was, but in his spirit he saw visions; (2) The Holy Spirit came over him, with the result that he saw visions; or (3) the Holy Spirit caused him to be physically present. (This possibility compares, Ezekiel 11:1, Acts 8:39-40, 2 Corinthians 12:2). (JNTC)

Verses 12-16 “I turned around to see who was speaking to me; and when I had turned, I saw seven gold *menorahs*; and among the *menorahs* was someone **like a Son of Man, wearing a robe down to his feet and a gold band around His chest**. His head and hair were as white as snow-white wool, **His eyes like a fiery flame, His feet like burnished brass** refined in a furnace, and **His voice like the sound of rushing waters** in His right hand He held seven stars, **out of His mouth went a sharp double-edged sword**, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength.”

“And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man.”
(Revelation 1:12-13 CJB)

Insight: Exodus 25: 31-40 speaks of the seven-branched menorah which stood outside the second curtain in the tabernacle. According to verse 20, the seven menorahs are the

seven Messianic communities of verse 11. With Yesha's **warning** to the community in Ephesus, *"I will remove your menorah from its place – unless you turn from your sin!"* (2-5) Compare His remark in the Sermon on the Mount that believers are light for the world (Matthew 5:15-16).

Insight: Son of Man is Yeshua's preferred title for Himself as the Messiah. (Matthew 8:20) Yeshua fulfills three main offices set forth in the Tanakh – Prophet, Priest and King. Yeshua served as a Prophet during His life on earth (Mathew 21:11). At present He serves as High Priest in Heaven (Hebrews 2:17-3:6, 4:14-5-10, 6:20-10:21); this is signified by His wearing a long robe and a gold band around His chest, the clothing of the *Cohen HaGadol* (Exodus 28). The rest of the description in versus 14-15 suggests His future role as Judge and Messianic King. In Daniel 7:9-10, it described in similar language God the Father as an Ancient of Days with eyes like a fiery flame against unholiness; with a voice like the sound of rushing waters (literally, "...of many waters"), loud and Majestic! A sharp double-edged sword came from His mouth. This imagery is found in Isaiah 49:1-3. Where Yeshua the Messiah and the people are identified with each other (see Mathew 2:15). **The Sword is the Word of God!**

The Word of God is well suited for judging, since it can discern the truth in people's hearts. *"See the Word of God is **ALIVE!** It is at work and is sharper than any double-edged Sword - it cuts right through to where soul meets spirit and joints meet marrow, and it is quick to judge the inner reflections and attitude of the Heart. Before God, nothing created is hidden, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we **MUST** render an account."* (Hebrews 4:12-13)

Insight: The Word of God – is the Gospel! It does not come back void! (Isaiah 55:11) **It is the "sword" which comes from the Messiah's mouth, by which He conquers and rules!**

Verses 17-18 "When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. He placed His right hand upon me and said, "Do not be afraid! I AM the First and the Last, the Living One. I was dead but look! — I AM alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys to Death and Sh'ol."

Verses 19-20 "So write down what you see, both what is now, and what will happen afterwards. Here is the secret meaning of the seven stars you saw in my right hand, and of the seven gold menorahs: *the seven stars are the angels of the seven Messianic communities, and the seven menorahs are the seven Messianic communities.*"

Insight: Angels play a significant role in the Book of Revelation! The word angel occurs 67 other times in Revelation always with the necessary meaning of heavenly angels. The idea that angels are assigned to guide individual churches should not be surprising considering such Scriptures as Acts 12:15; I Corinthians 11:10; Ephesians 3:10; Hebrews 1:14; I Peter 1:12; and others. Pastors and elders come and go, but the angel of the church can **continue if the church lasts**. Just how they manage to convey Christ's

messages to His church may not be understood now though **“some have entertained angels unawares”** (Hebrews 13:2), but we can be confident that they have ways and means.” (Henry M. Morris, Ph.D., LL. D, Litt. D.)

Obedience to God is - Focusing on God!

God wants our total obedience! What does that mean? It means that we have been **“...bought with a price and we are not our own. Therefore, glorify God in our bodies...”** We are His servants which means that before we do anything at all we need to ask God, “What would you have me do? How do you want me to manage this?” Too many times, and too much of our lives are spend doing what **we feel** that we are supposed to do and then we ask God to bless it! **That is not God’s way of doing things!** He wants us to ask Him everything – when we eat, what we should wear, how we should plan our day, who we should talk to and speak with and where we should go.

The only way to do this is to keep focused on God! How do we do that? We keep our minds focused on Him rather than circumstances! We trust Him to work His perfect will. We do all the warfare He directs us to do. We ask Him how we should pray in every situation. We pray for protection around our words and be careful about the words we speak - every word is a prayer – whether a blessing or a curse!

Being focused on God means total attention to Him! Asking Him every move we should take – without interference!

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.” (Revelation 1:3 CJB)

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Chapter Two

Versus 1-7 “To the angel of the Messianic Community in **Ephesus**, write: ‘Here is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven gold *menorahs*: “***I know what you have been doing***, how hard you have worked, how you have persevered, and how you can’t stand wicked people; so you tested those who call themselves emissaries but aren’t — and you found them to be liars. You are persevering, and you have suffered for my sake without growing weary. ***But I have this against you: you have lost the love you had at first. Therefore, remember where you were before you fell, turn from this sin, and do what you used to do before. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your menorah from its place — if you don’t turn from your sin!*** But you have this in your favor: you hate what the Nicolaitans do — I hate it too! Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. To him winning the victory I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life which is in God’s Gan-‘Eden.”

Insight: Ephesus had the most important Messianic community in the province of Asia. It was already a religious center, home of the pagan goddess Artemis (Acts 19:35), and a focus for magic (Acts 19:19). The congregation had been founded by Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 19:18), and with Sha’ul’s guidance it quickly became an evangelistic center (Acts 19:10). Timothy later took Sha’ul’s place (I Timothy 1:3), and tradition has it that Yochanan the emissary lived here.

Insight: The Nicolaitans were only mentioned here and in Revelation 2:15. There was no known sect or movement with this name during the apostolic period, so this is probably a descriptive term rather than a proper noun. These messages are meant for all churches, and it is certain that the term has meaning for all churches, then and today! It is referring to the false apostles in Revelation 2:2.

Insight: “*I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life.*” To eat from the Tree of Life means to have eternal life. Genesis 2:9, 3:22, 24 reveal that this was true in the original Gan-Eden (Garden of Eden or “Paradise”; cf. Luke 23:43). This is also true in God’s Gan-Eden, or the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2, 22:2, 14, 19). In the Tanakh, the term “tree of life” is used in Proverbs 3:18; 11:30; 13:12; 15:4 to describe wisdom, the fruit of the righteous, desire fulfilled and a wholesome tongue – all of which many be seen as aspects of eternal life.

Verses 8-11 “To the angel of the Messianic Community in **Smyrna**, write: ‘Here is the message from the First and the Last, who died and came alive again: ⁹ “I know how you are suffering and how poor you are (though in fact you are rich!), and I know the insults of those who call themselves Jews but aren’t — on the contrary, they are a synagogue of the Adversary. ¹⁰ **Don’t be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the Adversary is going to have some of you thrown in prison, in order to put you to the test; and you will face an ordeal for ten days. Remain faithful, even to the point of death; and I will give you life as your crown.** ¹¹ Those who have ears, let them hear what the

Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. He who wins the victory will not be hurt at all by the second death.”

Insight: Smyrna was a wealthy seaport, a competitor of Ephesus, and a center of emperor worship.

Verses 12-17 “To the angel of the Messianic Community in *Pergamum*, write: ‘Here is the message from the one who has the sharp double-edged sword: ¹³ “I know where you are living, there where the Adversary’s throne is. Yet you are holding onto my name. You did not deny trusting me even at the time when my faithful witness Antipas was put to death in your town, there where the Adversary lives. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, **I have a few things against you: you have some people who hold to the teaching of Bil’am, who taught Balak to set a trap for the people of Isra’el, so that they would eat food that had been sacrificed to idols and commit sexual sin.** ¹⁵ Likewise, you too have people who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Therefore, turn from these sins. Otherwise, I will come to you very soon and make war against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ Those who have ears let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. To him winning the victory I will give some of the hidden *man*. I will also give him a **white stone**, on which is written a new name that nobody knows except the one receiving it.”

Insight: Like Abraham and Israel, the Lord Jesus will give each overcomer a new name appropriate to his own character and service. Like the names in the precious white stone, In the ancient world a **WHITE STONE** was used as an admission ticket to public festivals; believers will be admitted to the Messianic feast. On it is written either their own **new name or that of the Messiah** (19-12); this reflects the quantum jump in purity and identification with Yeshua attained by those winning the victory.

Insight: Pergamum was a center for pagan worship of many deities; hence it is called the site of the adversary Satan’s throne!

Verses 18-20 “To the angel of the Messianic Community in *Thyatira*, write: ‘Here is the message from the Son of God, whose eyes are like a fiery flame and whose feet are like burnished brass: ¹⁹ I know what you are doing, your love, trust, service and perseverance. And I know that you are doing more now than before. ²⁰ **But I have this against you: you continue to tolerate that Izevel (Jez’-ebel) woman, the one who claims to be a prophet, but is teaching and deceiving my servants to commit sexual sin and eat food that has been sacrificed to idols.**

Insight: Jezebel had been the pagan queen of Israel in the day of Elijah (2 Kings 9:22) she introduced Baal worship into Israel (1Kings 16:30-33). A similar seductress in the Thyatiran church had somehow obtained a position of leadership in the church, despite Paul’s warning against women prophesying or teaching in the church (I Corinthians 14:34) I Timothy 2:11-12). Her “antinomian” teachings (that is “teachings against law,” purportedly giving license to sin as one pleased), given with the claim that she had the gift of prophecy that led the church into gross immorality while simultaneously

manifesting love, faith and good works. (2:19) This church is typical of many churches since then that profess spirituality and “love” while downgrading doctrine and separation.

Verses 21-23 “I gave her time to turn from her sin, but she doesn’t want to repent of her immorality. ²² So I am throwing her into a sickbed; and those who commit adultery with her I am throwing into great trouble, unless they turn from the sins connected with what she does; ²³ and I will strike her children dead! Then all the Messianic communities will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts, and that I will give to each of you what your deeds deserve.”

Insight: Christ referred to a coming period of “**Great Tribulation,**” and so did one of the elders later speaking to John (7:13-14; Matthew 24:21). This warning that the adulterous members (spiritually adulterous, as well as physically, and thus not truly- born believers) of those churches like Thyatira at the end of the age will be left behind when Christ returns and will be cast into the period of great tribulation on earth, unlike the church at Philadelphia (see note on 3:10).

Versus 24-29 “But to the rest of you in Thyatira, to those who do not hold this teaching, who have NOT learned what some people call the ‘deep things’ of the Adversary, I say this: I am **not** loading you up with another burden; ²⁵ only hold fast to what you have until I come. ²⁶ **To him who wins the victory and does what I want until the goal is reached, I will give him authority over the nations; ²⁷ He will rule them with a staff of iron and dash them to pieces like pottery, ²⁸ just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give Him the morning star.**

Insight: Christ is Himself “*the Morning Star*” (22:16). He will give His own presence to His people (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

²⁹ Those who have ears, let them hear what the **Spirit** is saying to the Messianic communities.”

Insight: “There is a question that should be answered in every Christian church: Are we **honoring** the Holy Spirit of God? That is, are we allowing Him to do what He wants to do in our midst today?”

More than once in the Revelation John mentions the seven-fold Spirit of God and His presence before the heavenly throne. . . . Jesus did not begin His earthly ministry until at His water baptism the living Spirit of God had become all those things to Him.

I have reason to suspect that many people are trying to give leadership in Christian churches today without ever having yielded to the wise and effective leading of the Holy Spirit. He alone can bring the gracious presence of the living God into our lives and ministries.” (A.W. Tozer)

“To Him that over cometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.” Revelation 2:7

BE YE PERFECT!

“Therefore, be ye perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Matthew 5:48 (CJB)

People say, “I am doing my best for God!” And we should do our best! But, done right as in done perfect for God? There is NO way we can do that and here is why. We live in an imperfect world **SO** how can we do something perfect in an imperfect world? There is NO Way we can!

A great many people do not think of it that way, because they think: God is so wonderful and so impressive and so marvelous, and He deserves perfect. However, that is not going to happen on this earth! It just is not possible while we are here on earth. We are not going to do everything perfectly in an imperfect world. The church teaches Jesus was perfect and we are to **strive to be perfect** in the way we serve God. We cannot! Allow me to clarify things here:

When Adam and Eve blew it so many things went wrong after that. Everything that God had created as perfect was - **gone!**

They did not just blow it for us in the sense that now we have sin, but now we have pain and suffering! That is not all that has changed! They blew it in a lot more ways than that. However, the point here is that the world, the way it is now, the way we eat, the way we sleep, the way we exist, is not what it should be. It is not the way it was meant to be! Nothing is the way it was meant to be!

Nothing! Not even our relationship with God! In the Garden of Eden man was **free** (no interferences) to communicate with God and hear His voice! Yes, we still are free, to talk with God and hear his voice but it is **not** - the same!

We were created to live in a perfect world! That world was called Paradise! We were NOT created to get old; we were NOT created to die. Why? The Garden of Eden was Paradise – The Garden of Eden was – **ETERNITY!** Adam and Eve were not going to die! They were going to live forever!

God created a world of perfection for men and women – God did not create a world full of sin, full of anxiety, lying, brutality, and the list goes on! We were created to live in a Heaven on Earth environment! That is why the Garden is referred to as Paradise. Everything was perfect there. However, as you know that is not how it is today! There was no sickness, or broken relationships, or people hating each other. There was no need for counselors or doctors. hospitals, etc. Everything was perfect! Individuals did not need to *protect* themselves - they were safe! However, when sin entered the world, nothing was ever the same! We would have been happy, joyful, and content 24/7!

We may have days or even a season of being happy, but I do not know anyone who is happy all the time! It is impossible for every moment of the day to be happy, happy, and perfect in this world. This world is IMPERFECT!

I hear people say the following quite frequently: "I can't wait until things get back to normal." Things in this world will never be normal because this world is not **OUR** normal – the Garden of Eden was – **OUR NORMAL!** We were created to live in a perfect world! I AM sorry to say, OUR NORMAL does not exist anymore!

So, what is my point? God asked us to "**be ye perfect.**" We can never obtain **godly perfection** in anything we do on this earth! It is not possible in this imperfect world! So, what God is looking for in us is this: Work towards **your** perfection level. Not someone else's. In other words, DO YOUR BEST!

Please do not use the fact that this is an imperfect world to slack off, and NOT try to do your best – that will **NOT** cut it with God! That would be dangerous territory in your relationship and walk with God!

Now as we move forward if you HEAR God say you did perfect in a situation – He means you did as perfect as you can do because you tried - **YOUR BEST** - at that moment in your walk with Him! That is all He expects! God expects the best you can do at that point in your walk and in your relationship with Him - at that moment in your life! When we are truly working hard to do the **absolute best, we can for God** – I mean really trying to do our best with **right heart intentions than - we are doing OUR PERFECT!**

When people say a sinner's prayer, most of the time the churches and individuals expect the person from that moment on to live a perfectly clean godly Christian life! They tell them don't do this, do this instead, change this, change that and what they are doing is setting the person up for failure! God does not set people up to fail! Only Satan does!

Let me repeat: When people come to God and say the sinner's prayer, often they are expected to begin almost immediately to live this godly, squeaky-clean life in a split second! That is not going to happen! We live in an imperfect world where there is sin all around us and temptation is staring us in the face every day!

Take comfort in knowing that Jesus knows all about what we go through. Jesus dealt with temptation just like we must! Look at what the Bible tells us: "*Therefore, He had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. **Because he himself was tested by what he suffered; he is able to help those who are being tested.***" (Hebrews 2:17-18) (NRSV)

What an amazing Savior we have! What love He has for us! He did not come to this earth to condemn us. He came to show us how to - walk the walk! Jesus knows that the transformation process takes time. He knows there is no instant breakfast! Change in

us takes time. Our perfect gets better as we get rid of old habits, old hurts, and hang-ups!”

*“Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your minds**, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”* (Romans 12:2) (NRSV)

I have heard many times people say, “God is doing this to me; He is tempting me and causing this and that to happen to me.”

*“**NO ONE**, when tempted, should say, “I am being tempted by God;” for **God cannot be tempted by evil and He himself tempts no one. But one is tempted by one’s own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin,**”* (James 1:13) (NRSV)

When Jesus walked this earth, He had to make choices just like we do! When He was tempted, He had to **CHOOSE** to obey. Once again, take comfort in knowing Jesus lived what we must live on this earth.

*“Since then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, **but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.** Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* (Hebrews 4:14-16) (NRSV)

Jesus had to go through what we must, or He could never say, “I know exactly how you feel.” And the Bible tells us that He was tempted just like we are! Jesus lived on this earth just like you and me.

We will never have a pure heart on this earth – but we can sure have pure heart intentions! Your choices, the decisions you make, the way you are with others and the way you serve God reflect the **intentions of your heart!**

Our godly perfection comes when we are in Heaven! That will be the finish that will be the end to which all things relate! However, I will tell you this even there, we will **never** be as perfect and pure as God or Jesus! Think about that – that would be putting us on the same level with God and His Son and that – will never be! Keep in mind: God will never say to you while you are on this earth: “That area of your life is perfect!”

He might say, “For what I am trying to do it is going perfectly.” Or He might say: “For what I am trying to do in this area, I am very happy, and I am pleased it is going perfectly.” Or “What you did was perfect. Or He could say, “The way you handled that was perfect.” But He will **not** say, “You are perfect.” He will never say anything close to that because it is not possible! In Heaven, our hearts will be perfect, and we will be perfect.

For now, we cannot expect people to do everything right for God. It is wrong to expect anyone to do that! It is wrong for us to even think we can be perfect or for the church to say you cannot do this and this and this. If we do, we are expecting individuals to be perfect! We are expecting perfection on this earth and that - does not exist!

One of the most humbling truths I have learned in my lifetime is this: *If Adam and Eve had not made the choices they made – than one of us would have!*

If you try to be perfect, perfect as in godly perfection you will:

Wear yourself out!
Feel inferior!
Feel low!
Feel unable to measure up!

Your absolute best done with the right heart intentions - is *your* perfect!

Chapter Three

Verse 1 “To the angel of the Messianic Community in *Sardis*, write: ‘Here is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars: ***“I know what you are doing — you have a reputation for being alive, but in fact you are dead!*”**

Insight: The people of Sardis were spiritually apathetic, because of their luxurious, loose way of life. The Sardis congregation was severely backslidden.

Verses 2-5 ***“Wake up, and strengthen what remains, before it dies too! For I have found what you are doing incomplete in the sight of my God.*** ³ So remember what you received and heard, and obey it, and turn from your sin! **For if you don’t wake up, I will come like a thief; and you do not know at what moment I will come upon you.** ⁴ Nevertheless, you do have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; and they will walk with me, clothed in white, because they are worthy. ⁵ **He who wins the victory will, like them, be dressed in white clothing; and I will not blot his name out of the Book of Life; in fact, I will acknowledge him individually before my Father and before his angels.** ⁶ Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities.”

Insight: ***I AM coming like a thief, that is, suddenly and unexpectedly! The way to be ready and alert always is to always be leading a godly life!***

Throughout the Bible white, clean clothes refer to the righteous deeds God gives His people to do so that they may exercise and express their faith (Isaiah 61:10, Ep 2:10). Contrast the outwardly righteous works which people without faith organize for themselves to do; these God calls *“filthy rags”* (Isaiah 61:5).

Verses 7-13 “To the angel of the Messianic Community in ***Philadelphia***, write: ‘Here is the message of *HaKadosh*, the Holy One, the one who has the key of David, who, if He opens something, no one else can shut it, and if He closes something, no one else can open it. ⁸ ***“I know what you are doing.*** Look, I have put in front of you an open door, and no one can shut it. I know that you have but little power, yet you have obeyed my message and have not disowned me. ⁹ Here, I will give you some from the synagogue of the Adversary, those who call themselves Jews but aren’t — on the contrary, they are lying — see, I will cause them to come and prostrate themselves at your feet, and they will know that I have loved you. ¹⁰ **Because you did obey my message about persevering, I will keep you from the time of trial coming upon the entire world to put the people living on earth to the test.** ¹¹ I am coming soon; hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown. ¹² I will **make him who wins the victory a pillar in the Temple of My God, and he will never leave it. Also, I will write on him the name of my God and the name of my God’s city, the New Yerushalayim coming down out of heaven from my God,** and my own New name. ¹³ Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities.”

Verses 14-22 “To the angel of the Messianic Community in **Laodicea**, write: ‘Here is the message from the *Amen*, the faithful and true witness, the Ruler of God’s creation: ¹⁵ **“I know what you are doing: you are neither cold nor hot. How I wish you were either one or the other!** ¹⁶ **So, because you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth!** ¹⁷ For you keep saying, ‘I am rich, I have gotten rich I don’t need a thing!’ You don’t know that you are the one who is wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked! ¹⁸ My advice to you is to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich; and white clothing, so that you may be dressed and not have to be ashamed of your nakedness; and eye salve to rub on your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ As for me, I rebuke and discipline everyone I love; so exert yourselves and turn from your sins! ²⁰ Here, I’m standing at the door, knocking. If someone hears my **voice** and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he will eat with me. ²¹ I will let him who wins the victory sit with me on my throne, just as I also won the victory and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities.””

The Key to YOUR walk with God!

“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:19

God does not work OUT OF OUR NEED! He works out of our **faith through obedience**. How would you explain to someone the above scripture, which is taught repeatedly in the church? There are Christians who quote this scripture many, many times over. So how are we to explain it? What is God’s perspective on this?

What man thinks is a need is not necessarily a need in God’s eyes! This is how you know it is a need of God for your life: IF the need is *preventing* you from doing what the GOD has called you to do, and you are walking in obedience - **then it is a need!**

Our idea or definition of a need is more often a desire or a want - rather than a need. If the need is NOT preventing you from carrying out something regarding your calling and what the Lord has anointed you, to do on this earth - it is **NOT** a need!
Example: **IF** God has told you to go from point A to point B to speak for Him - and if your car has broken down and you do not have transportation, WHICH is a need. **But! Transportation is the need! Not a new car!** God can provide the transportation and the need is met.

However, there are many people who have used issues like this to buy a new car, instead of fixing the car they have. Even if the car is old, or breaks down frequently, a new vehicle is not the need unless God says so! Transportation is a need!
God does NOT work in and through our lives out of a need we think we have! HE WORKS IN AND THROUGH OUR LIVES OUT OF OUR - **OBEDIENCE!**

Did you know Jesus *LEARNED* obedience through His sufferings?

*“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and **once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.**”* Hebrews 5:7-10 (NIV)

Obedience to God is: Focusing on God! God wants our total obedience! What does that mean? It means that we have been **“...bought with a price and we are not our own. Therefore, glorify God in our bodies...”**

We are His servants which means that before we do anything at all we need to ask God, “What would you have me do? How do you want me to handle this?”

Too many times, and too much of our life is spent doing what ***we feel*** that we are supposed to do and - **then** we ask God to bless it! **That is NOT God’s way of doing things!** He wants us to ask Him everything! When do we eat and what should we eat today?! What should we wear today? What do you want on my schedule for today? If you have a job – what does God want, you to do before and after work? Who do I *need* to talk with today? Should I run my errands today or wait until another day?

The only way to live an obedient life is this: we must keep FOCUSED on God! How do we do that? We keep our minds focused on Him rather than circumstances! We trust Him to work His perfect will. We do all the warfare He directs us to do. We must ask Him how we should pray in every situation. Be careful about the words **YOU SPEAK - every word is a prayer!** Whether it is a blessing or a curse!

Being focused on God means TOTAL attention to Him! Asking Him every move we should take – without interference!

“Out of the level of your obedience to God, comes the level of your blessings! You can count on it!”

Chapter Four

Verses 1-11 After these things (the seven revealed churches), I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, ***“Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things.”***

Insight: “A higher state of mind and spiritual vision can only be achieved through the higher practice of personal character. If you live up to the highest and best that you know in the outer level of your life, God will continually say to you, ***“Come up even higher.”*** There is also a continuing rule in temptation which calls you to go higher; but when you do, you only encounter other temptations and character traits. Both God and Satan use the strategy of elevation, but Satan uses it in temptation, and the effect is quite different. When Satan elevates you to a certain place, he causes you to fasten your idea of what holiness is far beyond what flesh and blood could ever bear or achieve. Your life becomes a spiritual acrobatic performance high atop a steeple. You cling to it, trying to maintain your balance and daring not to move. But when God elevates you by His grace into heavenly places, you find a vast plateau where you can move about with ease.

Compare this week in your spiritual life with the same week last year to see how God has called you to a higher level. We have all been brought to see from a higher level. We have all been brought to see from a higher viewpoint. Never allow God to show you a truth which you *do not instantly* begin to live up to, applying it to your life. Always work through it, staying in its light.

Your growth in grace is not measured by the fact that you haven't turned back, but that you have an insight and understanding into where you are spiritually. Have you heard God say, ***“Come up higher.”*** Not audibly on the outer level, but to the innermost part of your character?” (Oswald Chambers)

Verse 2-5 “Instantly I was in the Spirit, and there before me in heaven stood a throne, and on the throne, Someone was sitting. ³ ***The One sitting there gleamed like diamonds and rubies, and a rainbow shining like emerald encircled the throne.*** ⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothing and wearing gold crowns on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came forth lightnings, voices and thundering's; and before the throne were seven flaming torches, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God.

Insight: The seven Spirits of God refer to the sevenfold Holy Spirit. However, it is also significant that there are seven distinct names given to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. He is called: (1) Spirit of Truth (John 16:13); (2) Spirit of Holiness (Romans 1:4); (3) Spirit of Faith (2 Corinthians 4:13); (4) Spirit of Wisdom (Ephesians 1:17); (5) Spirit of Power (2 Timothy 1:7), (6) Spirit of Grace (Hebrews 10:29; and (7) Spirit of Glory (I Peter 4:14).

Verse 6 “In front of the throne was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living beings covered with eyes in front and behind. **7 The first** living being was like **a lion**, **the second** living being was like **an ox**, **the third** living being had **a face** that looked **human**, and **the fourth** living being was like a flying **eagle**.^[a] **8 Each** of the four living beings **had six wings** and was covered with eyes inside and out; and day and night they never stop saying,

9 And whenever the living beings give glory, honor and thanks to the One sitting on the throne, to the One who lives forever and ever, **10** the twenty-four elders fall down before the One sitting on the throne, who lives forever and ever, and worship him. They throw their crowns in front of the throne and say,

11 *“You are worthy, ADONAI Eloheinu,
to have glory, honor and power, because you created all things —a glimpse of worship
and rejoicing and praise because God is who He is! yes, because of your will they were
created and came into being!”*

The Holy Spirit - The Anointing - THE FACTS!

The Anointing is the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit!

The Anointing is the **Holy Spirit!**

The Anointing is un-merited favor it is sheer - **GRACE!**

“Next to the gift of Salvation and the sure knowledge that we will go to heaven when we die, the anointing is our most - precious gift!” (R.T. Kendall)

What has been and is now being taught regarding the infilling of the Holy Spirit is and has been missing some key facts! If the facts had been taught correctly there would NOT have been and would **not** be more defeated Christians than - victorious ones!

Let me explain: The misconception began many years ago and I say that because I was one of the individuals who wanted the Holy Spirit in my life, and I wanted it as soon as possible. When I discussed this issue with a friend, a deacon, a pastor, or my Sunday School teacher – I received the same answers. Here is what I was told: “The moment you pray and ask Jesus to come into your life everything is going to be all right! Everything is going to change! Jesus is going to hear your prayer and all the things that bother you are going to disappear!”

That is **NOT** how it works! When presented to someone in that manner it gives them the idea first that they do not have to do anything but pray and second, they can do what they want and then pray, and Jesus will fix their – MESSSES!

God does **NOT** work like that! I have heard individuals say exactly what I have just said to people who are on their knees at the altar in church! Church members quite often see someone at the altar, and they go up and put an arm around the person and begin to tell

them what they need to do and say and how it is all going to happen. Example: "All you must do is ask God to forgive you and ask Jesus to come into your heart! And you will be a new person. And Jesus will handle everything for you!" Now, when the individual comes up to the person on their knees – they **are interrupting what God is trying to do!** Plus, at that moment God does NOT need our assistance! He is perfectly equipped to handle that moment in someone's life! Let the Holy Spirit handle it! Most importantly, the Holy Spirit could be speaking to the individual, and you have just **interrupted** Him!

The biggest fact missing is – just saying a sinner's prayer as someone directs you too or repeating after them what they are telling you to say or simply thinking that is all an individual must do – this thinking is totally and completely off! It is NOT truth! God wants to hear what the individual is saying to Him – NOT what someone is telling them to say!

When we ask God into our heart and life most individuals want a - **Quick Fix!** That is NOT going to happen! People are told (I know I was) that by repenting and asking Jesus into my life – I was going to be a new person FROM THAT MOMENT ON - just like that! Wrong! Those types of statements imply that it is INSTANT BREAKFAST!

David Jeremiah puts it this way. "The morning after saying a sinner's prayer you will not wake up a complete other person! You will NOT wake up no longer being selfish, angry, mean, etc.!"

The infilling of the Holy Spirit into our lives comes in what I call levels, as an individual is transformed into who God created them to be! It is one step at a time - as God directs!

We must change! We must understand that the person we were before saying a sinner's prayer NOW needs to change into who the person God created you to be, and that requires – WORK and CHANGE! All the wrong choices we have made that hurt others and, all the hurt, disappointments and pain that came our way because of what others did to us. The leftovers of all the mistakes we made, must be worked out with God! We cannot hang on to the past or things in the present that keep us from becoming who God intended us to be.

Without change we are no different than the world. The Holy Spirit cannot be invited into a dirty vessel. You cannot put fresh food on a dirty plate! You cannot work out in the yard all day, come in, put on clean clothes, and go to a wedding without bathing! You cannot take an expensive bottle of perfume to a garbage dump, pour it out and expect the smell to change. There must be a moving out for the Spirit of God to come in! When you accept Christ as Savior, you must make room for Him. There is no way that the Holy Spirit can dwell, in its fullness, without cleaning out of our old ways! Jesus declared:

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved." (NIV) Matthew 9:16-17

The teaching that is in many churches tells us when we accept Christ, we receive all the Holy Spirit that we are going to get! Not true! That was not true of the disciples! They were with Jesus for *three years night and day!* They listened, learned, and were corrected by Jesus if necessary! They had the opportunity to observe how Jesus handled situations, and they were tested! There was not any Instant Breakfast for them!

Jesus made an especially important distinction here: The following statement was made to the disciples by Jesus just before He ascended into Heaven. *“On one occasion, while Jesus was eating with them, he gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for **the gift** my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”*

“Then they gathered around him and asked him. ‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom of Israel?’ He said to them: It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up to the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said. ‘Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.’ Acts 1:4-11 (NIV)

After this the disciples returned to Jerusalem (days walk), and went to the Upper room and waited, and prayed and asked the Lord who would replace Judas.

In Acts chapter 2:1-4 the following states: *“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”*

The baptism with water is the giving of your life to God. *“I baptize you with water **FOR repentance**. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. (NIV) Matthew 3:11*

The infilling of the Holy Spirit is a different level, a unique experience, a different godly jolt. It is just different. If it weren't different, Jesus would not have made that distinction. We couldn't possibly get all the Holy Spirit at the time of salvation.

*“. . .because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; **they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.** (NIV) Acts 8:16*

The disciples themselves didn't receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit until after Jesus returned to the Father. They were ready at that time to receive the infilling of the Spirit. God's timing is perfect. After three years of being with Yeshua and getting cleaned up and being taught, they were ready. Here are just a few examples of how they were taught, corrected, and prepared for the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

*"The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are going to drown!" He replied, "**You of little faith, why are you so afraid?**" Then he got up and rebuked the wind and the waves, and it was completely calm.*

*"Jesus turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.**" (NIV) Matthew 16:23*

"The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." (NIV) Luke 10:17

Jesus said to them: *"However, **do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**" (NIV) Luke 10:20*

Every one of the disciples had to have been called strange, weird, and crazy, because they left their wives, their children, their jobs, and the comforts of their homes to follow Jesus! They left everything! They paid the price. There is a price, and that price must be paid! We cannot stay the same. We must be willing to change. With that process of change comes correction and redirection. There must be cleansing from the inside out. Wrong teaching must go. Ungodly habits must go. We must lay down everything and allow God to say what He wants left in our lives. We must be willing to be offended. There is no other way. Then you are ready. After three years, they were ready.

*"All of them **were filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (NIV) Acts 2:4*

When you accept Christ as Savior, you are choosing to make room for God in your life, and you will eventually become a new creation. At that time, you give God space. You open your heart to God, and you give God a place in your life. Then if you walk in obedience to **His plan**, you start hearing His voice, and you start walking in His perfect will. All the rest of the stuff that has been taking up room in your life **will begin** to leave.

There **must be** that moving out for God to move in. You must make room for Christ. You must make room for God – and the Holy Spirit in your life. We very freely make room for pets in our lives. We very freely make room for hobbies and for friends. We allow all sorts of things to take up space in our lives, so why shouldn't we have to make room for Christ and for the Father and the precious Holy Spirit? He just does not pop in for a visit. He just does not come into our lives without us inviting Him. He does not want to rent a room. He wants to – **occupy!**

To receive the empowering, you must want more of God. You must want God to do whatever it takes to get you where He wants you to be. You must be willing to do whatever it takes and give up whatever He wants you too. If you want that and you are willing, then you must ask. By just simply saying to God, "God, I'm willing if you are willing to give me a try." It must be more than just a salvation prayer of giving your life to God.

Once you have prayed for the prayer or if you have been prayed for, it does not stop there. You cannot go around saying I've received the baptism of the Holy Spirit; I have been saved, and I have it all! **All you have at that point is the – TOOLS!**

The starting point is step #1, which is your salvation. That is where you say, "God, I'm willing to be cleaned up, take my life God, do what you want with it, get me ready, do what you need to do." Then there is step #2. The Holy Spirit comes after being invited to give you what I call a "beginners boost the size of a mustard seed." Some individuals call it "a Mustard Seed of Faith." (See: Matthew 17:20, Matthew 13:31)

Let us stop right here and make something truly clear. The individuals heart *motive* and their *heart* attitude for wanting to obtain all that God has for us, must be - **pure!** You must want this for the right reasons. You cannot fool God! You cannot even attempt to fake God out!

"Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask – because we obey his commands and do what pleases him."
(NIV) I John 3:21-22

*"But seek **first** His kingdom and His righteousness, and **all these things will be given to you as well.**"* (NIV) Matthew 6:33

It is a step-by-step process. With the "beginners boost the size of a mustard seed" the Holy Spirit will start to infiltrate your life. It is not a single deal. You cannot just go up to the altar, get prayed for to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and think that you have it all. That is contrary to the Word of God!

*"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then** you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- his good, pleasing, and perfect will."* (NIV) Romans 12:2

To be transformed by the renewing of your mind is an **ongoing** action! It is not a "one shot deal." It takes time! You cannot do it any other way. That "beginner's boost" allows us to be empowered with the Holy Spirit step by step by step. It does not happen just because you have accepted Christ or because you have been prayed for the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter Five

Verses 1-14 “Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals; ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” ³ But no one in heaven, on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or look inside it. ⁴ I cried and cried, because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look inside it. ⁵ One of the elders said to me, “Don’t cry. **Look, the Lion of the tribe of Y’hudah, the Root of David, has won the right to open the scroll and its seven seals.**”

Insight: By His incarnation, obedient life and atoning death *Yeshua has won the victory over human sin which gives Him the right to open the scroll and its seven seals.*

⁶ Then I saw standing there with the throne and the four living beings, in the circle of the elders, a Lamb that appeared to have been slaughtered. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God sent out into all the earth.

Insight: John saw a Lamb instead of a conquering Lion receive the scroll with the title deed. The Lamb had obviously been slain shedding His precious blood as the price of redemption, and yet it “stood” alive again after death. He was the “Lamb without blemish, and without spot.... fore ordained before the foundation of the world. (I Peter 1:19-20)

⁷ He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of the One sitting on the throne. ⁸ When He took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down in front of the Lamb. Each one held a harp and gold bowls filled with pieces of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people; ⁹ and they sang a new song,

“You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals;
because you were slaughtered;
at the cost of blood you ransomed for God
persons from every tribe, language, people and nation.
¹⁰ You made them into a kingdom for God to rule,
Cohanim to serve him;
and they will rule over the earth.”

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard a vast number of angels — thousands and thousands, millions and millions! They were all around the throne, the living beings and the elders; ¹² and they shouted out,

“Worthy is the slaughtered Lamb to receive
power, riches, wisdom, strength,
honor, glory and praise!”

¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth and on the sea — yes, everything in them — saying,

“To the One sitting on the throne
and to the Lamb
belong praise, honor, glory and power
forever and ever!”

¹⁴ The four living beings said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshipped!”

The Book of Life and the Lamb’s Book of Life!

“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.” (NIV) Revelation 20:12

There is more than one book. There is the book of life and the Lamb’s Book of Life. When people are born, naturally their name is in the book of life. Unless they totally reject God, their name will remain there.

If they choose to believe in God and Yeshua, and if they “**trust**” in Him with the right heart motive, their name will remain there. Someone would have to totally reject God, for their name to be removed.

IF someone chooses to walk in obedience and IF they truly choose to follow God. It is upon receiving the Seal of the Holy Spirit, that their name is written in *The Lamb’s Book of Life*. If someone’s name remains in the book of life, and is not in *The Lamb’s Book of Life* - they will stand judgement!

Chapter Six

Verses 1-17 “Next, I watched as the Lamb broke the first of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living beings say in a thundering voice, “Go!” I looked, and there in front of me was a white horse; its rider had a bow and was given a crown; and He rode off as a conqueror to conquer.

Insight: Six of the seven seals are broken in this chapter, the scroll itself is open when the seventh seal is broken, at chapter 8:1.

When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living being say, “Go!” Another horse went out, a red one; and its rider was given the power to take peace away from the earth and make people slaughter each other. He was given a great sword.

⁵ When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living being say, “Go!” I looked, and there in front of me was a black horse, and its rider held in his hand a pair of scales. ⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a voice from among the four living beings say, “Two pounds of wheat for a day’s wages! Six pounds of barley for the same price! But don’t damage the oil or the wine!”

Insight: “Weighing the bread is a sign of a curse, according to Leviticus 26:26. They shall dole out your bread by weight, you will eat, but you will not be satisfied.”

⁷ When He broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living being say, “Go!” ⁸ I looked, and there in front of me was a pallid, sickly-looking horse. Its rider’s name was Death, and Sh’ol followed behind him. They were given authority to kill one-quarter of the world by war, by famine, by plagues and with the wild animals of the earth.

⁹ When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been put to death for proclaiming the Word of God, that is, for bearing witness. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, “Sovereign Ruler, *HaKadosh*, the True One, how long will it be before you judge the people living on earth and avenge our blood?” ¹¹ Each of them was given a white robe; and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow-servants should be reached, of their brothers who would be killed, just as they had been.

¹² Then I watched as He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake, the sun turned black as sackcloth worn in mourning, and the full moon became blood-red. ¹³ The stars fell from heaven to earth just as a fig tree drops its figs when shaken by a strong wind. ¹⁴ The sky receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place. ¹⁵ Then the earth’s kings, the rulers, the generals, the rich and the mighty — indeed, everyone, slave and free — hid himself in caves and among the rocks in the mountains, ¹⁶ **and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us, and hide us** ¹⁷ **us** from the face of the One sitting on the throne and from the fury of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the Great Day of their fury has come, and who can stand?”

Insight: The description of the breaking of the sixth seal alludes to descriptions of the end of the world found in Isaiah 2:10-12, 2:19, 13:10,34:4, 50:3, Jeremiah 4:23-29, Joel 3:4, 4:15, Nahum 1:5-6, Haggai 2:6 (compare Matthew 24:29, Luke 23:30).

The fury of the Lamb will be fearful because the *Lamb is also a Lion*. According to John 5:22, Acts 17:31, Roman 2:16, 2 Corinthians 5:10 has entrusted judgment to this Lion/Lamb. It will take place on **the GREAT DAY**, also known as the **DAY of the LORD!**

On the **GREAT DAY . . . WHO CAN STAND?** Those of the world who glory in their power will realize that it was all an illusion. Even weak people who manipulate and try to gain power in small ways will be revealed for what they are. **Only those who restrict “praise, honor, glory and power” to God and the Lamb, will survive their fury!”**

Be Ye Holy!

“For it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:16 (NIV)

Do you want intimacy with God? Then you will have to work for it! Ask yourself. Am I changing into what God wants me to be? Am I changing into what God needs me to be to walk in the calling, He created for me? Have I been found faithful? Am I manifesting God’s workmanship in my life?

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

Many have come to look upon the world and the way it is as the natural and expected thing! Men and women are not disappointed anymore in the fact that all truth is not found in their teachers, and politicians! Nor are they all upset that complete honesty in our merchants or full trustworthiness in our friends is hardly anywhere to be found! Most individuals just fluff it off as, “Oh well, that is just the way it is, and we have to live with it!” Or people say, “It is what it is! Men and women have become **desensitized** to how very sinful this world is. Over many years this has slowly been happening EVEN in the movies we watch and the books/magazines we read!

Holy is the way God is! He does not conform to a standard. **He is the standard!** He is Holy with an infinite, incomprehensible fullness of purity that is incapable of being other than it is!

Because God is Holy, whatever we think of as belonging to God **MUST** be as Holy!
(Unknown)

“On the contrary, following the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in your entire way of life; since the Tanakh says, “You are to be holy because I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:15-16 (CJB)

Without respect for God and His Holiness there can be no relationship! As you hunger after God and as you move forward in your relationship with Him the above statements are something that I pray you will take to heart.

Chapter 7

“After this, I saw four angels at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the land, on the sea or on any tree. I saw another angel coming up from the east with a seal from the living God, and He shouted to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea. Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.!”

Insight: The servants of God are sealed on their foreheads so that certain plagues, such as the one from the fifth trumpet, will not affect them. It seems that on the seal was written the name of the Lamb and of His father. See Ezekiel 9:4, where a mark is set on the foreheads of those who oppose the abominations done in Jerusalem. I heard how many were sealed – 144, 000 from every tribe of the people of Israel:

From the tribe of Y’hudah - 12, 000 were sealed.

From the tribe of Reuven - 12, 000

From the tribe of Gad - 12, 000

From the tribe of Asher - 12, 000

From the tribe of Naftali - 12,000

From the tribe of M’nasheh - 12,000

From the tribe of Shim’on - 12,000,

From the tribe of Levi - 12,000

From the tribe of Yissakhar - 12, 000

From the tribe of Z’vulun - 12,000

From the tribe of Yosef - 12,000

From the tribe of Binyamin - 12,000

“After this, I looked; and there before me was a huge crowd, too large for anyone to count, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands; and they shouted:

“Victory to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!”

All the angels stood around the throne, the elders and the four living beings; they fell face down before the throne and worshipped God, saying,

“Amen! Praise and Glory, wisdom and thanks, honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! Amen!”

“One of the Elders asked me, “These people dressed in white robes who are they, and where are they from? “Sir, I answered, “you know.” Then He told me, “These are the people who have come out of the Great Persecution. They have washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb. That is why they are before God’s throne.”

Day and night they serve Him in His temple; and the one who sits on the throne will put His Sh’khinah upon them. They will never be hungry, they will never again be thirsty, the sun will not beat down on them, nor will any burning heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will shepherd them, will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

Actions!

“For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will.” Ephesians 1:5

Our actions must never be determined by someone’s manipulation! Therefore, if you allow someone to control you through manipulation, obligation, distraction, or temptation – **then you are living for their good pleasure!**

Chapter 8

Verses 1- 13 “When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for what seemed like half an hour. ² Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and they were given seven *shofars*.

Insight: Shofars are “rams horns” They are not Trumpets. The idea that the Great Judgment of the Last Days is heralded by blasts on the Shofar has its roots in the Tanakh (Bible- New Testament)

³ Another angel came and stood at the altar with a gold incense-bowl, and he was given a large quantity of incense to add to the prayers of all God’s people ⁴ on the gold altar in front of the throne. The smoke of the incense went up with the prayers of God’s people from the hand of the angel before God. ⁵ Then the angel took the incense-bowl, filled it with fire from the altar and threw it down onto the earth; and there followed peals of thunder, voices, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

Insight: When the people of Israel pray, you do not find them all praying at the same time, but each assembly prays separately, first one and then the other. When they have all finished, the angel appointed over prayers collects all the prayers that have been offered in all the synagogues, weaves them into garlands and places them on the head of God.” (Rabbi Chiyya bar-Abba)

⁶ Now the seven angels with the seven *shofars* prepared to sound them.

⁷ The first one sounded his *shofar*; and there came hail and fire mingled with blood, and it was thrown down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

⁸ The second angel sounded his *shofar*, and what looked like an enormous blazing mountain was hurled into the sea. A third of the sea turned to blood, ⁹ a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

¹⁰ The third angel sounded his *shofar*; and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky onto a third of the rivers and onto the springs of water. ¹¹ The name of the star was “Bitterness,” and a third of the water became bitter, and many people died from the water that had been turned bitter.

Insight: Bitterness, literally, “wormwood, absinthe”, Compare Jeremiah 9:15,23:15, “I will feed this people wormwood and give them water made of gall to drink.”

¹² The fourth angel sounded his *shofar*; and a third of the sun was struck, also a third of the moon and a third of the stars; so that a third of them were darkened, the day had a third less light, and the night likewise.

¹³ Then I looked, and I heard a lone eagle give a loud cry, as it flew in mid-heaven, “Woe! Woe! Woe to the people living on earth, because of the remaining blasts from the three angels who have yet to sound their *shofars!*”

When People are Fighting God!

When people are suffering because of their choices and actions. Is the person crying because they feel sorry for what they have done to God and how they have hurt people?

Are they crying about the damage they have caused to someone or EVEN to God’s will?

OR are they simply feeling sorry for themselves and wanting others to feel sorry for them and wanting God to show mercy to them?

Different heart motives! One brings repentance, healing, forgiveness, progress, and trust. The other brings selfishness, resentment, anger, lack of growth and hopelessness.

Two different attitudes, two different results!

When people are suffering because they are fighting God, He does NOT show sympathy or compassion to them **until** and **unless** they **repent** to His satisfaction. **That is a fact!**

Chapter 9

Verses 1-21 “The fifth angel sounded his *shofar*, and I saw a star that had fallen out of heaven onto the earth, and he was given the key to the shaft leading down to the Abyss.

Insight: The star is NOT Satan, but an Angel, who still has the key. The Abyss is not Sh’ol (Romans 10:7). **But a place where demonic beings are imprisoned.** In the Apocrypha, God is called, “You who close and seal the Abyss with your fearful and glorious name.” (Prayer of Manasseh)

He opened the shaft of the Abyss, and there went up smoke from the shaft like the smoke of a huge furnace; the sun was darkened, and the sky too, by the smoke from the shaft. **Then out of the smoke onto the earth came locusts, and they were given power like the power scorpions have on earth. They were instructed not to harm the grass on the earth, any green plant or any tree, but only the people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. The locusts were not allowed to kill them, only to inflict pain on them for five months; and the pain they caused was like the pain of a scorpion sting. In those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.**

Now these locusts looked like horses outfitted for battle. On their heads were what looked like crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces. They had hair like women’s hair, and their teeth were like those of lions. Their chests were like iron breastplates, and the sound their wings made was like the roar of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. They had tails like those of scorpions, with stings; and in their tails was their power to hurt people for five months. **They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is “Abaddon” and in our language, “Destroyer.”**

The first woe has passed, but there are still two woes to come.

The sixth angel sounded his *shofar*, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the gold altar before God, saying to the sixth angel, the one with the *shofar*, **“Release the four angels that are bound at the great river Euphrates!” And they were released. These four angels had been kept ready for this moment, for this day and month and year, to kill a third of mankind; and the number of cavalry soldiers was two hundred million! — I heard the number.”**

Here is how the horses looked in the vision: the riders had breastplates that were fire-red, iris-blue and sulfur-yellow; the horses’ heads were like lions’ heads; and from their mouths issued fire, smoke and sulfur. It was these three plagues that killed a third of mankind — the fire, smoke and sulfur issuing from the horses’ mouths. For the power of the horses was in their mouths — and in their tails, for their tails were like snakes with heads, and with them they could cause injury.

The rest of mankind, those who were not killed by these plagues, even then did not turn from what they had made with their own hands — **they did not stop worshipping demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they turn from their murdering, their involvement with the occult and with *drugs*, their sexual immorality, or their stealing.**”

Insight: Misuse of drugs in connection with the occult. Greek “**pharmakoi**”, usually translated “**sorceries.**” “**witchcraft’ or “magic arts,**” is here rendered by this longer phrase in order to focus on the fact that using, potions and drugs is an essential part of the word’s meaning – as is from the derived English words “pharmaceuticals” and ‘pharmacy.” The usual rendering suggests to many people a setting so removed from the fabric of their lives that the text does not speak to them.

Spiritually speaking, there are four distinct categories of drugs misuse:

- (1) Taking drugs in order to explore spiritual realms
- (2) Taking drugs in order to engage in “sorcery, witchcraft and magic arts” while under their influence.
- (3) Giving drugs to other people to gain control over them.
- (4) Taking drugs for pleasure.

The last drug is a misuse because the drugs in question - besides whatever temporary enjoyment they provide and apart from their adverse medical and psychological effects – open a person to supernatural or spiritual experiences; almost always demonic and not from God, since the Holy one of Israel reveals Himself through His Word (Romans 1:16-17), not through drugs!

“Just as a virgin who has sexual intercourse can never again be a virgin, so a person is not the same after having taken mind-altering drugs. His range of experience has been broadened - but not every experience is edifying.”

David H. Stern

An accomplice to Sin!

When we have done something wrong, and we recognize that we have done wrong and very possibly this is not the first time we have carried out this wrong – and seeing as how we know that going to God for forgiveness is the next step – we proceed to do just that!

NOW! I want to share something that is not often thought of: Whether, we have gone to God once or many times for the same issue let’s stop and look at this from a fresh new perspective: To expect God to forgive you when you have done something wrong (sin) without ever considering that He is wanting change in your conduct - is an issue!

When correcting your children do you expect them to change when they make a mistake? Of course, you do! However, because we love them, we forgive them.

BUT! Do you expect them to not do it again? Do you expect a change in the situation? Of course, you do. Well, ask God if that is what He wants from us?

Yes, we have our own free will – that is a fact. So, God is not going to MAKE you stop whatever it is you are doing. However, I believe that His heart aches every time we continue sinning without change. Here is why:

“To expect God to forgive you when you have done wrong *without even considering that He is deeply wanting change in your conduct - is to make God’s Grace - an accomplice to sin!*”

Chapter 10

Verses 1-11 “Next, I saw another mighty Angel coming down from heaven. He was dressed in a cloud, with a rainbow over His head; His face was like the sun, His legs like columns of fire; ² and He had a little scroll lying open in his hand. He planted His right foot on the sea and His left foot on the land, ³ and shouted in a voice as loud as the roar of a lion; and when He shouted, seven thunderclaps sounded with voices that spoke. ⁴ When the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, **“Seal up the things the seven thunders said, do not write them down!”**

Insight: The hidden plan of God will be brought to completion! It includes both judgment, as described in the book of revelation, and the overall out working of History, including the Salvation of the Jewish people and of others who come to faith (Matthew 13:1, Romans 11:25-36; Ephesians 1:9-10; 33-11. God proclaimed this to his servants, the prophets, although living centuries earlier, they did not fully understand it. Then the angel I saw standing on the sea and on the land **lifted His right hand toward heaven** and swore by the One who lives forever and ever **who created heaven and what is in it, earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it.**¹ **“There will be no more delay;** on the contrary, in the days of the sound from the seventh angel when he sounds his *shofar*, the hidden plan of God will be brought to completion, the Good News as he proclaimed it to his servants the prophets.”

⁸ Next the voice which I had heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, “Go, take the scroll lying open in the hand of the angel standing on the sea and on the land!” So, I went over to the Angel and asked Him to give me the little scroll; and He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach bitter, but in your mouth, it will be sweet as honey. I took the little scroll from the Angel’s hand and ate it; and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; but after I had swallowed it, my stomach turned bitter. Then I was told, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.”

“Now to God, who can strengthen you, according to my Good News,
in harmony with the revelation of the secret truth
which is the proclamation of Yeshua the Messiah,
kept hidden in silence for ages and ages,
²⁶ but manifested now through prophetic writings,
in keeping with the command of God the Eternal,
and communicated to all the Gentiles
to promote in them trust-grounded obedience —
²⁷ to the only wise God, through Yeshua the Messiah,
be the glory forever and ever! Amen” Romans 16:25-27 (CJB)

Jesus NEVER FORCED Himself on Anyone!

What I am writing about has been on my mind for an exceptionally long time. So, here goes! I have observed parents, children, friends, and coworkers being *pushed* to get saved! On many occasions I have heard people pointing out other individuals' faults while getting specific enough to accomplish the saving of the individual, all the while being very confrontational! They even attempt to use scare tactics on their children, friends, spouses, and co-workers. By that I mean saying things such as this: "You better accept the Lord, or you are going to Hell!" "If the Rapture happens and you are out partying you will get left." "I don't want to think I'm going to Heaven, and you won't be there." The person they are talking to too may be on the road to just that! However, are they supposed to be making that judgement on that person?

I have heard so many sad and hurtful stories from people (while in my counseling office) that would tear your heart out. Wives and husbands drag their spouses into a counseling situation and Mom's and Dad's drag their children in and begin to tear their spouses, and children down. All the while totally embarrassing them. Is that what God would do? That is not how God works!

Many individuals have been trying for years to get another individual to say a sinner's prayer by using these tactics. To them I genuinely want to say: "How is that working for you?" We need to look to our example (Jesus) and see how He did it!

Jesus never forced himself on anyone to accept Him! He never ever pushed anyone to accept Him! Do not expect God to come and force anyone or push a person into coming after Him. God does not force His will on anyone! Also, God will not come and plead with anyone! When Jesus called His disciples there was no pressure! He simply said, "Follow me." (Matthew 4:19) So, who draws them?

"Jesus answered them, **'Stop grumbling to each other! No one can come to me unless the Father – the one who sent me – draws him . . .'**" (John 6:44) (CJB) **"No man can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them ..."** (NIV) (John 6:44)

We are **not** here to WIN anyone! We are not here to win anyone over for God that is not our place on this earth! We are here to: **Set an example! Respect other people. Care about other people in the way God wants us to. Help them when God tells us to! And encourage people towards the life that God wants them to live!**

St. Frances of Assisi said, "In everything be a witness **and if necessary, use words.**"

Witness, witness – *it should be able to be seen in your life before you can share it with anybody!* Once someone observes someone else being blessed, once someone observes God's power at work in someone's life, once someone sees God's authority coming through in someone's life, once they see God's love coming through that person, they are going to say, "I have been missing something, this works!" And that is what it's going to take in our families, jobs, and even in the people who go to church! **It has to be seen in operation – that is the only way it can be proven!** It cannot be done any

other way, if it is, it will be fakery! For us to say, “I won someone to the Lord today!”
The moment we say something like that we have just taken the winning of a soul away from God!

Chapter 11

Verses 1-19 “I was given a measuring rod like a stick and told, “Get up, and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count how many people are worshipping there! ² But the court outside the Temple, leave that out; don’t measure it; because it has been given to the *Goyim*, and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months.

³ “Also, I will give power to my two witnesses; and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth.” ⁴ These are the two olive trees and the two *menorahs* standing before the Lord of the earth. ⁵ If anyone tries to do them harm, fire comes out of their mouth and consumes their enemies — yes, if anyone tries to harm them, that is how he must die. ⁶ They have the authority to shut up the sky, so that no rain falls during the period of their prophesying; also, they have the authority to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

⁷ When they finish their witnessing, the beast coming up out of the Abyss will fight against them, overcome them and kill them; ⁸ and their dead bodies will lie in the main street of the great city whose name, to reflect its spiritual condition, is “Sodom” and “Egypt” — the city where their Lord was executed on a stake. ⁹ Some from the nations, tribes, languages and peoples see their bodies for three-and-a-half days and do not permit the corpses to be placed in a tomb. ¹⁰ The people living in the Land rejoice over them, they celebrate and send each other gifts, because these two prophets tormented them so.

¹¹ But after the three-and-a-half days a breath of life from God entered them, they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹² Then the two heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here!” And they went up into heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them.

Insight: These two witnesses spoken about in the above verses were to testify about Yeshua and spread His Good News among the Jewish people in Jerusalem, prophesy, and perform miracles while enjoying God’s protection (vv. 5-6). Then the beast from the Abyss kills them (v. 7). Their bodies lie in the main street of Jerusalem for three and a half days (vv.8-9), after which they rise from death and go up to heaven (vv. 11-12).

¹³ In that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were awestruck and gave glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴ The second woe has passed; see, the third woe is coming quickly

¹⁵ The seventh angel sounded his *shofar*; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying,

“The kingdom of the world
has become the Kingdom

of our Lord and his Messiah,
and he will rule forever and ever!”

¹⁶ The twenty-four elders sitting on their thrones in God’s presence fell on their faces
and worshipped God, ¹⁷ saying,

“We thank you, **ADONAI,**
God of heaven’s armies,
the One who is and was,
that you have taken your power
and have begun to rule.

Insight: The seventh angel sounded his Shofar. When the seventh angel sounds his Shofar, then the “kingdom of the world” becomes the “Kingdom of our Lord and His Messiah,” and Adonai has begun to rule. The active reign of God on earth, the Messianic Kingdom, promised in Chapters 1:5-8 and 6:10, now begins to unfold. Between these verses and Chapter 19 are the various judgements and other events associated with the overthrow of the system of this world and the inauguration of the Messiah’s rule.

¹⁸ **“The Goyim raged,**
But now your rage has come,
the time for the dead to be judged,
the time for rewarding your servants the prophets
and your holy people,
those who stand in awe of your name,
both small and great.
It is also the time for destroying
those who destroy the earth.”

¹⁹ **Then the Temple of God in heaven was opened, and the Ark of the Covenant was seen in his Temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake and violent hail.**

Making a Whip!

Picture Jesus the Son of God walking onto the grounds of the Temple – a house which was dedicated to the worship of His Father – God! There He finds that this place of worship has been turned into a “Flea Market”! *“In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.”* (John 2:14) There were people arguing with merchants and literally shouting to be heard over all the commotion! Other people were crowded around the tables of the money changers, and they were incredibly angry about the unfair rates of exchange for their money! After taking all of this in, it was at this point I believe Jesus came to a halt! Why? Because **Jesus was experiencing the depth of His emotions!**

Jesus timed out! He left and walked away from the situation. It was time to talk to His Father! Jesus began asking His Father what to do! How do we know this? Because Jesus has told us *The Son can do nothing on His own.*” (John 5:19; 30) The plan was to make a whip. This process takes time. Jesus needed the materials to make a whip out of cords, and He certainly could not go to an Ace Hardware or Lowes and buy one. He had to find the material and make it! Therefore, He went outside the wall of the city and found the pieces to make the whip and then He would have had to sit down alone and weave the whip together. This takes time! That was the idea – He needed time to **talk** and **listen**. He needed time to **vent** to His Father! He did not want to **react to His emotions and act on them inappropriately!** He wanted God’s will to prevail. **Jesus has told us: *I seek to do not my own will but the will of Him who sent me.* (John 5:30c (NRSV) Having received His direction – the Bible tells us this:**

“Making a whip out of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” (John 2:15-16) (NRSV)

A perfect Savior does a perfect job of showing us how to handle anger! It would be a good idea for us to remember the process Jesus used: Feel your emotions – Do not act on them - Time yourself out – Talk to God – Get your direction. Then carry out God’s direction thus applying His perfect will into the situation!

LIFE TOOL: It is okay to feel your emotions; it is okay to react to your emotions (cry, vent). However, it is NOT okay to ACT on your emotions!

Chapter 12

Verses 1-18 “Now a great sign was seen in heaven — a woman clothed with the sun, under her feet the moon, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ² She was pregnant and about to give birth, and she screamed in the agony of labor.

Insight: This woman was not Yeshua’s mother Miryam (Mary). This was a figurative reference to Israel as seen in Isaiah 66:7-10. Although Israel is on earth John saw her in heaven, symbolizing the fact God protects and preserves the Jews.

³ Another sign was seen in heaven there was a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, and on his head were seven royal crowns. ⁴ Its tail swept a third of the stars out of heaven and threw them down to the earth. It stood in front of the woman about to give birth, so that it might devour the child the moment it was born.

Insight: There was a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns. The dragon is Satan, the Adversary; its seven heads and ten horns also equate it with the “fourth animal” of Daniel 7:7, 24. It stands in front of the woman, opposing Yeshua, ready to devour the child the moment it is born!

⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, the one who **will rule all the nations with a staff of iron.**^[4] But her child was snatched up to God and his throne; ⁶ and she fled into the desert, where she has a place prepared by God so that she can be taken care of for 1,260 days.

⁷ Next there was a battle in heaven — Mikha’el and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But it was not strong enough to win, so that there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was thrown out, that ancient serpent, also known as the Devil and Satan [the Adversary], the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying,

“Now have come God’s victory, power and kingship,
and the authority of his Messiah;
because the Accuser of our brothers,
who accuses them day and night before God,
has been thrown out!

¹¹ “They defeated him because of the Lamb’s blood
and because of the message of their witness.
Even when facing death
they did not cling to life.

¹² “Therefore, rejoice, heaven and you who live there!
But woe to you, land and sea,
for the Adversary has come down to you,
and he is very angry, because he knows that his time is short!”

Insight: That ancient serpent also known as the Devil and the Satan (the Adversary). John identifies the dragon in Jewish terminology as that ancient serpent, the serpent in the Garden of Eden, the slanderer and accuser – the deceiver of the whole world.

¹³ When the dragon saw that he had been hurled down to the earth, he went in pursuit of the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle, so that she could fly to her place in the desert, where she is taken care of for **a season and two seasons and half a season**,^[u] away from the serpent’s presence. ¹⁵ The serpent spewed water like a river out of its mouth after the woman, in order to sweep her away in the flood; ¹⁶ but the land came to her rescue — it opened its mouth and swallowed up the river which the dragon had spewed out of its mouth. ¹⁷ The dragon was infuriated over the woman and went off to fight the rest of her children, those who obey God’s commands and bear witness to Yeshua.

¹⁸ Then the dragon stood on the seashore.

Satan Our Only Enemy!

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (NIV) Ephesians 6:12

This is a topic that has been and still is *swept under the rug* in most churches. People are afraid to get into it because they are afraid of him! I am talking about Satan, the devil, the evil one, Lucifer whatever you choose to call him, is alive and well and going about the earth. Whether you choose to believe he exists or not, he does!

*“The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”
Satan answered the LORD, “From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it.”* (NIV) Job 1:7

Knowledge of him begins in the third chapter of Genesis and ends in the book of Revelations. What I will be presenting to you in this teaching is what I have been taught by God, and the Word of God. These facts have been applied in my life, and they have been found to be true. Although the evil one is mentioned in the Bible, there is not a great deal of detail regarding him – but enough for us to pay attention!

The church, as well as everyone cannot choose for much longer to ignore Satan and think they are going to be able conduct the business of God as well as that of their own life. In fact, he should not be ignored period! How can we ignore him? Evidence of him is

plastered all over the news, television shows, movies, video games and books. The name of Satan and all his evilness is *screaming* all over the place.

A great deal of humanity has become fascinated with the supernatural, but they deny the supernatural God, the God of goodness! The world is perishing and so are those in the body of Christ who choose to ignore him. There is nowhere in the Bible that shows Jesus ignoring him. So why are people in the churches ignoring him? In fact, Jesus spoke about Satan twenty-five (25) times, and it is recorded in the Bible!

From the beginning of time, Satan has roamed this Earth, destroying, and ravaging everything and everyone in it.

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy, the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (NIV) 1 Peter 5:8

Chapter 13

Verses 1-18 “and I saw a **beast come up out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten royal crowns and, on its heads, blasphemous names.** ²The beast which I saw was **like a leopard**, but with **feet like those of a bear** and a mouth like the **mouth of a lion**. To it the dragon gave its power, its throne and great authority. ³**One of the heads of the beast appeared to have received a fatal wound, but its fatal wound was healed, and the whole earth followed after the beast in amazement.** ⁴**They worshipped the dragon, because he had given his authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying,**

**“Who is like the beast?
Who can fight against it?”**

⁵It was **given a mouth speaking arrogant blasphemies; and it was given authority to act for forty-two months.** ⁶**So it opened its mouth in blasphemies against God to insult his name and his *Sh’khinah*, and those living in heaven;** ⁷it was allowed to make war on God’s holy people and to defeat them; and it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. ⁸Everyone living on earth will worship it except those whose names are written in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb slaughtered before the world was founded. ⁹Those who have ears, let them hear!

¹⁰**“If anyone is meant for captivity,
into captivity he goes!
If anyone is to be killed with the sword,
with the sword he is to be killed!”**^[v]

This is when God’s holy people must persevere and trust!

¹¹Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth. It had two horns like those of a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. ¹²**It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence; and it makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, the one whose fatal wound had been healed.**

Insight: The second beast is the false prophet, the Anti-Messiah! It has two horns like those of a lamb – it is the man who separates himself from “TORAH.” (2 Th 2:3-10) who fulfills Yeshua’s prophecy that “the abomination which causes devastation’ spoken about through the prophet Daniel” will one day stand in the Holy Place of a rebuilt Temple (Matthew 24:15, citing Daniel 9:23-27).

¹³**It performs great miracles, even causing fire to come down from heaven onto the earth as people watch.** ¹⁴**It deceives the people living on earth by the miracles it is allowed to perform in the presence of the beast, and it tells them to make an image honoring the beast that was struck by the sword but came alive again.** ¹⁵**It was allowed to put breath into the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast**

could even speak; and it was allowed to cause anyone who would not worship the image of the beast to be put to death.

¹⁶ Also it forces everyone — great and small, rich and poor, free and slave — to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead ¹⁷ preventing anyone from buying or selling unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. ¹⁸ This is where wisdom is needed; those who understand should count the number of the beast, for it is the number of a person, and its number is “666.”

Does Satan know your Name?”

Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.”¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” ¹⁶ Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. ¹⁸ Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. ¹⁹ A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. (A silver coin worth about a day’s wages) ***So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.*** Acts 19:13-19 (NIV)

The name Jesus (Yeshua) is not a magic word! The name itself does not carry magical powers! The people spoken of in these Scriptures were attempting to use the name of our Savior to their own end . . . they were power hungry! They did not understand the fact, nor did they want to understand that the power and authority comes from the Holy Spirit who is given only to those putting their full trust in Jesus – our Savior and Lord. When an obedient, follower uses that precious name at *God’s direction* when spoken the name Jesus carries great power to cast our demons! Our growth in God is so very important. We must grow into the power and authority God wants to place in us! We have to prove to Him our faithfulness and steadfastness through our love and devotion to Him! Jesus had to grow into obedience just like we do: ***“Even though he was the Son, he learned obedience through his sufferings. And after he had been brought to the goal, he became the source of eternal deliverance to all who obey him.”*** Hebrews 5:8-9 (CJB)

“And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience once your obedience is complete.” II Corinthians 10:6 (NIV) Now, in verse 15 the demon asked the people attempting to cast out the evil spirit, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” Satan and his demons were not afraid of these men, they had no idea who they were! However, what they did know was - their reputation! Their reputation was not one that said, I’m a follower of the Lord Jesus! I walk in obedience to the Almighty God **The I AM that I AM!**

You see Satan and his minions are very aware of those humans who can cause them damage! A person who listens daily to God and follows God's direction to the absolute best they can each and every day – there will come a point in their spiritual growth where Satan will know their name because they are then – his enemy!

*We are no match for Satan and his demons unless we walk steadfastly and devotedly to
the - **I AM!***

Chapter 14

Verses 1-20

1 “Then I looked, and there was the Lamb standing on Mount Tziyon; and with Him were 144,000 who had His name and His Father’s name written on their foreheads”.

Insight: In this chapter God is shown working behind the scenes of history, preparing rewards for His people and punishments for those who disobey Him! Believers are warned against falling away and encouraged to remain faithful.

Insight: The slain Lamb is seen on Mount Tziyon (Mount Zion), the highest point in Jerusalem. In Ezra 4 the seer is told that he “whom the Most High keeping many ages and through whom He will deliver His creation (i.e. the Messiah) will stand on the summit of Mount Zion. Yes. Zion shall come and be seen by everyone, prepared and built, just as you saw the mountain cut out without hands. But He, my Son, will reprove the nations who have come for their ungodliness.” (Ezra 4 13:26, 36-37 CJB)

2 I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of rushing waters and like the sound of pealing thunder; the sound I heard was also like that of harpists playing on their harps. **3** They were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living beings and the elders, and no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who have been ransomed from the world. **4** These are the ones who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; they follow the Lamb wherever he goes; they have been ransomed from among humanity as first fruits for God and the Lamb; **5** on their lips no lie was found — they are without defect.

Insight: The individuals spoken of here are NOT just males - these are people of both sexes who are faithful to God and His Son! Fornication is a common biblical metaphor for idolatry for several examples from the Tanakh see Ezekiel 16, 23 and Hosea 1-5. In the book of Revelation, misdirected worship is explicitly called whoring at verse. 8 below, as well as at 17:2, 4; 18:3, 9:19-2.

6 Next I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven with everlasting Good News to proclaim to those living on the earth — to every nation, tribe, language and people. **7** In a loud voice he said, “Fear God, give him glory, for the hour has come when he will pass judgment! Worship the One who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water!”

8 Another angel, a second one, followed, saying,

**“She has fallen! She has fallen!
Bavel the Great!”**^[w]

She made all the nations drink the wine of God's fury caused by her whoring!"

⁹ Another angel, a third one, followed them and said in a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives the mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he will indeed drink the wine of God's fury poured undiluted into the cup of his rage. He will be tormented by fire and sulfur before the holy angels and before the Lamb, ¹¹ and the smoke from their tormenting goes up forever and ever. They have no rest, day or night, those who worship the beast and its image and those who receive the mark of its name." ¹² This is when perseverance is needed on the part of God's people, those who observe his commands and exercise Yeshua's faithfulness.

¹³ Next, I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write: 'How blessed are the dead who die united with the Lord, from now on!' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'now they may rest from their efforts, for the things they have accomplished follow along with them.'"

¹⁴ Then I looked, and there before me was a white cloud. Sitting on the cloud was someone **like a Son of Man**[☒] with a gold crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵ Another angel came out of the Temple and shouted to the one sitting on the cloud, "Start using your sickle to reap, because the time to reap has come — the earth's harvest is ripe!" ¹⁶ The one sitting on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

¹⁷ Another angel came out of the Temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ Then out from the altar went yet another angel, who was in charge of the fire; and he called in a loud voice to the one with the sharp sickle, "Use your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because they are ripe!" ¹⁹ The angel swung his sickle down onto the earth, gathered the earth's grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's fury. ²⁰ The winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress as high as the horses' bridles for two hundred miles!

ONLY A FEW FIND IT!

"Go in through the narrow gate; for the gate that leads to destruction is wide and the road broad, and many travel it; but it is a narrow gate and a HARD ROAD that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7:13-14 (CJB)

NOAH - In the days of Noah: There were millions of people who were living on the earth at that time. When God looked down on the earth during the days of Noah He was grieved and felt great pain at what He saw! Putting it plainly God was sorry He had made man and He declared He was going to destroy man! Even though God was so angry at man in His mercy while the Ark was being built, He (God) gave the people 129 years to repent! (Genesis 6:5-8 (NIV))

Now Noah's generation heard him warn them the earth was going to be destroyed! The day the Ark was complete and everything God told Noah to prepare was completed – Noah was 600 years old! I Peter 3:20 states the following “to those who were disobedient long ago, in the days of Noah, when God waited patiently during the building of the ark, in which a **few** people — **to be specific, eight** — were delivered by means of water.

LOT - Remember Lot and his family? Lot and his family were living in the city of Sodom and Gomorrah - there were thousands there. God in his infinite mercy allowed Lot to leave with his family with one instruction – don't look back! The four of them headed out – and Lot's wife looked back, therefore only – three - made it!

ISRALEITES - Remember the Israelites leaving Egypt? There were thousands and thousands of people (some have said millions) of Jewish people who left Egypt for the Promised Land – the journey should have taken less than two weeks. However, out of the original group of people and after 40 years of wandering due to their disobedience only two families went into the Promised Land! Joshua and Caleb!

JESUS! - “After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where He was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.” Luke 10:1-4 (NIV)

“From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. “*You do not want to leave too, do you?*” Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.” *Then Jesus replied, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!” (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the twelve, was later to betray Him.)* John 6:66-71 (NIV)

“Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as He made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked Him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

“He said to them, “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ But He will answer, ‘I don't know you or where you come from.’ Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ But He will reply, ‘I don't know you or where you come from. Away from Me, all you evildoers!’ There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and west and north and south and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom

of God. **Indeed, there are those who are last who will be first, and the first who will be last.**” Luke 13:22-30 (NIV)

From Seventy-Two to Eleven!

Chapter 15

Verses 1-8 “Then I saw another sign in heaven, a great and wonderful one — seven angels with the seven plagues that are the final ones; because with them, God’s fury is finished. ² I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire. Those defeating the beast, its image and the number of its name were standing by the sea of glass, holding harps which God had given them. ³ **They were singing the song of Moshe, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:**

Insight: The song of the Lamb, as given in verses 3-4, is NOT sung to or about the Lamb, **but by the Lamb to God** – just as the Song of Moses was sung by Moses and **not** to him. Just as the victorious Jewish people learned and sang the song which Moses sang (Exodus 15:1), so the victorious believers in heaven learn and sing the song which the Lamb sings. Like the song of Moses the song of the Lamb exults in the just ways of God, using the language of the Tanakh as found in Jeremiah 10:7 and Amos 3:13. In the final judgment God is revealed as King of the nations, king of the whole world as prophesied in Zechariah 14:9, so that all nations will come and worship before Him – as predicted in the continuation of Zechariah 14:16-20.

“Great and wonderful are the things you have done,

ADONAI, God of heaven’s armies!^[v]

Just and true are your ways,
king of the nations!

⁴ *ADONAI*, who will not fear and glorify your name?
because you alone are holy.

All nations will come and worship before you,
for your righteous deeds have been revealed.”

⁵ After this I looked, and the sanctuary (that is, the Tent of Witness in heaven) was opened, ⁶ and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean bright linen and had gold belts around their chests. ⁷ One of the four living beings gave to the seven angels seven gold bowls filled with the fury of God, who lives forever and ever. ⁸ Then the sanctuary was filled with smoke from God’s *Sh’khinah*, that is, from his power; and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels had accomplished their purpose.”

Jesus and Greater Things!

*“Yes, indeed! I tell you that **whoever trusts in me** will also do the work I do! Indeed, **he will do greater ones**, because I am going to the Father.” (JNT) John 14:12*

We must never forget who Jesus is! We must never forget: He was the only perfect one who ever walked this earth! We must always remember, when He was on this earth, **His Holiness was God in the form of a man!** Jesus did not do anything outside of God’s will! He chose to do **nothing** to satisfy Himself! Therefore, every part of His life was pure!

Jesus had feelings! He felt what we feel. He shared our feelings by pushing through them like we must do! No matter what He was going through here on earth - He chose never to satisfy Himself. Every choice He made was to please the Father! Every choice He made was to bring Glory and Honor to the Father! Every choice He made was to help people **the way His Father directed him too!**

Jesus did nothing on His behalf, to grow His ministry, or to gain power, fame or otherwise! Everything He did was for no other reason than to obey His Father! He led a *totally selfless life!* And, because of that, He had *favor* beyond anything that has ever been granted to a human on this earth, and that favor took **the form of an incomprehensible Holiness!** God really wants us to strive for Holiness on this earth (I Peter 1:13-16). Understand, we will never achieve the level of Holiness Jesus had. However, the things that He accomplished, and the various examples He set - should be our motivators to strive for OUR level of Holiness!

Jesus had favor with His Father God, because of His selfless heart, and His selfless example in life! JESUS' LIFE WAS NOT ABOUT HIM - IT WAS ABOUT WHAT GOD WANTED HIM TOO DO - AND WHEN GOD WANTED Him TO DO IT!

We must never lose sight of this one thing: God "wants" us to look at Jesus' life example, and in so doing - we can achieve the level of OUR Holiness that pleases God. We too can be a blessing to others in much the same manner as Jesus did. Because, He said, *"...greater things we would do..."!*

It is all about our relationship with God, so God can use us! If we are going to do greater things - we are going to have to be walking the walk of **obedience!** When we do this - like I said we will come to the level God wants us to be at which will be *OUR level of Holiness.* When we arrive at that point, we will know we are walking in God's will!

Chapter 16

Verses 1-21 “I heard a loud voice from the sanctuary say to the seven angels, “Go, and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of God’s fury!”

Insight: The “seven bowls of God’s fury” (introduced in Chapter 15:1, 7-8) contain the third set of seven judgments in the book of Revelation, the others being the sealed judgements (5:1-9; 6:1-17; and the Shofar judgments (8:2-11).

² So the first one went and poured his bowl onto the earth, and disgusting and painful sores appeared on all the people who had the mark of the beast and worshipped its image.

Insight: Like the plagues of boils which affected only the Egyptians (Exodus 9:8-11), these disgusting and painful sores appear only on **unbelievers**, the people who had the mark of the beast and worshipped its image! According to verse 11, despite the pain of these sores, their hearts remained hard like Pharaoh! They never turn from their sins to glorify God – but curse Him to the end (v21).

³ The second one poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.

⁴ The third one poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of water, and they turned to blood. ⁵ Then I heard the angel of the waters say, “O *HaKadosh*, the One who is **(Holy Spirit)** and was, you are just in these judgments of yours. “O *HaKadosh*, the one who is and meaning “**O Holy One**” in rabbinical writings.⁶ They poured out the blood of your people and your prophets, so you have made them drink blood. They deserve it!”

⁷ Then I heard the altar say, “Yes, **ADONAI, God of heaven’s armies**,^[z] your judgments are true and just!”

Insight: “We bend the knee, and bow and acknowledge before the supreme King of kings, *HaKadosh*, *barakah hu* (the Holy One, blessed be he)... that **He is our God, there is none else.**”

⁸ The fourth one poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was permitted to burn people with fire. ⁹ People were burned by the intense heat; yet they cursed the name of God, who had the authority over these plagues, instead of turning from their sins to give him glory.

¹⁰ The fifth one poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom grew dark. People gnawed on their tongues from the pain, ¹¹ yet they cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and sores and did not turn from their sinful deeds.¹² The sixth one poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water dried up, in order to prepare the way for the kings from the east. ¹³ And I saw three unclean spirits that looked like frogs; they came from the mouth of the dragon, from the mouth of the beast and from the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴ They are miracle-**working demonic spirits which go**

out to the kings of the whole inhabited world to assemble them for the War of the Great Day of *ADONAI-Tzva'ot*.¹⁵ (“Look! I am coming like a thief! How blessed are those who stay alert and keep their clothes clean, so that they won’t be walking naked and be publicly put to shame!”)¹⁶ And they gathered the kings to the place which in Hebrew is called Har Megiddo.

Insight: “. . . they will look on Me whom they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only son...On that day the mourning of Hadad-Rimmon in the Valley of Megiddon.” (In the Greek: Armageddon)

¹⁷The seventh one poured out his bowl on the air, and a loud voice came out of the Temple from the throne, saying, **“It is done!”**¹⁸ There were flashes of lightning, voices and peals of thunder; and there was a massive earthquake, such as has never occurred since mankind has been on earth, so violent was the earthquake.

¹⁹The great city was split into three parts, the cities of the nation’s fell, and God remembered Bavel the Great and made her drink the wine from the cup of his raging fury. ²⁰ Every island fled, and no mountains were to be found. ²¹ And huge seventy-pound hailstones fell on people from the sky. But the people cursed God for the plague of hail, that it was such a terrible plague!

JESUS’ EXAMPLE FOR VICTORY!

When Jesus was on this earth there were times that He was attacked and times He was persecuted. And the example He set was that He was constantly overcoming everything that Satan put in His face. He did it in an incredibly special way. He always established truth!

- 1) He showed the truth.
- 2) He acknowledged the facts.
- 3) He always climbed over every situation in a spiritual way.
- 4) He excelled with God’s power, no matter what.

And, once He was over the problem ... He always pulled others with Him!

Chapter 17

Verses 1-18 “Then came one of the angels with the seven bowls; and he said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great whore who is sitting by many waters. ² The kings of the earth went whoring with her, and the people living on earth have become drunk from the wine of her whoring.” ³ He carried me off in the Spirit to a desert, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast filled with blasphemous names and having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet and glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls. **In her hand was a gold cup filled with the obscene and filthy things produced by her whoring.** ⁵ On her forehead was written a name with a hidden meaning,

BAVEL THE GREAT

MOTHER OF WHORES AND OF

THE EARTH’S OBSCENITIES

⁶ I saw the woman drunk from the blood of God’s people, that is, from the blood of the people who testify about Yeshua!

On seeing her, I was altogether astounded. ⁷ Then the angel said to me, “Why are you astounded? I will tell you the hidden meaning of the woman and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that was carrying her. ⁸ The beast you saw once was, now is not, and will come up from the Abyss; but it is on its way to destruction. The people living on earth whose names have **not** been written in the Book of Life since the founding of the world will be astounded to see the beast that once was, now is not, but is to appear. ⁹ This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven hills on which the woman is sitting; also they are seven kings — ¹⁰ five have fallen, one is living now and the other is yet to come; and when he does come, he must remain only a little while. ¹¹ The beast which once was and now is not an eighth king; it comes from the seven and is on its way to destruction. ¹² The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet begun to rule, but they receive power as kings for one hour, along with the beast. ¹³ They have one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ They will go to war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will defeat them, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are called, chosen and faithful will overcome along with him.”

¹⁵ Then he said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the whore is sitting, are peoples, crowds, nations and languages. ¹⁶ As for the ten horns that you saw and the beast, they will hate the whore, bring her to ruin, leave her naked, eat her flesh and consume her with fire. ¹⁷ For God put it in their hearts to do what will fulfill his purpose, that is, to be of one mind and give their kingdom to the beast until God’s words have accomplished their intent. ¹⁸ And the woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”

Why am I doing this? 20 Answers for Doing Something!

Answer	Reason might be:	Issue
I want to...	I know that I gave my life to God, but that didn't mean every desire I was ever going to have ...	Rebellion
I have to ...	Someone is putting gun to my head saying, "...do this or I will shoot you"...	Fear
Someone is expecting me to do this ...	I am supposed to be kind to people. So, If I don't do what someone expects me to do then I am being mean ...	Obligation
People will be angry with me If I don't ...	I don't like it when people get angry with me. If it's not <u>exactly</u> what God wants me to do, at least He won't be angry with me ...	Emotional Instability
People will say bad things about me if I don't do it ...	My God wants people to like me. My God would want me to go ahead and do it because He would not want me to feel embarrassed in front of others ...	Insecurity
Everyone else is doing it ...	Since everyone else does it, then it isn't that big of a sin ...	Deception
What else am I supposed to do if I don't do it? ...	I have heard all these ideas and all this advice I already know that none of it is right, but I might as well try something anyway	Confusion
Something bad might happen if I don't do it ...	I have to take care of myself, I trust God to handle <u>some</u> things in my life but not <u>everything</u> ...	Doubt
I want the task finished today!	I can't let anything interfere with my all-	Anxiety

	important schedule for tomorrow . . .	
God promises to fulfill my needs and I really need this so He would want me to do this to get it!	God will give me anything I want really bad and would want me to do whatever I have to do to get it!	Selfishness
It will help my ministry ...	God is much more interested in helping my ministry than accomplishing His will on earth!	Self-Promotion
I have always done this and I see no reason to stop ...	I do what God asks me as long as it goes along with what I want to do ...	Unwillingness
I am supposed to because this is the way it is done!	I am a robot and have been programmed to only follow worldly patterns set by man...	Worldliness
Everything else can wait!	I know I have work to do but. Well...this isn't exactly wasting time. Just because it doesn't accomplish anything, it doesn't mean it wastes time.	Distraction
Someone told me to do this and I really want to make them happy...	The people who love me only want what is best for me and they have always been there for me in the past so I should do what they say no matter what I may feel God is trying to tell me!	Interference
Why not do it?	I've already gotten saved and born again, so it doesn't matter what I do! And, if it makes me happy, why not do it?	Disobedience
I can't continue with the way things are going now...	I am too impatient to wait for god's direction and intervention so, I'm just going to handle things on my own...	Resentment
It is a way that God can use me ...	I think that God wants me to be used in all important matters because He wants me to believe that I am important!	Pride

I promised God I would accomplish something and I don't know of any other way to do it ...	I know that God is counting on me to do this and I know God has supernatural wisdom, but I'm too stupid to ask for directions from Him!	Ignorance
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WHY AM I DOING THIS?

Who? Because **God** told me to
What? do **this**
When? **today** and followed
How? **with His directions and guidance** and I know it was God because I checked if it was!
Where? **in His will** by **testing the Spirit** (1 John. 4:1-3) and I am going to do it
Why? **because Jesus is my shepherd and I am His sheep! Baaaah!**
(John 10 - all verses, especially vs. 27)

(AC)

Chapter 18

1-24 “After these things, I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, the earth was lit up by his splendor. **2** He cried out in a strong voice, “She has fallen! She has fallen!

Insight: The judgment against Babylon is against her pride, ruthlessness, greed and materialism. It is a just judgment praised by God’s people but mourned by the worldly and wicked who share her values. Much in this chapter resembles the lamentation in Ezekiel 27-28 over the commercial center and port of Tzor (Tyre). It is highly significant that Tyre is often understood as a surrogate for Satan’s realm of activity and its king for Satan himself (this identification is based especially on Ezekiel 28:11-19). By analogy, the destruction of Babylon in this chapter is really the destruction of Satan’s kingdom; the destruction of Satan himself in Chapter 20 invokes “Gog and Magog” as described in Ezekiel 38-39. Which also resembles Ezekiel 27-28.

Bavel the Great!^[aa]

She has become a home for demons,
a prison for every unclean spirit,
a prison for every unclean, hated bird.

3 “For all the nations have drunk of the wine
of God’s fury caused by her whoring —
yes, the kings of the earth went whoring with her,
and from her unrestrained love of luxury
the world’s businessmen have grown rich.”

4 Then I heard another voice out of heaven say:

“My people, come out of her!
so that you will not share in her sins,
so that you will not be infected by her plagues,
5 for her sins are a sticky mass piled up to heaven,
and God has remembered her crimes.

6 “Render to her as she rendered to others!
Pay her back double for what she has done!
Use the cup in which she has brewed
to brew her a double-sized drink!

7 “Give her as much torment and sorrow
as the glory and luxury she gave herself!
For in her heart she says, ‘I sit a queen —
I am not a widow, I will never see sorrow.’

8 “Therefore, her plagues will come in a single day —
death, sorrow and famine;

and she will be burned with fire,
because *ADONAI*, God, her Judge, is mighty”

⁹ The kings of the earth who went whoring with her and shared her luxury will sob and wail over her when they see the smoke as she burns. ¹⁰ Standing at a distance, for fear of her torment, they will say,

“Oh no! The great city!
Bavel, the mighty city!
In a single hour
your judgment has come!”

¹¹ The world’s businessmen weep and mourn over her, because no one is buying their merchandise any more — ¹² stocks of gold and silver, gems and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, all rare woods, all ivory goods, all kinds of things made of scented wood, brass, iron and marble; ¹³ cinnamon, cardamom, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, flour, grain, cattle, sheep, horses, chariots — and bodies — and people’s souls.

¹⁴ The fruits you lusted for with all your heart have gone!
All the luxury and flashiness have been destroyed, never to return!

¹⁵ The sellers of these things, who got rich from her, will stand at a distance, for fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, ¹⁶ and saying,

“Oh no! The great city used to wear fine linen, purple and scarlet!
She glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls!
¹⁷ Such great wealth —
in a single hour, ruined!”

All the ship masters, passengers, sailors and everyone making his living from the sea stood at a distance ¹⁸ and cried out when they saw the smoke as she burned, “What city was like the great city?” ¹⁹ And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, saying,

“Oh no! The great city!
The abundance of her wealth
made all the ship owners rich!
In a single hour she is ruined!”

²⁰ Rejoice over her, heaven!
Rejoice, people of God,
emissaries and prophets!
For in judging her, God has vindicated you.

²¹ Then a mighty angel picked up a bolder the size of a great millstone, and hurled it into the sea, saying,

“With violence like this
will the great city Bavel
be hurled down,
never to be found again!

Insight: The size of a great millstone and the name “Gat-Sh’manim” (Gethsemane,” means “oil press,” that is a stone mill for grinding olives into pulp for their oil. Until quite recently the Arabs in the village in Israel used such presses for the same purpose, and many of the millstones are still around. They are circular with a hole in the center about 9 inches square; diameter averages about five feet, thickness a foot and weight well over a ton!

22 “The sound of harpists and musicians,
flute-players and trumpeters
will never again be heard in you.
No worker of any trade
will ever again be found in you,
the sound of a mill
will never again be heard in you,
23 the light of a lamp
will never again shine in you,
the voice of bridegroom and bride
will never again be heard in you.

“For your businessmen were the most powerful on earth,
all the nations were deceived by your magic spell.

24 “In her was found the blood of prophets and of God’s people,
indeed, of all who have ever been slaughtered on earth!”

How to know the difference between the working of Satan and the Holy Spirit!

<u>Satan</u>	<u>HOLY SPIRIT</u>
Harsh	Gentle
Unloving	Loving
Puts you down	Builds you up
Hardness	Repentance
Uses a “Shotgun”	Uses Scalpel – Gently cuts away
Excuses (instead of Confession)	Encourages Confession
Gives Guilt/Condemnation	Takes away Guilt
Unforgiving	Forgiveness
Says God doesn’t care	Loves
Looks inward at circumstances instead of God	Points to God
Accepts without thinking	Gives God’s Perspective
Impatient	Patience
Selfishness	Long Suffering
Dissention	Harmony
Bondage	Freedom

Chapter 19

Verses 1-21 “After these things, I heard what sounded like the roar of a huge crowd in heaven, shouting,

“Halleluyah!

The victory, the glory, the power of our God!

² For his judgments are true and just.

He has judged the great whore
who corrupted the earth with her whoring.

He has taken vengeance on her
who has the blood of his servants on her hands.”

Insight: The HUGE crowd in heaven praises God for judging Babylon the Great and for actively beginning to rule His Kingdom!

³ And a second time they said,

“Halleluyah!

Her smoke goes up forever and ever!”

⁴ The twenty-four elders and the four living beings fell down and worshipped God, sitting on the throne, and said,

“Amen!

Halleluyah!”

⁵ A voice went out from the throne, saying,

“Praise our God, all you his servants,
you who fear him, small and great!”

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like the roar of a huge crowd, like the sound of rushing waters, like loud peals of thunder, saying,

“Halleluyah!

ADONAI, God of heaven’s armies,
has begun his reign!

Insight: He has become King. God’s universal rule is a major theme of the Tanakh. On the one hand, the New Testament presents the “Kingdom” or “Rulership” of God as a reality present at this moment through trusting in Yeshua the Messiah (Matt. 5:3; 10; 11:11; 12:28, 25; 34; 26:29) The kingdom also has a future promise, still to be fully manifested (Matt. 6:10 reads, “*May your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.*”; Matt. 7:21 reads, “*Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord*” will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, only those who do what My Father in heaven WANTS!”

7 “Let us rejoice and be glad!
Let us give him the glory!
For the time has come for the
wedding of the Lamb,
and his Bride has prepared herself —
8 fine linen, bright and clean
has been given her to wear.”

Insight: “Fine linen” means the righteous deeds of God’s people. The actions of each individual that has lived on this earth, and will come to live on earth will determine individually where they will live with God or Satan for Eternity. However, The Tanakh similarly pictures Israel as the wife of YHVH – see Isaiah 54:1-8; 62:4-5; Jeremiah 31:31-32; Ezekiel 16; and the whole book of Hosea, especially Chapters 1-3. Midrash Rabbah to Song of Songs4:10 names ten places in the Tanakh which speak of Israel directly or allegorically as a bride.

9 The angel said to me, “Write: ‘How blessed are those who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb!’” Then he added, **“These are God’s very words.”**

10 I fell at his feet to worship him; but he said, “Do not do that! I’m only a fellow-servant with you and your brothers who have the testimony of Yeshua. Worship God! For the testimony of Yeshua is the Spirit of prophecy.”

Insight: The early believers sometimes were led astray into angel worship, but this was condemned: Colossians 2:18 states: “Don’t let anyone deny you the prize by going on about some vision they have had, and they vainly puff themselves up by their worldly outlook. They fail to hold to the Head, from whom the whole Body, and being held to the world, are you letting yourselves be bothered receiving supply and being held together by its joints and ligaments, rows as God makes it grow. If along with the Messiah, you died to the elemental spirits of the world, then why, as if you still belonged to the world, are you letting yourselves be bothered by rules? – “Don’t touch this!” Don’t touch that!” “Don’t handle the other!” Such prohibitions are concerned with things meant to perish by being used (not by being avoided), and they are based on **man made rules and teachings.**” They do indeed have the outward appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed religious observances, false humility and asceticism: but they have no value at all in restraining people from indulging their old nature.”

11 Next, I saw heaven opened, and there before me was a white horse. Sitting on it was the one called Faithful and True, and it is in righteousness that He passes judgment and goes to battle. 12 His eyes were like a fiery flame, and on His head were many royal crowns. And He had a name written which no one knew but Himself. 13 He was wearing a robe that had been soaked in blood, and the name by which He is called is, **“THE WORD OF GOD.”** 14 The armies of heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 And out of His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down nations — **“He will rule them with a staff of iron.”** It is He who treads the winepress

from which flows the wine of the furious rage of ADONAI, God of heaven's armies. ¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written:

KING OF KINGS

AND

LORD OF LORDS

¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out in a loud voice to all the birds that fly about in mid-heaven, "Come, gather together for the great feast God is giving, ¹⁸ to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of generals, the flesh of important men, the flesh of horses and their riders and the flesh of all kinds of people, free and slave, small and great!" ¹⁹ I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to do battle with the rider of the horse and his army. ²⁰ But the beast was taken captive, and with it the false prophet who, in its presence, had done the miracles which he had used to deceive those who had received the mark of the beast and those who had worshipped his image. The beast and the false prophet were both thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

Insight: The beast and the false prophet were both thrown alive in the lake of fire (See also 13:11-18; 14:8-11). The lake of fire that burns with sulfur (see Ezek. 38:22) was prepared for the Adversary and his angles (Matt. 25:41). In Rev 20:10, Satan is also cast into the lake of fire in which he is "tormented...forever and ever" with the demonic horde (Daniel 7:11). Death and Shol are thrown into this lake of fire (Rev. 20:13-14). **And in the final judgment of humanity, "Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire (20:15).**

²¹ The rest were killed with the sword that goes out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Do you just Believe or Do you Trust?

*"But someone will say that you have faith, and I have actions. Show me this faith of yours without the actions, and I will show you my faith **by** my actions! You believe that "God is one"? Good for you! The demons believe it too – the thought makes them shudder with fear!" James 2:18 (JNT)*

Belief – is primarily mental assent to doctrines and facts.

Trust – is a heart attitude that expresses itself in righteous acts!

Trust implies obedience! If one has a genuine and unreserved trust, reliance, faith, and belief in someone - then one will be faithful to Him and trustworthy in carrying

out His commands. Therefore, faith implies faithfulness which equals trust which equals obedience!

Faith = Faithfulness = Trust = Obedience

“You haven’t put your trust in God until you let Him rule your life!”

(unknown)

Chapter 20

Verses 1-13 “Next, I saw an angel coming down from heaven, who had the key to the Abyss and a great chain in his hand. ² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan [the Adversary], and chained him up for a thousand years. ³ He threw him into the Abyss, locked it and sealed it over him; so that he could not deceive the nations any more until the thousand years were over. After that, he has to be set free for a little while.

Insight: The dragon, that ancient serpent must be chained, his powers severely limited for a period, afterwards he “must be set free for a little while” to deceive the nations and Israel before his final defeat and eternal punishment. The ideas of binding demonic beings and punishing them with eternal fire are also found in the Jewish apocrypha.

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and those seated on them received authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for testifying about Yeshua and proclaiming the Word of God, also those who had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands. They came to life and ruled with the Messiah for a thousand years.

Insight: Daniel’s prophecy: “As I looked, thrones were placed...and millions...sat in judgment...And the time came when the holy ones possessed the kingdom.” (Daniel 7,9-10, 22)

⁵ (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were over.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is anyone who has a part in the first resurrection; over him the second death has no power. On the contrary, they will be *Cohanim* of God and of the Messiah, and they will rule with him for the thousand years.

Insight: The first resurrection is the coming to life of God’s holy people, as described in (verses 4-6). The second resurrection is not mentioned as such; it is implied by the parenthetical remark that the rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were over, at which time they are alive only long enough to experience the second death, which has power over the (trusting) believers! They will be *Cohanim* “priests” of God and of the Messiah. “You the (people of Israel) shall be for me (GOD) a kingdom of *Cohanim*” and a holy nation” (I Ke 2-9, alluding to Exodus 19:6). “You believers in Yeshua are....the King’s *Cohanim* Priest.” (Exodus 19:6, Isaiah 61:6) **These promises reach their fulfillment here.**

⁷ When the thousand years are over, the Adversary will be set free from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations in the four quarters of the earth, **Gog and Magog**, to gather them for the battle. Their number is countless as the sand on the seashore; ⁹ and they came up over the breadth of the Land and surrounded the camp of God’s people and the city He loves. **But fire came down from heaven and consumed them.** The Adversary

who had deceived them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Insight: This is the final event in the long and wicked history of the one who originated rebellion against God. Already at the beginning, after enticing Adam and Eve to commit the first human sin, God knew what the end would be:

“I will put enmity between you (the serpent) and the woman (Eve); and between your seed (all who sin and rejoice in the sin of others, whether angelic (Ephesians 6:10-13) or human (Romans 1:32) and her seed (her descendants, *i.e.*, humanity); but more particularly, unique “seed” spoken of in Galatians 3:16, Yeshua); He will bruise Kour head, and you will bruise their heel.” Genesis 3:15

This prediction of Satan’s ultimate downfall is fulfilled in stages. Thus, when Yeshua said, “*Now is the time for this world to be judged, now the ruler of this world will be expelled.*” (John 12:31), He was speaking of how His death on the execution-stake would defeat the Adversary. The Messianic Community also has a part in causing Satan’s ruin as the Apostle Paul writes, God the source of *shalom*, will soon crush the Adversary under your feet” (Romans 16:20). He Satan will be chained in the Abyss and then hurled into the lake of fire and sulfur to be tormented forever and ever!

¹¹ Next, I saw a great white throne and the One sitting on it. Earth and heaven fled from His presence, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, both great and small, standing in front of the throne. Books were opened; and another book was opened, the Book of Life; and the dead were judged from what was written in the books, according to what they had done. The sea gave up the dead in it; and Death and Sh’ol were hurled into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death – the lake of fire. Anyone whose name was NOT found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire!

Insight: The one sitting on the throne is Yeshua (Jesus). Although He shares the throne with God the Father it is *through Yeshua alone* that God renders the final judgment:

“The Father does not judge anyone but has entrusted all judgment to the Son....(The Father) has given Him authority to execute judgement, because He is the Son of Man. Don’t be surprised at this, because the time is coming when all who are in the grave hear His voice and come out, those who have done good to a resurrection of life and those who have done evil to a resurrection of Judgement.” John 5:22, 27-29 (CJB)

Insight: Everyone must stand face to face before God and stand judgment! Although God is a God of mercy, He is a God of judgment! This is taught equally by the Tanakh, the New Testament, and Jewish tradition. The Prophets speak of this judgment as the Day of YHVH (Isiah 2:12, 13:6-13). *God not only judges our outward deeds, He judges our inward secret deeds and motives! “God will bring every work into judgment, concerning every hidden thing whether it be good or evil.”* (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

Therefore, there is no room either for the common misunderstanding on the part of both Christians and Jews that the Old Testament portrays God as stern, judgmental and lacking mercy, with the New Testament picturing Him as so merciful that He overlooks judgment and even justice; focuses on judgment more than the Tanakh!

Yes, ADONAI-TZVA'OT has a day in store for all...

Books were opened; and another book was opened, the Book of Life; and the dead were judged from what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

¹³ The sea gave up the dead in it; and Death and Sh'ol gave up the dead in them; and they were judged, each according to what he had done.

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Then Death and Sh'ol were hurled into the lake of fire. This is the second death — the lake of fire. ¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire.”

GOD'S DEFINITION OF "FRIENDSHIP" FROM HIS PERSPECTIVE!

YOU ARE MY FRIENDS

IF

YOU DO WHAT I COMMAND!

(JOHN 15:14)

Chapter 21

Verses 1-27 “Then I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the old heaven and the old earth had passed away, and the sea was no longer there. ² Also I saw the holy city, New Yerushalayim, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ I heard a loud voice from the throne say, “See! God’s *Sh’khinah* is with mankind, **and He will live with them. They will be his people, and He himself, God-with-them, will be their God.**” ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will no longer be any death; and there will no longer be any mourning, crying or pain; because the old order has passed away.”

⁵ Then the One sitting on the throne said, “**Look! I am making everything new!**” Also He said, “**Write, ‘These words are true and trustworthy!’**” ⁶ And He said to me, “**It is done! I am the ‘A’ and the ‘Z,’ the Beginning and the End. To anyone who is thirsty I myself will give water free of charge from the Fountain of Life.**” ⁷ **He who wins the victory will receive these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son.** ⁸ **But as for the cowardly, the untrustworthy, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those involved with the occult and with drugs, idol-worshippers, and all liars — their destiny is the lake burning with fire and sulfur, the second death.**”

⁹ One of the seven angels having the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues approached me and said, “Come! I will show you the Bride, the Wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰ He carried me off in the Spirit to the top of a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city, Yerushalayim, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It had the *Sh’khinah* of God, so that its brilliance was like that of a priceless jewel, like a crystal-clear diamond. ¹² It had a great, high wall with twelve gates; at the gates were twelve angels; and inscribed on the gates were the names of the twelve tribes of Isra’el. ¹³ There were three gates to the east, three gates to the north, three gates to the south and three gates to the west. ¹⁴ The wall of the city was built on twelve foundation-stones, and on these were the twelve names of the twelve emissaries of the Lamb.

¹⁵ The angel speaking with me had a gold measuring-rod with which to measure the city, its gates and its wall. ¹⁶ The city is laid out in a square, its length equal to its width. With his rod he measured the city at 1,500 miles, with length, width and height the same. ¹⁷ He measured its wall at 216 feet by human standards of measurement, which the angel was using. ¹⁸ The wall was made of diamond and the city of pure gold resembling pure glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the city wall were decorated with all kinds of precious stones — the first foundation stone was diamond, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh turquoise and the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ The twelve gates were twelve pearls, with each gate made of a single pearl. The city’s main street was pure gold, transparent as glass.

²² I saw no Temple in the city, for *ADONAI*, God of heaven’s armies, is its Temple, as is the Lamb. ²³ The city has no need for the sun or the moon to shine on it, because

God's *Sh'khinah* gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never close, they stay open all day because night will not exist there, ²⁶ and the honor and splendor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure may enter it, nor anyone who does shameful things or lies; the only ones who may enter are those whose names are written in Lamb's Book of Life!

Definition of Listening:

Listening is: one hundred percent obedience, which **includes** your mind!

If you haven't gotten the idea to obey God in your mind 100% **with your thoughts**, you can't obey in your actions 100%. There must be both things going on, so that each will work. For you to obey God, you must be listening to him. And to hear God, you must obey Him!

It is 100% obedience, **not** just obedience to the Word of God. It is **not** just obedience to what you already **know** God wants you to do. But it is obedience ...

in **how you do it**, and

in **how you think it**, and

in everything.

It must be 100%, or as close as your best is to 100%. If God says your best is 90%, then that is your best. But you must give God 100% OF YOURSELF,

IN YOUR MIND,

IN YOUR HEART,

IN YOUR ACTIONS,

IN THE WAY YOU TREAT PEOPLE,

and IN EVERYTHING!

Our goal should be 100% obedience! That is the only way!

Chapter 22

Verses 1-21 “Next the angel showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² Between the main street and the river was the Tree of Life producing twelve kinds of fruit, a different kind every month; and the leaves of the tree were for healing the nations — ³ no longer will there be any curses. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him; ⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ Night will no longer exist, so they will need neither the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because *ADONAI*, God, will shine upon them. And they will reign as kings forever and ever.

⁶ Then he said to me, “These words are true and trustworthy: *ADONAI*, God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must happen soon.”

⁷ “Look! I am coming very soon. Blessed is the person who obeys the words of the prophecy written in this book!”

⁸ Then I, Yochanan, the one hearing and seeing these things, when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel showing them to me. ⁹ But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am only a fellow-servant with you and your brothers, the prophets and the people who obey the words in this book. Worship God!”

¹⁰ Then he said to me, “Don’t **seal up the words of the prophecy in this book,** because the time of their fulfillment is near.

¹¹ “Whoever keeps acting wickedly, let him go on acting wickedly; whoever is filthy, let him go on being made filthy. “Also, whoever is righteous, let him go on doing what is righteous; and whoever is holy, let him go on being made holy.”

¹² “Pay attention!” [says Yeshua,] “I am coming soon, and my rewards are with me to give to each person according to what he has done. ¹³ I am the ‘A’ and the ‘Z,’ the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

¹⁴ How blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they have the right to eat from the Tree of Life and go through the gates into the city! ¹⁵ Outside are the homosexuals, those involved with the occult and with drugs, the sexually immoral, murderers, idol-worshippers, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. ¹⁶ “I, Yeshua, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the Messianic communities. I am the Root and Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star. ¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’ Let anyone who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let anyone who is thirsty come — let anyone who wishes, take the water of life free of charge.”

¹⁸ I warn everyone hearing the words of the prophecy in this book that if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues written in this book. ¹⁹ And if anyone takes

anything away from the words in the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the Tree of Life and the holy city, as described in this book.

²⁰ “The one who is testifying to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon!’”

Amen! Come, Lord Yeshua!

Grace! God's Definition!

Grace is a provision for making a mistake with an understanding that God loves everyone! But! He who follows God in completeness by hearing His direction and moving on it, walks in **favor** with God. He walks in a measure, and a portion of God's loving kindness and can fulfill what deeds and works God has asked of his life. He can also accomplish this with a willingness not an oppression, or an obligation, or a legal attitude or a forcefulness! But with a willingness, a hope, a dedication, an interest, and an incentive to serve God in his life by following God's direction and promoting what God stands for.

It is imperative that we do not misunderstand that although we will have judgement day, where yes, our hearts are examined, as well as our actions. Many people who have accepted the grace of God and His loving kindness and have **failed to act** on His direction they will not pass the narrow gate.

On the other hand, many who have professed that they knew God and they followed His direction, **but all they did** was their legal best to obey what works were obvious to others for their own gratification - **will not** be rewarded for their deeds.

God's Grace Applied!

God's Grace can only be applied in the case of someone who is walking with the heart attitude of wanting to trust and obey God . . . and they must want God for the RIGHT reasons!

For someone to think because they have said a Sinner's prayer that his or her sins are forgiven past, present, and future is to take God - for granted! It is not that cut and dried! Grace is a precious gift, and not *one of us deserves it!* However, we must come to God for the right reasons! **We must want God, and God alone, and not for what He can do for us!**

We must learn to follow, listen to God's voice, and obey! To think otherwise is an attempt to try and apply God's Grace to an inappropriate heart attitude which is to - desecrate God's Grace!

Someone, who is **not** sold out to God, hook, line, and sinker has no right to even think God's Grace could operate in his or her life!

That is a form of blaspheme!

**“Now all has been heard here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep His Commandments, for this is the whole
duty of Man. For God will bring every deed into judgment,
including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”**

Ecclesiastes 12: 13-14 (NIV)

Taken from: The complete Jewish Study Bible.

Insight For Jews and Christians.

Dr. David H. Stern