

Week 42: Matot 'Tribes': Numbers 30 - 32; Jeremiah 1- 2; Judges 11:29-40; Matthew 5:33-37; 23:1-3

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### Num 30 Mattot / "Tribes" 7.19.14

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Summaries and Insights by Libby Lingenfelter

## Numbers 30

Numbers 30 reviews the instructions to follow for making vows to YHWH. First it covers the process for men, and then for women; daughters, widows, divorcees, and those married. The guidelines are clearly stated for your review in Numbers 30.

When discussing vows, one cannot help but look at Judges 11. This account drives home the seriousness and weight of the words we speak; especially when it comes to making vows! There were several ‘safeguards’ bestowed for girls and women by having the final approval or retraction come from either a father or a husband according to the guidelines given.

Under **the Book of the Law**, vows followed strict guidelines. Vows spoken today also should not be made flippantly; especially if said to YHWH. The repercussion under **the Book of the Law** was directly between the person and YHWH. Today we have Yahusha HaMashiach that protects us from the wrath of YHWH; but that does not mean we are not held accountable for our spoken words or vows we make.

### Men and Vows

**Num 30:1** And Mosheh spoke to the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Yisra’el, saying, “This is the word which יהוה has commanded:

**Num 30:2** “When a man vows a vow to יהוה, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he does not break his word, he does according to all that comes out of his mouth.

### Women and Vows

**Num 30:3** “Or if a woman vows a vow to יהוה, and binds herself by some agreement while in her father’s house in her youth,

**Num 30:4** and her father hears her vow and the agreement by which she has bound herself, and her father has kept silent towards her, then all her vows shall stand, and every agreement with which she has bound herself stands.

**Num 30:5** “But if her father forbids her on the day that he hears, then none of her vows nor her agreements by which she has bound herself stand. And יהוה pardons her, because her father has forbidden her.

**Num 30:6** “But if she at all belongs to a husband, while bound by her vows or by a rash utterance from her lips by which she bound herself,

**Num 30:7** and her husband hears it, and he has kept silent towards her on the day that he hears, then her vows shall stand, and her agreements by which she bound herself do stand.

**Num 30:8** “But if her husband forbids her on the day that he hears it, then he has nullified her vow which she vowed, and the rash utterance of her lips by which she bound herself, and יהוה pardons her.

**Num 30:9** “But any vow of a widow or a divorced woman, by which she has bound

herself, stands against her.

**Num 30:10** “And if she vowed in her husband’s house, or bound herself by an agreement with an oath,

**Num 30:11** and her husband heard it, and has kept silent towards her and did not forbid her, then all her vows shall stand, and every agreement by which she bound herself stands.

**Num 30:12** “But if her husband clearly nullified them on the day he heard them, then whatever came from her lips concerning her vows or concerning the agreement binding her, it does not stand – her husband has nullified them, and יהוה pardons her.

**Num 30:13** “Every vow and every binding oath to afflict her being, let her husband confirm it, or let her husband nullify it.

**Num 30:14** “But if her husband is altogether silent at her from day to day, then he confirms all her vows or all the agreements that bind her – he confirms them, because he kept silent towards her on the day that he heard.

**Num 30:15** “But if he nullifies them after he has heard, then he shall bear her crookedness.”

**Num 30:16** These are the laws which יהוה commanded Mosheh, between a man and his wife, and between a father and his daughter in her youth in her father’s house.

The background of Yiphtah [Jephthah] is recorded in Judges 11:1-28. So, I recommend reading those verses to fully appreciate this brave man. In his early life, he was rejected as being ‘illegitimate’; but as the saying goes, ‘cream always rises to the top’, and that is what seems to have occurred with Yiphtah. The vow he made to YHWH was sincere; it just seems that he had not contemplated all the outcome possibilities. By his vow made, YHWH does show him favor and does give him victory over Ammon.

#### **Jephthah's Tragic Vow**

Jdg 11:29 And the Spirit of יהוה came upon Yiphtaḥ, and he passed through Gil'aḏ and Menashsheh, and passed through Mitspeh of Gil'aḏ. And from Mitspeh of Gil'aḏ he passed on toward the children of Ammon.

Jdg 11:30 And Yiphtaḥ made a vow to יהוה, and said, “If You give the children of Ammon into my hands,

Jdg 11:31 **then it shall be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall belong to יהוה, and I shall offer it up as an ascending offering.”**

Jdg 11:32 Yiphtaḥ then passed on toward the children of Ammon to fight against them, **and יהוה gave them into his hands.**

Jdg 11:33 And he struck them from Aro'ēr as far as Minnith, twenty cities, and to Abēl Keramim, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were humbled before the children of Yisra'ēl.

Jdg 11:34 And Yiphtaḥ came to his house at Mitspah, and saw his daughter coming out to meet

him with timbrels and dancing. Now except for her he had neither son nor daughter.

Jdg 11:35 And it came to be, when he saw her, that he tore his garments, and said, “Oh my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you are among those who trouble me! **And I, I have given my word to יהוה, and I am unable to turn back.**”

Jdg 11:36 And she said to him, “**My father, if you have given your word to יהוה, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, because יהוה has taken vengeance for you upon your enemies, the children of Ammon.**”

**Jdg 11:37 And she said to her father, “Let this be done for me: let me alone for two new moons, and let me go and wander on the mountains and bewail my maidenhood, my friends and I.”**

Jdg 11:38 Then he said, “Go.” And he sent her away for two new *moons*. And she went with her friends, and **bewailed her maidenhood** on the mountains.

Jdg 11:39 And it came to be at the end of two new *moons* that she returned to her father, and he did to her as he had vowed, **and she knew no man.** And it became a statute in Yisra’el

Jdg 11:40 that the daughters of Yisra’el went every year for four days to lament the daughter of Yiphtaḥ the Gil’adite.

His daughter exhibits much love, reverence, and maturity not only toward her father but most importantly YHWH. She was truly ‘daddy’s little girl’ as **she was Yiphtaḥ’s only child.** Though Yiphtaḥ’s vow refers to an ascending offering; it does not mean that his daughter would be burned. YHWH is totally against human sacrifice. What it would mean is that **she would be set-apart to YHWH** and would not marry as the Scriptures clearly state.

This is how vows would unfold under **the Book of the Law**. Yahusha also gives us direction about vows under **Covenant Torah** in the following verses.

#### Oaths

Mat 5:33 “Again, you heard that it was said to those of old, ‘**You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to יהוה.**’ Lev 19:12, Num 30:2, Deu 23:21.

Mat 5:34 “But I say to you, do not swear [vainly]<sup>1</sup> at all, neither by the heaven, because it is Elohim’s throne; Footnote: <sup>1</sup>Shem Toḇ texts include ‘vainly’= Hebrew: Shaw’.

Mat 5:35 nor by **the earth**, for it is His **footstool**; Isa 66:1 nor by Yerushalayim, for it is **the city of the great Sovereign**; Psa 48:2.

Mat 5:36 nor swear by your head, because you are not able to make one hair white or black.

Mat 5:37 “But let your word ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No.’ And what goes beyond these is from the wicked one.

## Numbers 31

Numbers 31 is power packed. Moses is instructed by YHWH to have the children of Israel take vengeance on the Midyanites [Midianites]. He tells Moses afterwards; he would be gathered to his people. Sounds like a rather bittersweet assignment. I am not sure how that must feel to be told; carry this out then you will die. That phrasing of course is what the scripture intimates, but it is not exactly what the Scripture says is it? It says he would be gathered to his people. Therefore, when he took his last breath on this earth, Moses would be gathered to his people. Where was this place? Was it merely the grave? Was it the comfort side of Sheol, where Lazarus was later found in the bosom of Abraham? Just questions to ponder.

### Vengeance on Midian

**Num 31:1** And יהוה spoke to Mosheh, saying,

**Num 31:2** “Take vengeance for the children of Yisra’ël on the Midyanites. After that you are to be gathered to your people.”

**Num 31:3** And Mosheh spoke to the people, saying, “Arm some of yourselves for the campaign, and let them go against the Midyanites to take vengeance for יהוה on Midyan.

**Num 31:4** “Send a thousand from each tribe of all the tribes of Yisra’ël for the campaign.”

**Num 31:5** So there were supplied from the tribes of Yisra’ël one thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed ones for the campaign.

**Num 31:6** And Mosheh sent them on the campaign, one thousand from each tribe, them and Pinehas son of El’azar the priest on the campaign, with the set-apart utensils and the trumpets for sounding in his hand.

**Num 31:7** And they fought against the Midyanites, as יהוה commanded Mosheh, and killed all the males.

**Num 31:8** And they killed the sovereigns of Midyan with the rest of those who were pierced: Ewi, and Reqem, and Tsur, and Hur, and Reba, the five sovereigns of Midyan. And they killed Bil’am son of Be’or with the sword.

**Num 31:9** And the sons of Yisra’ël took all the women of Midyan captive, with their little ones, and took as spoil all their livestock, and all their possessions.

**Num 31:10** And they burned with fire all the cities where they dwelt, and all their settlements.

**Num 31:11** And they took all the spoil and all the booty, both of man and beast.

**Num 31:12** And they brought the captives, and the booty, and the spoil to Mosheh, and to El’azar the priest, and to the congregation of the children of Yisra’ël, to the camp in the desert plains of Mo’ab by the Yarden of Yeriho.

**Num 31:13** And Mosheh, and El’azar the priest, and all the leaders of the congregation, went to meet them outside the camp.

**Num 31:14** But Mosheh was wroth with the officers of the army, with the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, who had come from the campaign.

**Num 31:15** And Mosheh said to them, “Have you kept all the women alive?”

**Num 31:16** “Look, they are the ones who caused the children of Yisra’el, through the word of Bil’am, to trespass against יהוה in the matter of Pe’or, and there was a plague among the congregation of יהוה.”

**Num 31:17** “And now, kill every male among the little ones. And every woman who has known a man by lying with a man you shall kill.

**Num 31:18** “But keep alive for yourselves all the female children who have not known a man by lying with a man.

Moses does as he is told. He gathers 1,000 fighting men from each tribe, therefore the military campaign consisted of 12,000 fighting men. Pinehas son of El’azar the priest, was also part of the campaign, with the set-apart utensils and the trumpets for sounding in his hand.

The campaign is successful. They killed all the adult males; they kill the five sovereigns of Midyan - Ewi, and Reqem, and Tsur, and Hur, and Reba; they kill Bilam [Balaam] son of Beor with the sword; and burned all their cities. However, they took all the Midyanites women, their children, their livestock, and possessions.

When the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds meet outside the camp with Moses, Elazar, and the leaders of the congregation; Moses is wroth! He chastises them for bringing the Midyanite women back, for they were the very ones that caused the children of Israel to sin due to the words of Bilam [Balaam] at Peor. The plan to rectify this situation was to kill all the women who had ever laid with a man; kill all the male children, excluding the female children.

In the following verses, we will see the cleansing by the waters of the red heifer that we studied in **Numbers 19**.

**Num 31:19** “And you, camp outside the camp seven days. Whoever has killed any being, and whoever has touched any slain, **cleanse yourselves and your captives on the third day and on the seventh day**.

**Num 31:20** “**And cleanse every garment, and every object of leather and all the work of goats’ hair, and every object of wood.**”



**Num 31:21** And El'azar the priest said to the men of the campaign who went to the battle, "This is the law of the Torah which יהוה commanded Mosheh:

**Num 31:22** "Only the gold, and the silver, the bronze, the iron, the tin, and the lead,

**Num 31:23** every object that passes through fire, you put through the fire, and it shall be clean; only, **let it be cleansed with the water for uncleanness.** And whatever does not pass through fire you pass through water.

**Num 31:24** **"And you shall wash your garments on the seventh day and be clean, and afterwards come into the camp."**

YHWH then instructs Moses how to divide the plunder into two parts. One part for those that took part in the military campaign and the other part to the congregation. YHWH gives additional detailed instructions about dividing the plunder; and the levy to be received from both the military campaign and the congregation to be given to Elazar the priest and the Levites that guard the Dwelling Place of YHWH. The numbers are astounding as to the amount of plunder. Massive amounts of livestock and people. It is hard to imagine how all these items, people, and livestock were counted in the wilderness and how long that process took!

**Num 31:25** And יהוה spoke to Mosheh, saying,

**Num 31:26** "Count up the plunder that was taken, of man and of beast, you and El'azar the priest and the heads of the fathers of the congregation.

**Num 31:27** "And you shall divide the plunder into two parts, between those who took part in the battle, who went out on the campaign, and all the congregation.

**Num 31:28** "And set aside a levy for יהוה on the men of battle who went out on the campaign: one out of every five hundred, of man, and of the cattle, and of the donkeys, and of the sheep.

**Num 31:29** "Take it from their half, and give it to El'azar the priest as a contribution to יהוה.

**Num 31:30** "And from the children of Yisra'el's half you shall take one of every fifty, of man, of the cattle, of the donkeys, and of the sheep, of all the livestock, and give them to the Lēwites guarding the duty of the Dwelling Place of יהוה."

**Num 31:31** And Mosheh and El'azar the priest did as יהוה commanded Mosheh.

**Num 31:32** And the booty remaining from the plunder, which the people of the campaign had taken, was six hundred and seventy-five thousand sheep,

**Num 31:33** and seventy-two thousand cattle,

**Num 31:34** and sixty-one thousand donkeys,

**Num 31:35** and thirty-two thousand human beings in all, of women who had not known a man by lying with a man.

**Num 31:36** And the half, the portion for those who went out on the campaign, was in number three hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred sheep,

**Num 31:37** and the levy unto יהוה of the sheep was six hundred and seventy-five.

**Num 31:38** And the cattle were thirty-six thousand, of which the levy unto יהוה was seventy-two.

**Num 31:39** And the donkeys were thirty thousand five hundred, of which the levy unto יהוה was sixty-one.

**Num 31:40** And the human beings were sixteen thousand, of which the levy unto יהוה was thirty-two beings.

**Num 31:41** So Mosheh gave the levy which was the contribution unto יהוה to El'azar the priest, as יהוה commanded Mosheh.

**Num 31:42** And from the children of Yisra'el's half, which Mosheh divided from the men who campaigned:

**Num 31:43** now the half belonging to the congregation was three hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred sheep,

**Num 31:44** and thirty-six thousand cattle,

**Num 31:45** and thirty thousand five hundred donkeys,

**Num 31:46** and sixteen thousand human beings.

**Num 31:47** Then Mosheh took from the children of Yisra'el's half: one out of every fifty, drawn from man and beast, and gave them to the Lēwites, who guarded the duty of the Dwelling Place of יהוה, as יהוה commanded Mosheh.

Then we read about a voluntary offering from the officers, of the fighting men of Israel. None of the lives of the fighting men of Israel were loss.

**Num 31:48** And the officers who were over thousands of the campaign, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, came near to Mosheh,

**Num 31:49** and they said to Mosheh, "Your servants have taken a count of the fighting men under our command, and not a man of us is missing.

**Num 31:50** "So we have brought an offering for יהוה, what every man found of ornaments of gold: armlets and bracelets and signet rings and earrings and necklaces, to make atonement for ourselves before יהוה."

**Num 31:51** And Mosheh and El'azar the priest received the gold from them, all the fashioned ornaments.

**Num 31:52** And all the gold of the offering that they presented to יהוה, from the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, was sixteen thousand seven hundred and fifty sheqels.

**Num 31:53** The men of the campaign had taken spoil, every man for himself.



**Num 31:54** And Mosheh and El'azar the priest received the gold from the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and brought it into the Tent of Appointment as a remembrance for the children of Yisra'ël before יהוה.

Israel's fighting military totaled 12,000 [1,000 from each tribe]. We may need to note in Revelation 7, 12,000 are chosen from each tribe totaling 144,000. The ratio of Yah's army in comparison to the enemy's armies are always of a low percentage because clearly victory comes from Yah and not by man's might and power.

None of the fighting men were lost in Numbers 31 and if the 144,000 are also fighting men involved in the end of day harvest of souls, none of them will be lost either for they are sealed by YHWH.

## Numbers 32



In Numbers 32 the baton is soon to be handed over to Joshua to lead the people into the promise land beyond the Jordan. Before this happens, Reuben and Gad approach Moses, Elazar, and the leaders of the congregation, with a proposition. Their tribes apparently had a great number of livestock and they saw that the eastern lands they had just conquered by favor of YHWH, were perfect for raising livestock.

### Reuben and Gad Settle in Gilead

**Num 32:1** And the children of Re'ubēn and the children of Gaḏ had much livestock, a large number. And they saw the land of Ya'zēr and the land of Gil'aḏ and saw that the place was a place for livestock.

**Num 32:2** So the children of Gaḏ and the children of Re'ubēn came and spoke to Mosheh, and to El'azar the priest, and to the leaders of the congregation, saying,

**Num 32:3** “Ataroth, and Dibon, and Ya'zēr, and Nimrah, and Heshbon, and El'alēh, and Sebam, and Nebo, and Be'on,

**Num 32:4** the land which יהוה had stricken before the congregation of Yisra'ël, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock.”

**Num 32:5** And they said, “If we have found favour in your eyes, **let this land be given**

**to your servants as a possession, and do not let us pass over the Yardēn.”**

At first Moses has a traumatic flash-back as to what occurred at Kadesh-Barnea. After Moses reminds them of that epic failure and tells them his concerns; Reuben and Gad commit all their fighting men to still go into the promise land; help possess the land; and see that all the tribes are given their inheritance. Afterwards, Reuben and Gad would return to the lands mentioned on the east side of the Jordan.

**Num 32:6** And Mosheh said to the children of Gad and to the children of Re'ubēn, “Are your brothers to go into the battle while you yourselves sit here?”

**Num 32:7** “Now why do you discourage the heart of the children of Yisra'ēl from passing over into the land which יהוה has given them?”

**Num 32:8** “Thus your fathers did when I sent them away from Qadēsh Barnēa to see the land.

**Num 32:9** “For when they went up to the wadi Eshkol and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Yisra'ēl, so that they did not go into the land which יהוה had given them.

**Num 32:10** “Then the displeasure of יהוה burned on that day, and He swore an oath, saying,

**Num 32:11** Not one of the men who came up from Mitsrayim, from twenty years old and above, is to see the land of which I swore to Abraham, Yitshāq, and Ya'aqob, because they did not follow Me completely,

**Num 32:12** except Kalēb son of Yephunneh, the Qenizzite, and Yehoshua son of Nun, for they have followed יהוה completely.’

**Num 32:13** “So the displeasure of יהוה burned against Yisra'ēl, and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the eyes of יהוה was destroyed.

**Num 32:14** “And see, you have risen in your father's place, an increase of men, sinners, to add still more the burning displeasure of יהוה against Yisra'ēl.

**Num 32:15** “For if you turn away from following Him, He shall once again leave them in the wilderness, and you shall destroy all these people.”

**Num 32:16** Then they came near to him and said, “Let us build sheep-enclosures here for our livestock, and cities for our little ones,

**Num 32:17** but let us ourselves be armed, hastening before the children of Yisra'ēl until we have brought them to their place. And our little ones shall dwell in the walled cities because of the inhabitants of the land.

**Num 32:18** “We shall not return to our homes until every one of the children of Yisra'ēl has received his inheritance.

**Num 32:19** “For we shall not inherit with them on the other side of the Yarděn and beyond, because **our inheritance has fallen to us on this eastern side of the Yarděn.**”

**Num 32:20** **And Mosheh said to them**, “If you make this promise: if you arm yourselves before יהוה for battle,

**Num 32:21** and all your armed ones pass over the Yarděn before יהוה until He has driven out His enemies from before Him,

**Num 32:22** and the land has been subdued before יהוה, then afterward you shall return, and be guiltless before יהוה and before Yisra’ěl. And this land shall be your possession before יהוה.

Both sides come into agreement and Moses commands Joshua and Elazar to follow that agreement accordingly. Later in this chapter we see [half the tribe of Menashsheh](#) is also included.

**Num 32:23** “But if you do not do so, then see, you shall sin against יהוה, and know: your sin is going to find you out.

**Num 32:24** “Build cities for your little ones and enclosures for your sheep, and do what you have promised.”

**Num 32:25** And the children of Gađ and the children of Re’uḇĕn spoke to Mosheh, saying, “Your servants are going to do as my master commands.

**Num 32:26** “Our little ones, our wives, our flocks, and all our livestock are going to be there in the cities of Gil’ađ,

**Num 32:27** but your servants are passing over, every armed one of the army, before יהוה, to battle, as my master says.”

**Num 32:28** And Mosheh gave command concerning them to El’azar the priest, to Yehoshua son of Nun, and to the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Yisra’ěl.

**Num 32:29** And Mosheh said to them, “If the children of Gađ and the children of Re’uḇĕn pass over the Yarděn with you, every man armed for battle before יהוה, and the land has been subdued before you, then you shall give them the land of Gil’ađ as a possession.

**Num 32:30** “But if they do not pass over armed with you, they shall have possessions among you in the land of Kena’an.”

**Num 32:31** Then the children of Gađ and the children of Re’uḇĕn answered, saying, “As יהוה has said to your servants, so we do.

**Num 32:32** “We ourselves are passing over armed before יהוה into the land of Kena’an, but the possession of our inheritance remains with us beyond the Yarděn.”

Num 32:33 **So Mosheh gave to the children of Gaḏ, to the children of Re'ubēn, and to half the tribe of Menashsheh, son of Yosēph, the reign of Siḥon sovereign of the Amorites and the reign of Oḡ sovereign of Bashan, the land with its cities within the borders, the cities of the land round about.**

Children of Gad:

Num 32:34 And the children of Gaḏ built Diḡon and Ataroth and Aro'ēr,

Num 32:35 and Atroth, Shophan and Ya'zēr and Yoḡbehah,

Num 32:36 and Bēyth Nimrah and Bēyth Haran, walled cities, and enclosures for sheep.

Children of Reuben:

Num 32:37 And the children of Re'ubēn built Ḥeshbon and El'alēh and Qiryathayim,

Num 32:38 Neḡo and Ba'al Me'on – the names being changed – and Shiḡmah. And they gave other names to the cities which they built.

Children of ½ the tribe of Menashsheh:

Num 32:39 And the sons of Maḡir son of Menashsheh went to Gil'aḏ and took it, and dispossessed the Amorites who were in it.

Num 32:40 So Mosheh gave Gil'aḏ to Maḡir, son of Menashsheh, and he dwelt in it.

Num 32:41 And Ya'ir son of Menashsheh went and took its small towns, and called them Ḥawoth Ya'ir.

Num 32:42 And Noḡaḡ went and took Qenath and its villages, and he called it Noḡaḡ, after his own name.

Later we will see when Assyria invades Israel, these are the first territories to be taken into exile.

1Ch 5:26 So the Elohim of Yisra'el stirred up the spirit of Pul sovereign of Ashshur, even the spirit of Tiglath-Pileser sovereign of Ashshur. And he took the Re'ubēnites, and the Gaḡites, and the half-tribe of Menashsheh into exile, and brought them to Ḥalaḡ, and Ḥaḡor, and Hara, and the river of Gozan, unto this day.

## **Introduction to Jeremiah** by F.B. Meyer

[Note: Jeremiah was a prophet to the southern kingdom.]

Jeremiah was of **priestly descent**, and born at Anathoth, a Levitical city a few miles northeast of Jerusalem. His commission was given him in **very early life**, and continued through the reigns of **five kings for forty troubled years**. He had neither wife nor child. His love was concentrated

on his people, who ill requited it. The men of Anathoth sought his life. He was assailed with misrepresentation, bitter persecution, and murderous hate. He nearly lost his life under the displeasure of the King and princes, at whose command he was cast into a miry dungeon. He lived to see a faint gleam of returning prosperity overcast by the crimes of Ishmael and his fellow-conspirators.

He was a sensitive, delicately organized man, to whom it must have been a matter of peculiar trial to be called upon to play so prominent a part in those dark and stormy times, and to be “as an iron and brazen wall against the whole land.” But he is an evidence of what may be done by a man in whom the Spirit of God resides in mighty, living force. Tradition states that he died in Egypt, stoned by his fellow-countrymen. It has been often said that there are few Old Testament saints who afford more points of likeness to our Lord than does Jeremiah.

## Jeremiah 1

**Jer 1:1** The words of Yirmeyahu [Jeremiah] the son of Hīlqiyahu [Hilkiah], of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Binyamin,

**Jer 1:2** to whom the word of יהוה came in the days of Yoshiyahu [Josiah] son of Amon, sovereign of Yehudah, **in the thirteenth year of his reign.**

**Jer 1:3** And it came in the days of Yehoyaqim [Jehoiakim], son of Yoshiyahu [Josiah], sovereign of Yehudah, **until the end of the eleventh year** of Tsidqiyahu [Zedekiah], son of Yoshiyahu [Josiah], sovereign of Yehudah, until the exile of Yerushalayim in the fifth new moon.



	Josiah (31) 1	2Ki 22:1	Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was <b>Jedidah</b> , the daughter of <b>Adaiah</b> of Boscath.
	31		
Jehoahaz (3m) 3 months	Jehoiakim (11) 1	2Ki 23:31	Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was <b>Hamutal</b> , the daughter of <b>Jeremiah</b> of Libnah.
		2Ki 23:36	Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was <b>Zebudah</b> , the daughter of <b>Pedaiah</b> of Rumah.
Jehoiachin Co-regency		2Ch 36:9	Jehoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.
			... 10 years later ...
	11		
Jehoiachin (3m) (Official reign starts) 3 months	Zedekiah (11) 1	2Ki 24:8	Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother's name was <b>Nehushta</b> , the daughter of <b>Elnathan</b> of Jerusalem.
		2Ki 24:12	And <b>Jehoiachin</b> the king of <b>Judah</b> went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.
		2Ki 24:18	Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was <b>Hamutal</b> , the daughter of <b>Jeremiah</b> of Libnah.
	11	2Ki 25:2	And the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king <b>Zedekiah</b> .

[http://www.complete-bible-genealogy.com/judah\\_israel\\_kings.htm](http://www.complete-bible-genealogy.com/judah_israel_kings.htm)

## The Call of Jeremiah

Jer 1:4 Now the word of יהוה came to me, saying,

Jer 1:5 **“Before I formed you in the belly I knew you, and before you came out of the womb I did set you apart – I appointed you a prophet to nations.”**

Jer 1:6 And said I, “Ah, Master יהוה! See, I do not know how to speak, for **I am a youth.**”

Jer 1:7 **And יהוה said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ but go to all to whom I send you, and speak whatever I command you.**

Jer 1:8 **“Do not fear their faces, for I am with you to deliver you,” declares יהוה.**

Jer 1:9 **Then יהוה put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and יהוה said to me, “See, I have put My words in your mouth.**

Jer 1:10 **“See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the reigns, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”**

Jeremiah was close to YHWH’s own heart. He had formed him in his mother’s womb, and He had specific and great plans for Jeremiah. Jeremiah had been set-apart to YHWH. YHWH puts forth His hand and touches Jeremiah’s mouth and put His words in Jeremiah’s mouth.

Yahusha gives us a similar message when He tells us:

Luk 12:11 “And when they bring you to the congregations and rulers and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say,

Luk 12:12 **for the Set-apart Spirit shall teach you in that very hour what you should say.”**

Jer 1:11 And the **word of יהוה came to me**, saying, “What do you see, Yirmeyahu?” And I said,



**“I see a branch of an almond tree.”**

Jer 1:12 And יהוה said to me, “You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to do it.”

Jer 1:13 And **the word of יהוה came to me a second time**, saying, “What do you see?” And I said, **“I see a boiling pot, and it is facing away from the north.”**

Jer 1:14 And יהוה said to me, **“Out of the north evil is set loose on all the inhabitants of the land.**

Jer 1:15 “For look, **I am calling all the clans of the reigns of the north,**” declares יהוה. **“And they shall come and each one set his throne at the entrance of the gates of Yerushalayim, against all its walls all around, and against all the cities of Yehudah.”**

This prophecy is fulfilled in Jerimiah 39:

Jer 39:3 And all the heads of the sovereign of Baḇel came in and sat in the Middle Gate: Nĕrġal-Shar’etser, Samgar-Neḇo, Sarsekim, Raḇsaris, Nĕrġal-Sarezzer, Raḇmaġ, and all the rest of the heads of the sovereign of Baḇel.

Jer 39:4 And it came to be, when Tsiḏqiyahu the sovereign of Yehuḏah and all the men of battle saw them, they fled and left the city by night, by way of the sovereign’s garden, by the gate between the two walls. And he went out toward the desert plain.

Jer 39:5 But the army of the Kasdim pursued them and overtook Tsiḏqiyahu in the desert plains of Yeriḥo. And they captured him, and brought him up to Neḇuqaḏnettsar sovereign of Baḇel, to Riḇlah in the land of Ḥamath, where he spoke judgment on him.

Jer 39:6 And the sovereign of Baḇel slew the sons of Tsiḏqiyahu before his eyes in Riḇlah. The sovereign of Baḇel also slew all the nobles of Yehuḏah.

Jer 39:7 And he put out the eyes of Tsiḏqiyahu, and bound him with bronze shackles to bring him to Baḇel.

Jer 39:8 And the Kasdim burned the house of the sovereign and the houses of the people with fire, and they broke down the walls of Yerushalayim.

Jer 1:16 “And I shall pronounce My judgments against them concerning all their evil, because **they have forsaken Me**, **burned incense to other mighty ones**, and **bowed themselves to the works of their own hands**.

His Judgements against them (these same judgments could stand in our day).

- The people had forsaken Him
- Burned incense to other mighty ones
- Bowed themselves to the works of their own hands

Jer 1:17 “Now, gird up your loins and arise, and speak to them all that I command you. Do not break down before their faces, lest I break you before them.

Jer 1:18 **“For look, I have made you this day a walled city and an iron column, and bronze walls against all the land, against the sovereigns of Yehudah, against her heads, against her priests, and against the people of the land.”**

Jer 1:19 **“And they shall fight against you, but not prevail against you. For I am with you.”**

declares יהוה, “to deliver you.”

In the end of days, YHWH will bestow similar strengths to the two witnesses [the two olive trees; the two lampstands] spoken of in Revelation 11.

**Jeremiah 2** Jeremiah prophesied during the administrations of five of Judah’s kings:

1. Josiah (639-608 B.C.)—31 years
2. Jehoahaz (608 B.C.)—3 months
3. Jehoiakim (608-597 B.C.)—11 years
4. Johoiachin (597 B.C.)—3 months
5. Zedekiah (597-586 B.C.)—11 years

His message was one of judgement if the kingdom of Judah would not repent. He recounts in Jeremiah 2 His people’s unfaithfulness and whoredom.

### Israel Forsakes YHWH

**Jer 2:1** And the word of יהוה came to me, saying,

Jer 2:2 “Go, and you shall cry in the hearing of Yerushalayim, saying, ‘Thus said יהוה, “I remember you, the loving-commitment of your youth, the love of your bridehood, when you went after Me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.

Jer 2:3 “Yisra’el was set-apart to יהוה, the first-fruits of His increase. All who ate of it became guilty – evil came upon them,” declares יהוה.’”

YHWH had Jeremiah recall to Jerusalem the youthful days of their loving-commitment; the love of their bridehood when they went after Him in the wilderness; when Israel had been set-apart for YHWH and was the first fruit of His increase.

His Word has always been about the greatest love story ever told. A love so strong that He laid down His life for His beloved; and took it back up. He had brought His beloved into the Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey, but His beloved defiled the land and made His inheritance an abomination.

**Jer 2:4** Hear the word of יהוה, O house of Ya’aqob and all the clans of the house of Yisra’el.

**Jer 2:5** Thus said יהוה, “What unrighteousness have your fathers found in Me, that they have gone far from Me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless?

**Jer 2:6** “And did not they say, ‘Where is יהוה, who brought us up out of the land of Mitsrayim, who led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and pits, through a land of drought and the shadow of death, a land that no one passed through and where no one dwelt?’

Jer 2:7 “Then I brought you into a garden land, to eat its fruit and its goodness. But when you entered, **you defiled My land and made My inheritance an abomination.**

Jer 2:8 “The priests did not say, ‘Where is יהוה?’ And those who handle the Torah did not know Me, and the **shepherds<sup>a</sup>** transgressed against Me, and the prophets prophesied by Ba'al, and walked after *matters* that did not profit. Footnote: <sup>a</sup>See [Jer 10:21](#), [Jer 12:10-11](#), [Jer 50:6-7](#).

Jer 2:9 “Therefore I still contend with you,” declares יהוה, “and with your children’s children I contend.

Jer 2:10 “For, pass beyond the isles of Kittim and see, and send to Qēḏar and observe well, and see if there has been any like this.

#### BDB Definition:

Chittim or Kittim = “bruisers”

- 1) a general term for all islanders of the Mediterranean Sea
- 2) the descendants of Javan, the son of Japheth and grandson of Noah

#### BDB Definition:

Kedar = “dark”

- 1) a son of Ishmael (noun proper masculine)
- 2) the descendants of Kedar (noun proper people)

Jer 2:11 “Has a nation changed its mighty ones, which are not mighty ones? **But My people have changed My esteem<sup>b</sup> for that which does not profit.** Footnote: <sup>b</sup>Symbolic name for His Ark.

Jer 2:12 “Be amazed, O heavens, at this, and be frightened, be utterly dried up,” declares יהוה.

Jer 2:13 “**For My people have done two evils: they have forsaken Me,** the fountain of **living waters,<sup>c</sup>** to **hew out for themselves cisterns, cracked cisterns,** which do not hold water.

Footnote: <sup>c</sup>See [Jer 17:13](#).

Satan has weaved a major web of seduction for mankind. He appeals to the lust of the eyes; the lust of the flesh; and the pride of life. His goal is to seduce mankind into the temporary fleshly desires of this world. To waste their time on those things passing away and decaying. His goal is to make mankind fall into so much iniquity that YHWH Himself will have to bring judgment on the very ones He loves Himself.

Satan rejoices when the next generations know more about sports and music, rather than the Word of YHWH. Satan rejoices when Living Water is rejected; and cracked cisterns of limited water is chosen. Satan's goal is to create 'fatal distractions' that lead to 'fatal attractions' leading to death, destruction, and decay. Satan is all about the death culture and YHWH is all about the culture of life; eternal life; everlasting life.

Has Satan been successful? Sadly yes.

Are people still bowing down and kissing the feet of statues? Yes.

Are people still bowing down and kissing stones? Yes.

Are people still burning incense and offering fruit to little 'g' gods? Yes.

Are people celebrating pagan holidays, Easter (Ishtar), Christmas (Saturnalia; Tammuz)?  
Yes

Are people seeking Psychics; witchcraft; New Age; blended worship? Yes

Are people still turning to mankind for answers instead of YHWH? Yes

Are people still committing whoredom against YHWH? Yes

Is the judgement message spoken by Jeremiah for us today? Yes

Is there time to repent and turn things around? Yes

Are people awakening? Yes

Does Yahusha love the sinner? Yes. He wants everyone to come to repentance and be saved.

Only in Yahusha is there salvation, He paid our sin debt in full on the crucifixion tree, but it is still up to each person to accept His proposal into the New Covenant ratified by the blood of the Lamb. Only then do we receive our garments of white without spot or blemish. Only then can we walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

**Jer 2:14** "Is Yisra'el a servant? Was he born in the house? Why is he given to plunder?"

**Jer 2:15** "The young lions roared at him, they growled, and made his land waste; his cities have been burned, without inhabitant.

**Jer 2:16** "Even the sons of Noph and of Tahpanhes have shaven the crown of your head.

### **BDB Definition:**

Noph = "presentability"

1) another name for 'Memphis' the capital city of Egypt

### BDB Definition:

Tahpanhes or Tahapanes or Tehaphnehes = “thou will fill hands with pity”

1) a city in Egypt; modern 'Tel Defenneh' or 'Tel Defneh' located approx 18 miles (29 kilometers) east southeast from Tanis

Jer 2:17 **“Have you not done this to yourself,** by forsaking יהוה your Elohim when He led you in the way?”

Jer 2:18 “And now why take the way to Mitsrayim, to drink the waters of Shiḥor? Or why take the way to Ashshur, to drink the waters of the River?”

Jer 2:19 **“Your own evil instructs you, and your backslidings reprove you. Know therefore and see that it is evil and bitter that you have forsaken יהוה your Elohim, and that My fear is not in you.”** declares the Master יהוה of hosts.

Jer 2:20 “For of old I have broken your yoke and torn off your chastisements. And you said, ‘I am not serving<sup>d</sup> You,’ **when on every high hill and under every green tree you lay down, a whore.** Footnote: <sup>d</sup>Heb. Or “transgressing”.

Jer 2:21 **“Yet I had planted you a choice vine,** all of it a true seed. How then have you turned before Me into the **degenerate plant of a strange vine?**

Jer 2:22 **“Although you wash yourself with lye, and use much soap, yet your crookedness is ingrained before Me,”** declares the Master יהוה.

Jer 2:23 “How do you say, ‘I am not defiled, I have not gone after the Ba’als’? See your way in the valley, know what you have done: a swift dromedary [young female camel] breaking loose in her ways,

Jer 2:24 **a wild donkey used to the wilderness,** sniffing the wind in the desire of her being – in her time of mating, who turns her away? All those who seek her need not weary themselves; in her month<sup>e</sup> they find her.<sup>f</sup> Footnotes: <sup>e</sup>Hebrew: Chodesh - New moon. <sup>f</sup>On heat.

Jer 2:25 “Keep your foot from being bare, and your throat from thirst. But you said, ‘It is useless, because I love strangers, and after them I go.’

His people had stooped to the lowest form of savagery animal instincts.

Jer 2:26 **“As the thief is ashamed when he is found out, so is the house of Yisra’el ashamed – they and their sovereigns and their heads, and their priests and their prophets.**

Jer 2:27 **saying to a tree,** ‘You are my father,’ and **to a stone,** ‘You gave birth to me.’ For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their calamity they say, ‘Arise and save us.’

Unfaithfulness prevailed among the people, the sovereigns, the leaders, their priests, and their prophets! They were like a ship without a rudder. Sheep without a shepherd. Prey for predator beasts.

Jer 2:28 “**But where are your mighty ones** that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, see if they save you in the time of your calamity. Because your mighty ones have become as many as your cities, O Yehudah.

Jer 2:29 “Why do you complain to Me? **You all have transgressed against Me,**” declares יהוה.

Jer 2:30 “In vain have I stricken your children – **they received no instruction.** Your sword has devoured your prophets like a destroying lion.

Jer 2:31 “O generation, see the word of יהוה! Have I been a wilderness to Yisra’el, Or a land of darkness? **Why do My people say,** ‘We have broken loose; we come to You no more’?

Jer 2:32 “Would a maiden forget her ornaments, or a bride her headband? **Yet My people have forgotten Me, days without number.**

Jer 2:33 “Why do you embellish your way to seek love? Therefore you have even taught the evil women your ways.

Jer 2:34 “Even on your skirts is found the blood of the lives of the poor innocents. You did not find them breaking in, but in spite of all these,

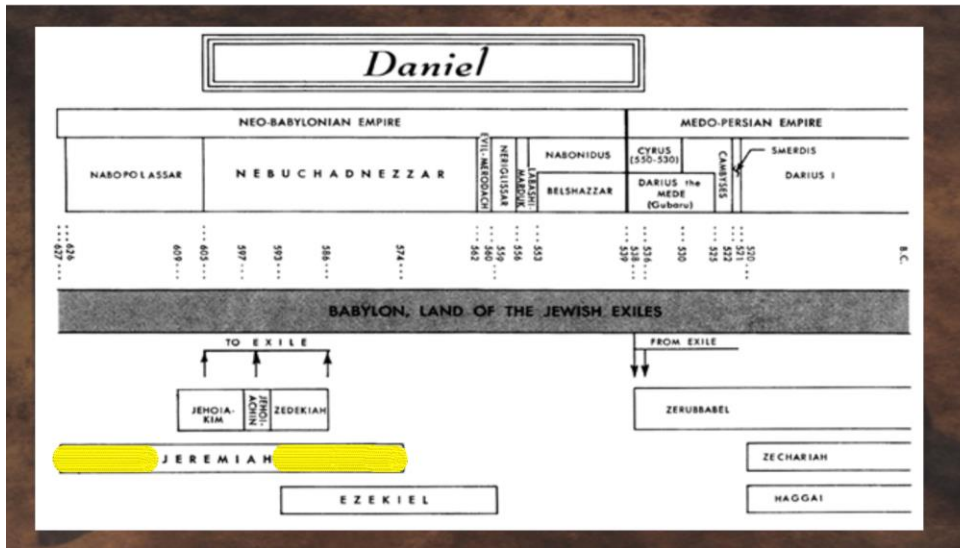
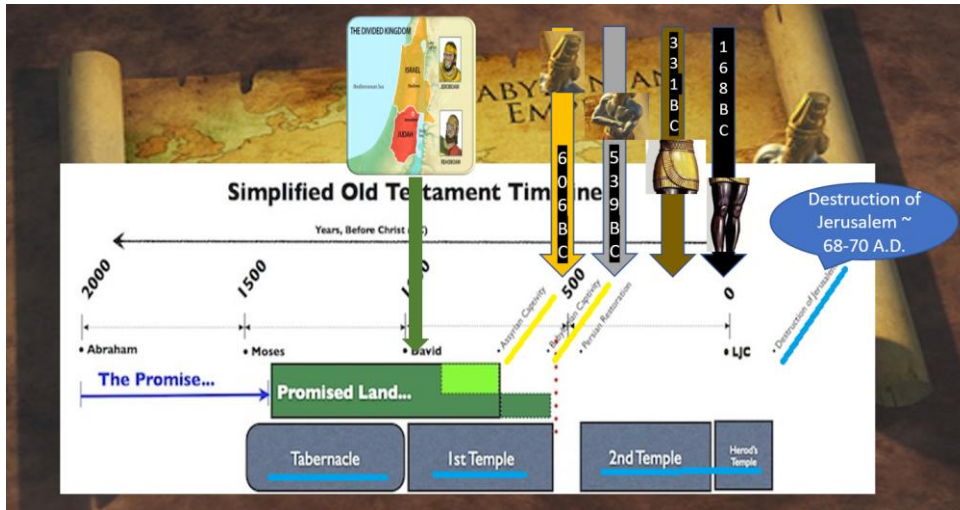
Jer 2:35 you say, ‘Because I am innocent, certainly His displeasure shall turn from me.’ **See, I shall bring judgment on you, because you say, ‘I have not sinned.’**

Jer 2:36 “Why do you go about so much to change your way? Even of Mitsrayim you are to be ashamed, as you were ashamed of Ashshur.

Jer 2:37 “Even from this one you shall go forth, with your hands on your head. For יהוה has rejected those you trust, and you shall not prosper by them.

Israel had been exiled to Assyria and about 145 years later, Judah would be exiled to Babylon. The people were giving up the love and freedom in YHWH; to go back into despicable captivity. Judah had barely survived the attack of Assyria; they had even forgotten how YHWH has spared them!





**Judges 11:29-40**

**Jephthah's Tragic Vow**

Jdg 11:29 And the Spirit of יהוה came upon Yiphtah, and he passed through Gil'ad and Menashsheh, and passed through Mitspeh of Gil'ad. And from Mitspeh of Gil'ad he passed on toward the children of Ammon.

Jdg 11:30 And Yiphtah made a vow to יהוה, and said,

**“If You give the children of Ammon into my hands, Jdg 11:31 then it shall be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon,**

**shall belong to יהוה, and I shall offer it up as an ascending offering.”**

Jdg 11:32 Yiphtaḥ then passed on toward the children of Ammon to fight against them, and יהוה gave them into his hands.

Jdg 11:33 And he struck them from Aro'ēr as far as Minnith, twenty cities, and to Abēl Keramim, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were humbled before the children of Yisra'ēl.

Jephthah returns home from battle.

Jdg 11:34 And Yiphtaḥ came to his house at Mitspah, and saw his daughter coming out to meet him with timbrels and dancing. **Now except for her he had neither son nor daughter.**

Jdg 11:35 And it came to be, when he saw her, that he tore his garments, and said, “Oh my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you are among those who trouble me! And I, I have given my word to יהוה, and I am unable to turn back.”

His daughter's response is very gracious and respectful to YHWH and to her father. Above all she rejoiced that her father was given victory by YHWH and he had returned home. The vow would not be to her death; but she would be set-apart to YHWH and would never marry.

Jdg 11:36 And she said to him, “My father, if you have given your word to יהוה, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, because יהוה has taken vengeance for you upon your enemies, the children of Ammon.”

Jdg 11:37 And she said to her father, “Let this be done for me: let me alone for two new moons, and let me go and wander on the mountains and bewail my maidenhood, my friends and I.”

Jdg 11:38 Then he said, “Go.” And he sent her away for two new moons. And she went with her friends, and bewailed her maidenhood on the mountains.

Jdg 11:39 And it came to be at the end of two new moons that she returned to her father, and he did to her as he had vowed, and she knew no man. And it became a statute in Yisra'ēl

Jdg 11:40 that the daughters of Yisra'ēl went every year for four days to lament the daughter of Yiphtaḥ the Gil'adite.

### **Matthew 5:33-37**

## Oaths

**Mat 5:33** “Again, you heard that it was said to those of old, ‘**You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to יהוה.**’ [Lev 19:12](#), [Num 30:2](#), [Deu 23:21](#).”

**Mat 5:34** “But I say to you, do not swear [[vainly](#)]<sup>i</sup> at all, neither by the heaven, because it is Elohim’s throne; **Footnote:** <sup>i</sup>Shem Tob texts include ‘vainly’= Hebrew: Shaw’.

**Mat 5:35** nor by **the earth**, for it is His **footstool**; [Isa 66:1](#) nor by Yerushalayim, for it is **the city of the great Sovereign**; [Psa 48:2](#).”

**Mat 5:36** nor swear by your head, because you are not able to make one hair white or black.

**Mat 5:37** “But let your word ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No.’ And what goes beyond these is from the wicked one.

We should think before we speak. We should bring our thoughts under submission to Him. We should determine if the thought is in accordance to YHWH; in accordance to our own fleshly desire; or being influence by Satan. Our spoken or written words should be guided by His Word.

Therefore, we should listen twice as much as we speak; and when we do speak, we should carefully consider the words we choose. By staying in His Word, we will see that our thoughts, words, and deeds becoming more and more in line with His.

### Matthew 23:1-3

#### Seven Woes to the Scribes and Pharisees

**Mat 23:1** Then יהושע spoke to the crowds and to His taught ones,

**Mat 23:2** saying, “**The scribes and the Pharisees sit on the seat of Mosheh.**”

**Mat 23:3** “Therefore, whatever [they<sup>a</sup>](#) [see ‘Footnote’ which alludes to Moses rather than what the Pharisees say.]say to you to guard, guard and do. But do not do according to their works, for they say, and do not do. **Footnote:** <sup>a</sup>Four of eleven available Shem Tob texts read “he says”, referring to Mosheh, instead of “they say”, referring to the Pharisees.

[NOTE: In reference to Mat. 23:3, the footnote points out that ‘they say’ should have read ‘he says’ referring to Moses as recorded in several of the texts. Within the context of these verses, the reference to Moses seems to be more valid.]

Yahusha was born under the time period of the 'Book of the Law' and the reigning Aaronic Levitical Priesthood. At this point in time, the people should have still been following the Book of the Law that was given to Moses to spare the lives of the Israelites after the sin of the golden calf.

The spiritual condition of the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood was a mere shell of what it once had been. The present temple system was corrupt; many Edomites had previously been made to convert to Judaism; Roman politics influenced the Sanhedrin body; those that had return from Babylon brought back its influences along with the Babylonian Talmud.

Added false doctrine of men and man-made traditions were blended into the Word of YHWH and 'declared to be the word' that the people should follow. To this day, this same 'added doctrine' of Babylonian Talmudic leaven is still advocated by the Sanhedrin. However, 'added doctrine' is not limited to those 'that say they are Jews and are not' but also to other religions such as Roman Catholicism that also adds doctrine and changes text.

In the days of Yahusha, the Sanhedrin were adding many burdens to the people; but that was all about to change.

*Shabbat Shalom, Libby*