

*Greetings, today our manna is from Exodus 23; Job 41; John 2; 2Cor. 11.*

## *March 12 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective*

[Note: **For teaching purposes only**, underlines, bold font, and highlight emphasis have been used in PDFs.]

Scripture Source: e-Sword TS2009 unless otherwise noted: <https://www.e-sword.net/>

### **Exodus 23**

The details in the Book of the Covenant continue with social laws for rightly ruling and instructions about the Sabbaths and Festivals.

As we complete the reading of the social laws, one can see how far most of the people in Yahusha's day (as well as in our day) had drifted away from doing what was right in the eyes of YHWH and toward the brethren. **Yahusha was born under the law**, the Book of the Law; yet, he was simultaneously ushering in understanding of the impending New Covenant Confirming Gospel. The four Gospels and the Book of Acts reflect the onset of **this MAJOR transference** between priesthoods and between laws: and the fulfillment of associated prophecies.

Heb 7:11 Truly, then, if perfection were through the Lēwitical priesthood – for under it the people were given the Torah – why was there still need for another priest to arise according to the order of Malkitseḡeq, and not be called according to the order of Aharon?

Heb 7:12 For the priesthood being changed,<sup>b</sup> of necessity there takes place a change of law also. Footnote: <sup>b</sup>From Malkitseḡeq to Aharon.

As Yahusha would meet with the people, he would challenge them to love YHWH with all their heart, mind, soul, and spirit and love their neighbor as themselves. Often the rulers, scribes, and Pharisees would show up and He would point them to the errors in their ways. These rulers had done violence to His Word by distorting what was written and adding more laws that were so burdensome that they themselves didn't follow. Yahusha lifted the veil of their hypocrisy. Most importantly, Yahusha lifted the veil revealing their unbelief.

The instructions then shift to the Sabbaths (weekly and yearly) and the three groupings of Festivals to Him: Matzot (Unleavened Bread); Harvest (Shavuot or Pentecost); and Ingathering (Sukkot). Keep in mind, all the festivals are our bridal rehearsals to prepare us to meet our Groom. He states that three times a year all males are to appear before Him. He is coming for a mature bride and men are directly accountable to YHWH in

setting His example; and being the covering over their wives and their families in YHWH. Men are attacked first because they possess the most strength. Sa\_tan focuses on taking down YHWH's men so as to kill, steal, and destroy the family. Sadly, sa\_tan has been successful.

A mature bride searches His Word to find out what is pleasing to the Groom. Keeping Shabbats and His Rehearsals, our appointed times (moedim) with Him, is what a mature bride does. Remember in His Kingdom, there is neither Greek nor Jew; male nor female; slave nor free. He views us as living stones, His bride from every tongue, tribe, people, and nation.

Also make note that today, we are the temple. We are Israel born from above, the one new man. Through His Ruach HaKodesh living in us and through us, we can now come before Him and observe His Festivals from any location. Yet, one day, He will gather us all together, from all around the world; and one day we will all be together and observe His Festivals in His very presence on Mt. Zion.

YHWH's Feasts are also part of His military campaign to rescue His people in the greater exodus [Isaiah 11:11-16] with perfect timing and precision. Timing is everything in defeating the enemy and rescuing those in prison or in Egypt. His feasts teach His people to be ever ready and watching for His imminent return and exodus out of this world.

YHWH then speaks of the Promise Land. He tells the children of Israel that He is sending His Messenger to guard their way and they are warned NOT TO REBEL against Him. YHWH says His Name is in Him so listen to His voice and do all that YHWH speaks so things will go well. All the lands were full of 'mighty ones' and other 'gods' that the people in the lands worshiped. He spoke against any involvement or utterances of these gods. If they would obey YHWH, and Him only; all would go well, and they would be blessed. YHWH would drive the people out of the land little by little over one year, lest the land become a waste land and the beast of the land too numerous.

YHWH's intent is to guide us through the minefields of this world. Everyday, we are surrounded by paganism and those that worship little 'g' gods. Abominations are practiced in every nation; altars of human sacrifices to sa\_tan exists; idols and obelisks exist on every corner. Yahusha told us that if this world hated Him; it would hate us also. The entire Bible exhibits His great love for us by rescuing us from the very jaws of the dragon! He is our refuge and our shelter; He is our very present help in time of trouble. He teaches us military strategies by staying very close to our Commander in Chief!

**Exo 23:1** “Do not bring a false report. Do not put your hand with the wrong to be a malicious witness.

Mat 26:59 And the chief priests, and the elders, and all the council were seeking false witness against יהושע to put Him to death,

Mat 26:60 but found none. Although many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward,

Mat 26:61 and said, “This one said, ‘I am able to destroy the Dwelling Place of Elohim and to build it in three days.’ ”

**Exo 23:2** “Do not follow a crowd to do evil, nor bear witness in a strife so as to turn aside after many, to turn aside *what is right*.

Act 25:9 But Festus, wishing to do the Yehudim a favour, answering Sha'ul, said, “Do you wish to go up to Yerushalayim and be judged before me there concerning these *matters*?”

**Exo 23:3** “And do not favour a poor man in his strife.

Jas 3:16 For where jealousy and self-seeking are, there is confusion and every foul deed.

Jas 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first clean, then peaceable, gentle, ready to obey, filled with compassion and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

**Exo 23:4** “When you meet your enemy’s ox or his donkey going astray, you shall certainly return it to him.

**Exo 23:5** “When you see the donkey of him who hates you lying under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving it to him, you shall certainly help him.

**Exo 23:6** “Do not turn aside the right-ruling of your poor in his strife.

**Exo 23:7** “Keep yourself far from a false matter, and do not kill the innocent and the righteous, for I do not declare the wrong right.

**Exo 23:8** “And do not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the seeing one and twists the words of the righteous.

**Exo 23:9** “And do not oppress a sojourner, as you yourselves know the heart of a sojourner, because you were sojourners in the land of Mitsrayim.

Let YHWH’s peace, His shalom, be your compass.

Mat 10:12 “And as you enter into a house, greet it.

Mat 10:13 “And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

Mat 10:14 “And whoever does not receive you nor hear your words, when you leave that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.

Mat 10:15 “Truly, I say to you, it shall be more bearable for the land of Segom and Amarah in the day of judgment than for that city!

### Laws About the Sabbath and Festivals

Exo 23:10 “And for six years you are to sow your land, and shall gather its increase,

Exo 23:11 but the seventh year you are to let it rest, and shall leave it, and the poor of your people shall eat. And what they leave, the beasts of the field eat. Do the same with your vineyard and your oliveyard.

Exo 23:12 “Six days you are to do your work, and on the seventh day you rest, in order that your ox and your donkey might rest, and the son of your female servant and the sojourner be refreshed.

Again, we have six and seven; six and seven; which is a pattern well developed in His Word; therefore, we should see and know the days we live in. We live in the days of six and seven. His Feasts point us to the principles of six and seven of days, years, and millenniums; as well as to the 8<sup>th</sup> great day or millennium of New Beginnings!

Exo 23:13 “And in all that I have said to you take heed. And make no mention of the name of other mighty ones, let it not be heard from your mouth.

Exo 23:14 “Three<sup>a</sup> times in the year you are to celebrate a festival to Me: Footnote: <sup>a</sup>The Festivals of יהוה are grouped in three, for three different times of the year.

Exo 23:15 “Guard the Festival of Matzot.<sup>b</sup> Seven days you eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the new moon of Abib – for in it you came out of Mitsrayim – and do not appear before Me empty-handed; Footnote: <sup>b</sup>Unleavened Bread.

Exo 23:16 and the Festival of the Harvest,<sup>c</sup> the first-fruits of your labours which you have sown in the field; and the Festival of the Ingathering<sup>d</sup> at the outgoing of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labours from the field. Footnotes:

<sup>c</sup>Shabu'oth (Festival of Weeks). <sup>d</sup>Sukkot (Festival of Booths).

Exo 23:17 “Three times in the year all your males are to appear before the Master יהוה.

Exo 23:18 “Do not slaughter the blood of My slaughtering with leavened bread, and the fat of My festival shall not remain until morning.

Exo 23:19 “Bring the first of the first-fruits of your land into the House of יהוה your Elohim. Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk.

### Conquest of Canaan Promised

Exo 23:20 “See, I am sending a Messenger before you to guard you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.

Exo 23:21 “Be on guard before Him and obey His voice. Do not rebel against Him, for He is not going to pardon your transgression, for My Name is in Him.

Exo 23:22 “But if you diligently obey His voice and shall do all that I speak, then I shall

be an enemy to your enemies and a distresser to those who distress you.

**Exo 23:23** “For **My Messenger shall go before you** and shall bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Kena’anites and the Hivwites and the Yebusites, and I shall cut them off.

**Exo 23:24** “Do not bow down to their mighty ones, nor serve them, nor do according to their works, but without fail overthrow them and without fail break down their pillars.

**Exo 23:25** “And you shall serve יהוה' your Elohim, and He shall bless your bread and your water. And I shall remove sickness from your midst.

Reinforcement of the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20.

**Exo 23:26** “None shall miscarry or be barren in your land. I shall fill the number of your days.

**Exo 23:27** “I shall send My fear before you, and cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and make all your enemies turn their backs to you.

**Exo 23:28** “And I shall send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivwite, the Kena’anite, and the Hittite from before you.

**Exo 23:29** “**I shall not drive them out from before you in one year,** lest the land become a waste and the beast of the field become too numerous for you.

**Exo 23:30** “Little by little I shall drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land.

**Exo 23:31** “And I shall set your border from the Sea of Reeds to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River, for I shall give the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you.

**Exo 23:32** “Do not make a covenant with them nor with their mighty ones.

**Exo 23:33** “Let them not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me when you serve their mighty ones, when it becomes a snare to you.”

## Job 41

YHWH has won the war by giving us His one and only begotten son Yahusha; yet, there are prophesies still to be fulfilled and battles still to be fought. In Job’s day, they had faith that the Promised Messiah, Yahusha, would provide redemption for all mankind.

Rev 5:8 And when He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the set-apart ones.

Rev 5:9 And they sang a renewed song, saying, “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals, because You were slain, and have redeemed us to Elohim by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,<sup>c</sup> Footnote: <sup>c</sup>This fact is given in 6 other texts in the Book of Revelation.

Rev 5:10 and made us sovereigns and priests to our Elohim, and we shall reign upon the

earth.”<sup>d</sup> Footnote: <sup>d</sup> [Dan 7:18-27](#).

Only YHWH can defeat Leviathan, the dragon! This prophetic battle continues to rage between two extremely powerful forces beyond man’s wildest imagination. This is an epic battle between the Tree of Life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Only in YHWH is there refuge and peace.

No one and nothing are a match for our Omnipotent YHWH.

**Job 41:1** “Would you draw out Liwiathan with a hook, or snare his tongue with a line which you lower?

**Job 41:2** Would you put a cord through his nose, or pierce his jaw with a hook?

**Job 41:3** Would he keep on pleading with you? Would he speak softly to you?

**Job 41:4** Would he make a covenant with you to be taken as a servant forever?

**Job 41:5** Would you play with him as with a bird? Or leash him for your young girls?

**Job 41:6** Would *trading* partners bargain over him? Would they divide him among the merchants?

**Job 41:7** Fill his skin with harpoons? Or his head with fishing spears?

**Job 41:8** Put your hand on him – think of the struggle! Do not do it again!

**Job 41:9** See, any expectation of him is disappointed – he is laid low even at the sight of him!

**Job 41:10** No one is so foolhardy to wake him up. Who then is able to stand against Me?

**Job 41:11** Who has given to Me first, that I should repay him – under all the heavens that is Mine?

**Job 41:12** I would not keep silent concerning his limbs, or his mighty power, or his fair frame.

**Job 41:13** Who shall take off the surface of his skin? Who approaches him with a double bridle?

**Job 41:14** Who shall open the doors of his face, with his frightening teeth all around?

**Job 41:15** Rows of scales are *his* pride – closed up, a binding seal.

**Job 41:16** One to the other they fit closely, not even a breath enters between them.

**Job 41:17** They are joined one to another, they stick together and are not separated.

**Job 41:18** His sneezings flash forth light, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.

**Job 41:19** Out of his mouth go firebrands – sparks of fire shoot out.

**Job 41:20** Out of his nostrils comes smoke, like a boiling pot or kettle.

**Job 41:21** His breath sets coals on fire, and a flame goes out of his mouth.

**Job 41:22** Strength dwells in his neck, and fear leaps before him.

**Job 41:23** The folds of his flesh cleave together. They are firm on him, immovable.

- Job 41:24** His heart is as hard as stone, even as hard as the lower millstone.
- Job 41:25** When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid. Because of his crashings they are bewildered.
- Job 41:26** No sword that reaches him does prevail, *neither* spear, dart, or lance.
- Job 41:27** He reckons iron as straw, bronze as rotten wood.
- Job 41:28** The arrow does not make him flee, sling-stones become like stubble to him.
- Job 41:29** Clubs are reckoned as straw, he laughs at the rattle of a lance.
- Job 41:30** His undersides are like sharp potsherds. He sprawls on the mud like a threshing-sledge.
- Job 41:31** He makes the deep boil like a pot, he makes the sea like a pot of ointment.
- Job 41:32** He leaves a shining path behind him. One would think the deep to be grey-haired.
- Job 41:33** No one on earth is like him – one made without fear.
- Job 41:34** He sees all that is haughty. He is sovereign over all the sons of pride.”

## John 2

### The Wedding at Cana

- Joh 2:1** And on the third day there was a wedding in Qanah of Galil, and the mother of יהושע was there.
- Joh 2:2** And both יהושע and His taught ones were invited to the wedding.
- Joh 2:3** And when they were short of wine, the mother of יהושע said to Him, “They have no wine.”
- Joh 2:4** יהושע said to her, “Woman, what is that to Me and to you? My hour has not yet come.”
- Joh 2:5** His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever He says to you.”
- Joh 2:6** And there were six stone water-jugs standing there, according to the mode of cleansing of the Yehudim, each holding two or three measures.
- Joh 2:7** יהושע said to them, “Fill the water-jugs with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.
- Joh 2:8** And He said to them, “Now draw out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it.
- Joh 2:9** But when the master of the feast had tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from – though the servants who had drawn the water knew – the master of the feast called the bridegroom,
- Joh 2:10** and said to him, “Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when they have drunk, then that which is poorer. You have kept the good wine until now.”
- Joh 2:11** This, the beginning of the signs, יהושע did in Qanah of Galil, and manifested His esteem. And His taught ones believed in Him.



**Joh 2:12** After this He went down to Kephrah Nahum, He and His mother, and His brothers, and His taught ones. And there they stayed not many days.

**The Wedding at Cana** – The chapter opens that **on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day** there was a wedding at Cana and Yahusha’s mother was there. Some speculate that ‘**on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day**’ is referring to possibly the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of a 7-day wedding. We know in His Word that ‘**on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day**’ holds prophetic significance and this wedding is a unique account recorded in the Book of John. It is a type and shadow of our future consummation with our Groom. He has given us the ‘new wine’ of the Covenant Confirming Gospel which could never be contained in the old wineskins under the Book of the Law and Aaronic Levitical Priesthood.

Regarding ‘**on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day**’, if we look back in **John Chapter 1**, we see John the Immerser identify Yahusha as the **Lamb of Elohim** to two of his taught ones (one of which was Andrew). Andrew then goes and finds Peter. Then, the **next day** Philip is called who is of **Bethsaida (fishing house)**, the same place Andrew and Peter were from. Andrew finds and tells Nathaniel whom he locates under **the fig tree**. It is interesting that the Scriptures read ‘**the’ fig tree** and not ‘a’ fig tree. This could be significant as to ascertain a specific location and a specific tree. When Nathaniel, a faithful Israelite, encounters Yahusha, he too believes Him to be the Son of Elohim. So now, we start Chapter 2, which states **on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day**. So, could ‘**on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day**’ be relating to this sequence of events and are these disciples still with him as they go to this wedding in Cana? Remember numbered chapters and verses were later added to His Word for ease in locating Scripture. Also, by now, there had to have been a buzz circulating that he was the Son of Elohim.

Yahusha’s mother brings to His attention that they have no wine and Yahusha responds:

Joh 2:4 יהושע said to her, “Woman, what is that to Me and to you? **My hour** has not yet come.”

Yahusha’s mother tells the servants to do whatever Yahusha says to them. In other words, she left the decision to Yahusha. If Yahusha told them to do nothing, then they would have done nothing. But He doesn’t. Changing the water into wine is said to be His first miracle. Keep in mind during this time period, running out of wine for the guests at a wedding would be a sadness not easily forgotten. I suppose today, it would be like the groom forgetting the wedding ring.



Yahusha has the servants fill the six jugs present that held the water for ceremonial washings. Each normally would hold 20-30 gallons each. They do so. Then Yahusha instructs them to draw some out and take it to the master of the feast. The master of the feast was unaware of the source and in turn, he compliments the bridegroom for saving and serving the best wine for last. I'm sure the servants stood speechless.



There is so much here, I could go on and on but will leave you in His presence to contemplate all that this event speaks. What made Yahusha decide to change the water into wine? Why did he make a point to say, “My hour has not yet come.”? Why was his mother so involved with the wedding provisions? Was the person getting married very close to them? Were there any nefarious occurrences behind the wine running out? Oh, the questions we will ask one day!

### **Yahusha Cleanses the Temple**

**Joh 2:13** And the Pěsaḥ of the Yehuḏim was near, and יהושע went up to Yerushalayim.

**Joh 2:14** And He found in the Set-apart Place those selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers sitting.

**Joh 2:15** And having made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the Set-apart

Place, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the moneychangers' coins and overturned the tables.

**Joh 2:16** And He said to those selling doves, "Take these away! Do not make the house of My Father a house of merchandise!"

**Joh 2:17** And His taught ones remembered that it was written, "**The ardour for Your house has eaten Me up.**" [Psa 69:9](#).

**Joh 2:18** And the Yehudim answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You are doing these?"

**Joh 2:19** יהושע answered and said to them, "Destroy this Dwelling Place, and in three days I shall raise it."

**Joh 2:20** Then the Yehudim said, "It took forty-six years to build this Dwelling Place, and You are going to raise it in three days?"

**Joh 2:21** But He spoke about the Dwelling Place of His body.

**Joh 2:22** So, when He was raised from the dead, His taught ones remembered that He said this to them. And they believed the Scripture and the word which יהושע had said.

**Yahusha Cleanses the Temple** – It was near [the Passover of the Yehudim](#) when He found the money changers and sellers of doves in the Set-apart place. He drives them out with a whip made of cords and overturns their tables. He declares not to make His Father's house a house of merchandise! Today we are the temple and we are to keep our 'soul realm' clean as His Spirit lives in us.

He is questioned by the Yehudim. Again, we see the significance of in **three days**.

Joh 2:18 And the Yehudim answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You are doing these?"

Joh 2:19 יהושע answered and said to them, "Destroy this Dwelling Place, and **in three days I shall raise it.**"

Joh 2:20 Then the Yehudim said, "It took forty-six years to build this Dwelling Place, and You are going to raise it in three days?"

Joh 2:21 But He spoke about the Dwelling Place of His body.

Joh 2:22 So, when He was raised from the dead, His taught ones remembered that He said this to them. And they believed the Scripture and the word which יהושע had said.

### **Yahusha Knows What Is in Man**

**Joh 2:23** And when He was in Yerushalayim at the Pěsaḥ, at the festival, many believed in His Name when they saw the signs which He was doing.

**Joh 2:24** But יהושע was not entrusting Himself to them, because He knew all men,

**Joh 2:25** and had no need that anyone should witness of man, for He knew what was in man.

**Yahusha Knows What Is in Man** – Yahusha knows. He knew the thoughts of man before they spoke. He knew Nathaniel sat under the fig tree before he came to Him. He knew the wedding at Cana would run out of wine and He knew 'the why' behind the wedding running out of wine.

He knows what is in man and that is why He came. Only through His blood could we be washed white as snow. So, we remember, by faith we are saved; and we partake in remembrance of Him with the bread and the wine.

## 2Cor. 11

### Paul and the False Apostles

**2Co 11:1** I wish that you would bear with me in a little folly. But indeed, you are bearing with me.

**2Co 11:2** For I am jealous for you with a jealousy according to Elohim. For I gave you in marriage to one husband, to present you **as an innocent maiden to Messiah.**

Rev 14:4 They are those who were not defiled with women, for **they are maidens.** They are those following the Lamb wherever He leads *them* on. They were redeemed from among men, being first-fruits to Elohim and to the Lamb.

**2Co 11:3** But I am afraid, **lest, as the serpent deceived Hawwah by his trickery, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Messiah.**

**2Co 11:4** For, indeed, if he who is coming proclaims another יהושע,<sup>a</sup> whom we have not proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different Good News which you have not accepted, you put up with it well enough!

Footnote: <sup>a</sup> [Mat 24:5](#) and [Mat 24:23-24](#), [Joh 5:43](#).

Mat 24:5 “For many shall come in My Name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and they shall lead many astray.

Mat 24:23 “If anyone then says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe.

Mat 24:24 “For false messiahs and false prophets shall arise, and they shall show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the chosen ones.

Joh 5:43 “I have come in My Father’s Name and you do not receive Me, if another comes in his own name, him you would receive.

**2Co 11:5** For I reckon that I am not inferior to the most eminent emissaries.

**2Co 11:6** But even if I am unskilled in word,<sup>b</sup> yet not in knowledge; but, in every way we have been manifested among you in all *matters*. Footnote: <sup>b</sup>Or *speech*.

**2Co 11:7** **Or did I commit sin in humbling myself in order to exalt you, because I**

**brought good news, the Good News of Elohim to you without being paid?**

2Co 11:8 Other assemblies I robbed, by receiving wages *from them* to serve you.

2Co 11:9 And **when I was present with you, and in need**, I was not a burden to anyone, **for what was lacking to me the brothers who came from Makedonia supplied**. And in every way I kept myself – and shall keep – from being a burden to you.

2Co 11:10 It is a truth of Messiah in me, that this boasting in me shall not be stopped in the districts of Achaia.

2Co 11:11 Why? Is it that I do not love you? Elohim knows!

2Co 11:12 And I shall go on doing as I do, in order to cut off the occasion from those desiring an occasion, so that in that which they boast, they might be found also as we are.

2Co 11:13 **For such are false emissaries, deceptive workers, masquerading as emissaries of Messiah.**

2Co 11:14 And no wonder! **For Satan himself masquerades as a messenger of light!**

2Co 11:15 **It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness,<sup>c</sup> whose end shall be according to their works!**<sup>d</sup> Footnotes: <sup>c</sup>See [Mat 7:15-23](#), [2Pe 2:1-22](#). <sup>d</sup>See [Mat 13:41-42](#).

#### A Tree and Its Fruit

**Mat 7:15** “But beware of the false prophets,<sup>b</sup> who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are savage wolves. Footnote: <sup>b</sup>See also [Mat 7:23](#).

Mat 7:16 “By their fruits you shall know them. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?”

Mat 7:17 “So every good tree yields good fruit, but a rotten tree yields wicked fruit.

Mat 7:18 “A good tree is unable to yield wicked fruit, and a rotten tree to yield good fruit.

Mat 7:19 “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Mat 7:20 “So then, by their fruits you shall know them –

#### I Never Knew You

Mat 7:21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Master, Master,’ shall enter into the reign of the heavens, but he who is doing the desire of My Father in the heavens.

Mat 7:22 “Many shall say to Me in that day, ‘Master, Master, have we not prophesied in Your Name, and cast out demons in Your Name, and done many mighty works in Your Name?’

Mat 7:23 “And then I shall declare to them, ‘I never knew you, **depart from Me, you who work lawlessness!**’<sup>c</sup> [Psa 6:8](#). Footnote: <sup>c</sup>See [Mat 7:15](#), and also [Mat 13:41-42](#).

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#### False Prophets and Teachers

**2Pe 2:1** But there also came to be false prophets<sup>a</sup> among the people, as also among you there shall be false teachers, who shall secretly bring in destructive heresies, and deny the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction on themselves. Footnote: <sup>a</sup>See also [2Pe 2:7-8](#), [2Pe 2:21](#) and [Mat 7:15-23](#).

2Pe 2:2 And many shall follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth shall be

evil spoken of,

2Pe 2:3 and **in greed, with fabricated words, they shall use you for gain.** From of old their judgment does not linger, and their destruction does not slumber.

2Pe 2:4 For if Elohim did not spare the messengers who sinned, but sent them to Tartaros,<sup>b</sup> and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be kept for judgment, Footnote: <sup>b</sup>Possibly from Hebrew: Taḥti - See Explanatory notes - She'ol.

2Pe 2:5 and did not spare the world of old, but preserved Noah, a proclaimer of righteousness, and seven others, bringing in the flood on the world of the wicked,

2Pe 2:6 and having reduced to ashes the cities of Sodom and Amarah condemned them to destruction – having made them an example to those who afterward would live wickedly,

2Pe 2:7 and rescued righteous Lot, who was oppressed with the indecent behavior of the lawless<sup>c</sup> Footnote: <sup>c</sup>The Greek word here, and in 2Pe 3:17, is *athesmos* (not the usual one, *anomos*) but it also means “lawless.”

2Pe 2:8 (for day after day that righteous man, dwelling among them, tortured his righteous being by seeing and hearing their lawless works),

2Pe 2:9 **then יהוה knows how to rescue the reverent ones from trial and to keep the unrighteous unto the day of judgment, to be punished,**

2Pe 2:10 and most of all those walking after the flesh in filthy lust and despising authority – bold, headstrong, speaking evil of esteemed ones,

2Pe 2:11 whereas messengers who are greater in strength and power do not bring a slanderous accusation against them before the Master.

2Pe 2:12 But these, like natural unreasoning beasts, having been born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheme that which they do not know, shall be destroyed in their destruction,

2Pe 2:13 being about to receive the wages of unrighteousness, deeming indulgence in the day of pleasure, spots and blemishes, reveling in their own deceptions while they feast with you,

2Pe 2:14 having eyes filled with an adulteress, and unable to cease from sin, enticing unstable beings, having a heart trained in greed, children of a curse,

2Pe 2:15 **having left the right way they went astray, having followed the way of Bil'am the son of Be'or, who loved the wages of unrighteousness,**<sup>d</sup> Footnote: <sup>d</sup> 2Pe 2:11-15, compare with Eze 7:1-11:25.

2Pe 2:16 but he was rebuked for his transgression: a dumb donkey speaking with the voice of a man restrained the madness of the prophet.

2Pe 2:17 These are fountains without water, clouds driven by a storm, to whom the blackest darkness is kept forever.

2Pe 2:18 For speaking arrogant nonsense, they entice – through the lusts of the flesh, through indecencies – the ones who have indeed escaped from those living in delusion,

2Pe 2:19 promising them freedom, though themselves being slaves of corruption – for one is a slave to whatever overcomes him.

2Pe 2:20 **For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Master and Savior יהושע Messiah, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the first.**

2Pe 2:21 **For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the set-apart command<sup>e</sup> delivered unto them.** Footnote: <sup>e</sup>The singular “command” often means “commands” – see 1Ti 6:14, Deu 17:20, Psa 19:8.

2Pe 2:22 For them the proverb has proved true, **“A dog returns to his own vomit,”** Pro 26:11 and, “A washed sow *returns* to her rolling in the mud.”

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Mat 13:41 "The Son of Adam shall send out His messengers, and they shall gather out of His reign all the stumbling-blocks,<sup>f</sup> and those doing lawlessness,<sup>g</sup> Zep 1:3. Footnotes: <sup>f</sup>Or all the causes of sinning/offence. <sup>g</sup>The Darnel of Mat 13:25.

Mat 13:42 and shall throw them into the furnace of fire – there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

### Paul's Sufferings as an Apostle

2Co 11:16 Again I say, let no one think me to be a fool. And if otherwise, at least receive me as a fool, for me to also boast a little.

2Co 11:17 What I speak, I speak not according to the Master, but as in foolishness, in this boldness of boasting.

2Co 11:18 **Since many boast according to the flesh, I too shall boast.**

2Co 11:19 **For you, being wise, put up with**

- ❖ fools gladly!
- ❖ 2Co 11:20 For you put up with it if anyone enslaves you,
- ❖ if anyone devours you,
- ❖ if anyone takes from you,
- ❖ if anyone exalts himself,
- ❖ if one hits you in the face.

2Co 11:21 **To my shame, I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold – I say it in foolishness – I am bold also.**

✚ 2Co 11:22 Are they Hebrews? So am I.

✚ Are they of Yisra'ël? So am I.

✚ Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I.

✚ 2Co 11:23 Are they servants of Messiah? – I speak as beside myself –

- I am more, in labors much more,
- in stripes above measure,
- in prisons more frequently,
- in deaths many times.
- 2Co 11:24 Five times I received from the Yehudim **forty stripes less one.**<sup>e</sup>  
Footnote: <sup>e</sup>See Deu 25:3.
- 2Co 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods,
- once I was stoned,
- three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have been in the deep,
- 2Co 11:26 in many travels,
- in dangers of waters,
- in dangers of robbers,
- in dangers from my own race,
- in dangers from the nations,
- in dangers in the city,
- in dangers in the desert,
- in dangers in the sea,
- in dangers among false brothers;
- 2Co 11:27 in toil and hardship,

- in watchings often,
- in hunger and thirst,
- in fastings often,
- in cold and nakedness,
- **2Co 11:28** besides the *matters* from outside, what comes upon me daily:
  - the anxiety for all the assemblies.

**2Co 11:29** Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn *inwardly*?

**2Co 11:30** If I have to boast, I shall boast of matters that show up my weakness.

**2Co 11:31** **The Elohim and Father of our Master יהושע Messiah, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.**

**2Co 11:32** In Dammeseq the governor, under Aretas the sovereign, was guarding the city of the Damasqiyim, wishing to seize me,

**2Co 11:33** **but through a window I was let down in a basket by the wall, and escaped from his hands.**

Paul gives us insight to the persecution of the righteous; and shows his faithfulness to stand as one who had endured more than most. He is attempting to wake up and ‘shake up’ the Corinthians to their poor discernment of those that are false prophets within and without.

If they needed a ‘standard’ of measure, Paul would be a perfect example. There were extreme tensions in the ushering in of the New Covenant Confirming Gospel message of Yahusha HaMashiach as our High Priest of the Melchizedek Order. There was a great divine change taking place between the priesthoods and the law.

There was a change in reign, and it was mighty and powerful and carnal men fought it tooth and nail. They savagely wanted to tear it apart at any cost. Anytime there was an opportunity to place a stumbling block among believers; they seized the opportunity.

It is no different today. We should cling to Yahusha, the Word. We should be leery of ‘new’ document discoveries that are ‘unearthed.’ We should question if they were not ‘planted’ as a stumbling block. We should master the Bible knowing that YHWH is perfectly capable of preserving His Word; and all should guard against ‘adding to’ or ‘taking away’ from His Word. We should tread carefully and be ever alert to the schemes of the enemy.

*Shalom ~ Libby*

Devotional Reading Plan Link: <http://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf>