

TRIALS, TRIBULATION AND OVERCOMING HUMAN NATURE

Our Father we pray that you exemplify your Holy Spirit in us—kindness, faith, humility, self-control and above all, love for you our Father, for Yeshua the Messiah and for one another. Thank you for this Bible Study service today which is committed into your hands today. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your people. Guide us in the way we should go to bring glory and honor to your name. We praise and thank you in the name of Yeshua ha Meshiach, the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Today is the 24th day of Tevet which means that this coming week we will be entering the month of Shevat and approaching the end of the Hebrew year. After Shevat comes Adar and Adar II. Then we will be back to Nisan (or Abib) the first month of the Hebrew new year. Passover is right around the corner. Omak has snow since Monday and both mountains and valley are blanketed in white. A couple of inches is not much snow for this time of year, but a necessary blessing to have at a least a few inches to protect the tree roots in the orchards from freezing and being destroyed. Icy roads can be a real hazard in driving. Several winters ago, our van hit a patch of ice on the road home and slid within inches of a sharp drop-off. Almost immediately Good Samaritans came along and had the van safely back on the road within thirty minutes. After getting out of the van, Cappy slipped on the ice and sustained four broken ribs.

This past week was full of trial and tribulation for yours truly and Cappy, because what affects one partner affects the other. For the past few months, I have had some trouble with a rapid heartbeat, shortness of breath and fatigue, despite prescriptive medication to regulate the heart. So Monday we traveled to Wenatchee Central Hospital (96 miles south of Omak) for an electro cardio-conversion. It worked for about five to six hours and then again reverted to an irregular beat after I returned home. Thursday, my eye surgery for a left cataract went well. Friday morning when getting ready for the 9 AM post-op check, I was very short of breath and had a very unsteady gait. Cappy called the clinic saying we were coming for the 9 AM and the need to see my primary MD was urgent. Despite being double booked, my primary MD did see me and after thorough assessment and several tests, sent me to Omak Mid Valley Hospital ER for further tests. Because of complications and the need of more expertise I was sent to Wenatchee Valley Central Hospital about 9PM Friday evening. After some deliberation, it was decided that Cappy would be safer to drive down the next day, as snow had been falling most of the afternoon. One of the younger ambulance attendants asked me after I was settled in the ambulance and on our way, if it was my wife who had been with me. After I answered yes, he said, “Well, she’s a keeper!”

With more complete tests and a rigorous program in the hospital consisting of limited fluids, no salt, diabetic diet (small portions, low carbohydrate) limited sugar, respiratory therapist, and exercise with the physical therapist, oxygen given to bring up my oxygen level to par day and night, and with a change of heart medications, by the time we left on December 24, I felt much better and had lost six pounds of the excess body fluid (14 pounds). Both Cappy and I are thanking God for his mercy and intervention and are happy to be living and home. We are grateful for the brethren’s prayers for us. Our faith remains firm in God and the lessons that he wants us all to learn. Since the diagnosis of congestive heart failure and experiencing it, I have learned well, that I am to read labels and *avoid* salt—sea salt *is still salt*. I must read labels and avoid salted foods like nuts, canned and processed foods which are full of salt and sugars.

Going through tests and trials are allowed by God. We know that nothing can happen without God allowing it. He allows tests for our good that we will learn.

A recent part of my daily Bible study has been reading **Romans** chapters **7 and 8**. There is so much that is overlooked. It is the word of the living God—the way to life and health everlasting. Romans 7 talks about the commandments of God, and discusses their purpose and what to stop doing. **Romans 7:7**—“What shall we say then? **Is the law of God sin?** Certainly not! Indeed, I would not have known what sin was except through the law. I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “Do not covet.” “But sin took advantage of this law (seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment produced in me every kind of covetous (evil) desire. For **apart from law, sin is dead**.” If there were no law, sin would not have that power. Once Paul learned it was wrong he found that there was a contrary thing about human nature. *Once a thing is forbidden*, people want to have it—try it. Take for example, a child who is surrounded by toys, but is told a specific one he may not have and is not to touch it. Then leave the room where you cannot be seen, but can see the child and see which toy the child goes to. Human nature will want the one that is more desirable that is forbidden. Like Eve, in the Garden of Eden, when Satan said to her why not eat the fruit from the tree of Good and Evil? It is good for you and it will make you wise like God. God said that Eve could eat the fruit of all the trees, except this one tree of good and evil that God said you shall not eat of the tree of Good and Evil. So which one did Eve gravitate to and take the fruit and eat? She ate of the forbidden tree. Human nature took over. We all have that human nature.

1 John 3:4—“Sin is the transgression of God’s law.” Covetous is the desire to have something that is not yours—greed. It is one of the main reasons for the problems in the world. People steal because they want something that does not belong to them. It can be anything. People break into stores and homes because they covet. God’s law says, “Thou shall not covet.” Some things a person covets are bad for them and evil. We are all inclined to do things that we shouldn’t do, and want things that we should not want because of selfishness and greed – due to that underlying human nature that we are born with and it doesn’t know the meaning of self-control. Human nature wants to please and satisfy itself. It is like eating a potato chip or salted nuts and stopping after eating the first one. Eat one and the desire to eat more continues, and it is easy to finish half a bag before realizing it. I learned my lesson. I hope and pray that I have learned it well enough so that I won’t mess up again!

Romans 7:9—Paul continues, (NIV) “Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came to my attention, sin sprang to life and I died.” (NLT)—“I felt fine when I did not understand what the law demanded. But when I learned the truth, I realized I had broken the law and was a sinner, doomed to die.” **10**—“I found that the very commandment (the good law) that was intended to bring life actually brought the death penalty. Sin took advantage of the law and deceived me; and through the commandment put me to death.” “It took the good law and used it to make me guilty of death. So then the law is holy, and *the commandment is holy, righteous and good*.” **13** (NIV)—“Did that which is good, then, become death to me (the law)? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.” (NLT) “But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my doom? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God’s good commandment for its own evil purposes.” The law says that we should not do those things and exposes sin (wickedness and evil) that we might know it, acknowledge and identify it.

Romans 7:14—“**For we know the law of God is spiritual**’ (eternal) but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is

sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now, if I do what I do not want to do, it is not longer I who do it but it is sin living in me that does it.” That is where we all are. The world does not know that. The psychiatrists don’t know it. Humanists don’t admit it. The world has gone astray and denies the existence of God, and so they deny the existence of sin. If there is no God, there is no law and there is no sin and you can do as you please. The world has gone astray and denies the very existence of God. So they deny the existence of sin and are bringing on themselves destruction and catastrophe.

There is nothing wrong with the law of God. These preachers who preach against it are liars. They are taken away by their own sins and their own lusts. That is why they lie about the laws of God. God’s law is holy, and righteous, and just and good; and it is for our welfare and eternal benefit. That which is spiritual is eternal, but we are still physical human beings, carnal/fleshly sold unto sin because of our body’s fleshly desires. So many things become lack of self-control and sinful desires and evil lusts that prey upon us. Things like addiction to—smoking, alcohol, drugs, and marijuana, certain foods in excess. One year at the Feast of Tabernacles in Omak people brought large amounts of pastries, pies, desserts and sweets and some people would unwisely take excessive servings of desserts detrimental to their health, which resulted in poor control of their health (i.e., diabetes, colds, flu, and diarrhea). Because it was difficult for people to regulate their appetite and own self-control, prearranged balanced healthy potluck menu plans with participation of everyone for the festival noon-time meals has been instituted and no more excess desserts has worked well. The result is very few illnesses and health problems occur during the eight days of the festival. I like cookies and apple pie, so Cappy sees that we have a large variety of fresh fruits and wheat free desserts in moderation. The almond horns with marzipan are delicious.

This past Feast of Tabernacles a member from New York came and helped us set up the Bible study live U-Stream video streaming on the Internet each Sabbath and annual festival days around the world. Anyone in the world with a computer can tune in to this Bible study from anywhere and watch, listen and learn. Listeners are in Africa, Australia, South America, The Netherlands, France, England, Canada, US, Germany, and Denmark to mention a few. This is a great step forward for the end-time work of God. Christ said in **Matthew 24:14**—“Go into all nations; preach the gospel to every creature around the world.” That is being done today. TPM sends the Prophecy Flash magazine around the world, to prisons, and now weekly Internet live U- Streaming, and a website where articles can be downloaded. I just put the new *Prophecy Flash* magazine up on the TPM website yesterday. God has opened the door and we have just a little strength as Revelation 3 says about the Philadelphia Church of God. People are reading, learning, changing and writing letters telling us how thankful they are for the information and literature.

We still have our carnal nature to deal with on a daily basis. **Romans 7:21-25**—“So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law: but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? **25**—Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.”

We need spiritual help from God. **Romans 8:1-3**—“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, because **through Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death**. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by *sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.*” **4** —“**So he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.**” What is he talking about now? He

is talking about the fact that as Christians, God has given us the earnest of his Holy Spirit that activates and energizes our mind leading us in the right way, **if we chose to follow** the Spirit. The law tells us what to do, but it does not give us the power to resist or to do. The law is there as the law. What we need is spiritual help to do the law—keep the commandments. That is so true! People are ignorant of God's Laws because they don't study, and they are ignorant of Spirit, because they don't use it. We need to have the Spirit of Christ in us to be *over-comers*. Christ lived a perfect sinless life and condemned sin and lawlessness setting us an example. He is able and willing to come and live within us and help us through his Spirit to follow his example and be over-comers.

This is it plain and simple: **God's Spirit enables us to fulfill the righteousness of God's Law.**

Romans 8:5—"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the **mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace**; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God." So those who are in the physical flesh alone cannot please God. They are missing the power supplied by the Holy Spirit of God united with their minds. **9**—"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ." He may say he is a Christian and claim to be a Christian. But if he is not living as Christ lived and following Christ (does not show evidence of the fruit of the Spirit of Christ in him) he does not belong to Christ." He is not a true Christian.

Romans 8:10-11—"But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you." The Spirit of God is the key to eternal life. It is not just that Christ died for us and paid the penalty for our sins which he did, but he also sends the Holy Spirit to enable us once we repent and accept him as our Master and Savior, the Redeemer. He sends the Holy Spirit to beget us as a new mind and a new creature—a new creation that the Spirit of God is complementing our human body and mind making us complete. That which was uncompleted is now complete and has to be trained and developed, allowed to grow, to overcome and allowed to endure and to develop character and patience.

Romans 8:12—"Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." **15**—"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of son-ship. The Spirit himself testifies with us that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may be glorified together." God wants us to be joint-heirs to inherit the universe with Christ. The church is the bride of Christ. This is conditional, that we must first suffer with him that means we have to be purified, purged and cleansed. We have to learn to do what God says to do, and then have faith in him and trust him from then on. **18**—"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subject to frustrations not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God." We do not know the meaning of beauty and pleasure until that day.

Romans 8:22—"We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly

as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. “But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.” We are going to endure whatever we have to go through and surrender to God. Whatever his purpose is, he will work it out for his purpose and for our good.

Romans 8:26—“Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but **the Spirit itself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express**. And he who searches the heart knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints **in accordance with God’s will**.” This is how God learns our needs. The Holy Spirit is the mind of God and the power of God. The Holy Spirit searches us out like an examining tool that God uses to focus on us and our imperfections and points out where we need to be perfected. Like the doctors put me through all those tests to examine what was going on in my heart, my leg and my body. At first they thought that I had another blood clot in my left leg and then ruled it out. By allowing us to go through tests and trials, God examines our heart to find out where our heart and mind are spiritually. He will discern whether we genuinely love and serve him, fear and honor his name or whether we do not.

Hebrews 5:8—Christ who in the days of his flesh, **offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him who was able to save him from death**, *was heard because of his reverent submission*. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience from what he suffered. We have a high priest who understands our infirmities and weaknesses, because he was tempted in all points just as we are, yet he did not sin. Having been perfected, Christ became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. No one takes upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. Christ did not exalt himself to become High Priest. He was called and chosen (designated) by God who said to Christ: ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you (become your Father)’.” **6**—God says in another place, ‘You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek’.”

Job 1:6-12—In Job’s case there was no other one on earth like him. The man was “blameless and upright and one who feared God and shunned evil.” There was a day when the sons of God (angels) came to present themselves before God. Satan came from this earth, so God asked, “Have you considered my servant Job?” Satan answered the Lord, “Does Job fear God for nothing? Have you not made a hedge all around him, all his household and all that he has on every side—always protected him, his home and his property from harm? You have blessed the work of his hands and made him prosperous in everything that he does; look how rich he is! But take away everything that he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!” “All right, you may test him,” the Lord said to Satan. “Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” So Satan left the Lord’s presence. Job had seven sons and three daughters. His possessions were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East. Job lost all – one right after the other. But Job said “Naked, I came out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave and the Lord has taken away: Blessed be the name of the Lord.” In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God.

On another day the angels came to present themselves. Again God asked Satan, have you considered my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason. Satan replied, “Skin for skin!” He blesses you only because you bless him. “A man will give up everything he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face!” The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.” Satan left the Lord’s presence and struck Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. As he sat in ashes scraping himself with a broken piece of pottery his wife said, “Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!” Job replied, “You are talking like a foolish (Godless) woman. Should we accept only good things from the

hand of God and not trouble?” The three friends who came to comfort him hardly recognized him. They sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one spoke a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

Job 42:1-16—Job accepted the punishment of the trial and testing procedure of great loss and grievous sores and pain which were not easy. He had to go through these great sufferings and to learn to just submit and surrender to God more than ever. In the end, God blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the first. His blessings were twice as much as he had before. His fortunes were restored. He had seven sons and three daughters, the most beautiful in the land. The main point is that Job learned to really know God intimately. “My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you. Wherefore, I abhor myself (my self-righteousness) in questioning your wisdom with such ignorance and repent in dust and ashes. I was talking about things I did not understand, things far too wonderful for me.”

Job’s attitude is the one God wants us to learn. We are just physical fleshly human beings, no better than Job or David who were men of God and had his Spirit. They sinned and fell short, but they repented and they came to know God even better. **Romans 8:28**—Paul says, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image (likeness) of his Son, that He might be the first born among many brothers. Those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.” I say that this applies to those things that I went through last week. They work together for good, not just for me, but for others as well because I love God. I pray to love him even more and that God will help me to love Him with all my heart, mind and strength of Spirit. We can have faith and know that all things work together for good. So there is no reason to complain, lose faith or fear because God loves us and is in control. We love him and he has called us to the knowledge of his truth and conversion and given us His Spirit.

“If we are going to be conformed to the very likeness and image of Christ, we have to go through things like he did. He told us to take up our cross and follow him. We have to develop that character that Christ developed. Character has to be formed and grown into, built through enduring and learning to become performance worthy not just in the physical likeness. See **Genesis 1:26**—but in the spiritual likeness as well. Christ is the first born of many brethren. We are then the first fruits that God is working with today, and the rest of humanity will be the balance of the harvest—the great end-time harvest.

Romans 8:31-39— “Those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in responses to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies, ‘Who is he that condemns?’ Christ Jesus who died—more that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God, and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36**—as it is written, ‘For your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” God would not have allowed his Son to go through all that suffering for us unless he loved us. Now Christ lives in us through his Holy Spirit.

Philippians 1:21—“we do not need to worry about these things that happen.” We can endure in faith, believing as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the saints of old. After death comes the resurrection. God is

on his throne and in control. As long as we are on this earth, we have a work to do. “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” To die, our troubles and tests are finished and over with and done. As Paul says, “henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge will give me when that time comes.”

In **Romans 9** Paul says “I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish I were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, the Israelites. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!” Israel was rejecting the law of God and becoming self-righteous. They weren’t putting their faith and hope in Christ, but denying Christ, just as America is doing today and turning their back on God’s word.

We are living in a homosexual oriented ruled society where the rulers are more like Sodom and Gomorah year to year and going the way of Nazi Germany. The Nazis were racists and bigots who worshiped a pagan, Arian Nordic god. Hitler, Goebbels, and Goring were homosexual. The Nazi Party with its leaders was full of homosexuals that were dictating policies that turned the Germans against the Jews and the Christians. Because the homosexual community hates the law of God which **teaches morality**, the Nazis wanted to kill all the Jews. The Christian Church which was the offshoot of Judaism and upheld God’s laws of physical morality were included in the purging. Nazi Germany governed under Hitler with the assistance of the “fems and the butches.” The latter were militant minded and brutal and brought the world down into chaos resulting in WW II and destruction. This is why God condemns homosexuality calling the practice an abomination.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17—“Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man defile (destroy) the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy which temple you are.”

- Leviticus 18:22-23—“You shall not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.”
Leviticus 20:13-15—“If a man lies with mankind, as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.”
- Deuteronomy 23:17—“There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.”
- 1 Corinthians 6:9—“Know you not that the unrighteous *shall not inherit the kingdom of God*? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind.”

It became national news this past week when Phil Robertson, patriarch of the A & E hit reality show Duck Dynasty and one of television's most popular shows, was suspended for paraphrasing the Bible on homosexuality in an interview printed in the latest magazine of *Gentleman's Quarterly*. Some of A&E staffers were offended by the interview as well as loud complaints coming from advocacy groups as Human Rights Campaign, the LGBT community and the organization GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) pushed to have Robertson fired for “anti-gay” speech. But a large segment of viewers, non-viewers, plus conservative and religious groups immediately protested and spoke up voicing their opinion and put pressure on A&E in Phil’s defense plus adding the threat of a boycott of A&E. For supporters of Robertson, including a number of conservative politicians, the debate was about whether a deeply religious man had the right to speak freely about the tenets of his faith. Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal and Sara Palin both said yes and publically defended Robertson in supporting the tolerance of freedom of speech and religious liberty. Duck Dynasty has 13.6 million viewers a week and

the program is extremely profitable. A &E did not say they were wrong for sending the message, but after talks between the two sides Phil was reinstated on the show nine days later. Homosexuals have invaded Hollywood, the churches and leadership positions of America, voicing their complaints and demands for tolerance, but having zero tolerance for others.

Romans 9:15—God said to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” **16**—“It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.” God has shown mercy to you and me by opening our eyes and mind to his truth. He revealed his truth to us and called us to become first fruits in his kingdom. So he has made us vessels of mercy, instead of wrath. The world is being filled up with vessels of wrath that are going to be destroyed. They mock and jeer and slander the law of God and the laws of his Creation. Because they reject the Law of God, he is going to reject them.

1Kings 9:6—God had said, “But if you or your sons turn from following me and do not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for my name I will cast out of my sight.”

1 Kings 11:9—God became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord who had appeared to him twice. Even after being the wisest king and man that ever lived, Solomon turned away from God. King Solomon, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh’s daughter—Moabites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites,

“You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods. Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.” As Solomon grew old his wives turned his heart after other gods and his heart was not totally devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord’s command. So the Lord sent a prophet to Solomon. “Since you have not kept my covenant and statutes, which I commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give to one of your subordinates, Jeroboam.”

1 Kings 11:40—from that day forward, Solomon sought to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam fled to Egypt and was there until the death of Solomon. When Solomon died, Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king. **1 Kings 12:1**—Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel challenged Rehoboam to lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke Solomon put on the people and then they would serve him. **3** Rehoboam said go away and come back in three days. **12** So Jeroboam and all the people returned the third day. The king listened to the counsel of the younger generation that he had grown up with instead of the elders and told Jeroboam and the people I will make things even harder. **16** When all Israel realized that the king had rejected their request, they shouted we have no share in David’s dynasty. Look after your own house, O David. So the Israelites went home. This event was from the Lord to fulfill the Lord’s message to Jeroboam. The Israelites made Jeroboam king over all Israel. Ten tribes went under Jeroboam and only the tribe of Judah remained with the house of David. **19** “Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.”

1 Kings 12:25—Jeroboam fortified Shechem in the hill of Ephraim and lived there. He thought to himself, “If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem they will again give their allegiance to King Rehoboam and kill me.” After seeking advice, he made two golden calves setting one up in Bethel and the other in Dan and told the people, “it is too much for you to go to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.” This thing became a sin for

the people went as far as Dan to worship the one there. Jeroboam built shrines on high places and *appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites*. He instituted his own festival of Tabernacles on the 15th day of the eighth month (a month of his own choosing), like the festival in Judah. He installed these unqualified priests in the high places, leading the people astray.

1 Kings 13:1-6—A prophet of God came from Judah to Bethel and warned Jeroboam that a son named Josiah will be born to the house of David. He arrived just as Jeroboam was approaching the altar to offer a sacrifice. “Altar! Altar! This is what the Lord says: ‘On you will Josiah sacrifice the priests from the pagan shrines who come here to burn incense and human bones will be burned on you’.” Later that day the man of God gave a sign to prove his message and he said, “the Lord has promised to give this sign: This altar will split apart and its ashes will be poured out on the ground.” Jeroboam angrily pointed at the man and shouted “seize that man”. Instantly, his hand became paralyzed in that position and he couldn’t pull it back. At the same time a wide crack appeared in the altar, and the ashes poured out, just as predicted by the man of God. The king cried out to the man of God “please ask the Lord your God to restore my hand again!” So the man of God prayed to the Lord and the king’s hand became normal again.

1 Kings 13:7—The king said to the man of God, “Come home with me and have something to eat, and I will give you a reward.” The man replied, “Even if you were to give me half your possessions, I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water here, For I was commanded by the word of the Lord: ‘You must not eat bread or drink water or return by the way you came.’” So he took another road and did not return by the way he had come to Bethel. Now there was a certain old prophet living in Bethel whose sons came and told him all that the man of God had done there that day. They also told their father what he had said to the king. Their father asked them, ‘Which way did he go?’ And his sons showed him which road the man of God from Judah had taken. So he said to his sons, ‘Saddle the donkey for me.’ And when they had saddled the donkey for him, he mounted it and rode after the man of God. He found him sitting under an oak tree and asked, ‘Are you the man of God who came from Judah?’ ‘I am,’ he replied. So the prophet said to him, ‘Come home with me and eat.’ The man of God said, “I cannot turn back and go with you, nor can I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. I have been told by the word of the Lord: You must not eat bread or drink water there or return by the way you came.”

18 “The old prophet answered, ‘I too am a prophet, as you are. And an angel said to me by the word of the Lord: ‘Bring him back with you to your house so that he may eat bread and drink water’ (but he was lying to him.) So the man of God returned with him and ate and drank in his house.” But this foolish man of God who delivered the message to Jeroboam for some reason did not understand the concept that this other prophet could be lying. For some reason he had respect for him and listened to him over and above the direct word of God he had received. **20** As they sat at the table, the word of the Lord came to the old prophet who had brought him back. He cried out to the man of God, who had come from Judah, this is what the Lord says: “*You have defied the word of the Lord and have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you. You came back and ate bread and drank water in the place where he told you not to eat or drink. Therefore your body will not be buried in the tomb of your fathers.*” When the man of God had finished eating and drinking, the prophet who had brought him back saddled his donkey for him. **24** As he went on his way a lion met him on the road and killed him, and his body was thrown down beside it. Some people who passed by saw the body thrown down there, with the lion standing beside the body, and they went and reported it in the city where the old prophet lived.”

1 Kings 13:26 “When the prophet who had brought him back from his journey heard of it, he said, ‘It is the man of God who defied the word of the Lord. The Lord has given him over to the lion which has mauled him and killed him, as the word of the Lord had warned him.’ The prophet said to his sons, ‘Saddle the donkey for me,’ and they did so. Then he went out and found the body thrown down on the

road, with the donkey and the lion standing beside it. The lion had neither eaten the body nor mauled the donkey. So the prophet picked up the body of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back to his own city to mourn for him and bury him. **30** Then he laid the body in his own tomb, and they mourned over him and said, ‘O my brother.’ After burying him, he said to his sons, ‘When I die, bury me in the grave where the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones. For the message he declared by the word of the Lord against the altar in Bethel and against all the shrines on the high place in the towns of Samaria will certainly come true.’ Even after this, Jeroboam did not change his evil ways, but once more appointed priests for the high places from all sorts of people. Anyone who wanted to become a priest he consecrated for the high places. **34** This was the sin of the house of Jeroboam that led to its downfall and to its destruction from the face of the earth.”

1 Kings 14:1-9—God had a bone to pick with the house of Jeroboam. “At that time Abiajh, son of Jeroboam became ill. Jeroboam told his wife, ‘Go disguise yourself, so you won’t be recognized as the wife of Jeroboam. Then go to Shiloh. Ahijah the prophet is there—the one who told me I would be king over this people. Take ten loaves of bread with you, some cakes and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what will happen to the boy.’ So Jeroboam’s wife did what he said and went to Ahijah’s house in Shiloh. Now Ahijah could not see; his sight was gone because of his age. But the Lord had told Ahijah, ‘Jeroboam’s wife is coming to ask you about her son, for he is ill and you are to give her such and such an answer. When she arrives, she will pretend to be someone else’. **6** So when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps at the door, he said, ‘Come in, wife of Jeroboam, Why this pretense? I have been sent to you with bad news. Go; tell Jeroboam that this is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: “I raised you up from the people and made you leader over my people Israel. I tore the kingdom away from the house of David, who kept my commands and followed me with all his heart, doing only what was right in my eyes. You have done more evil than all who lived before you. **9** You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal: you have provoked me to anger and thrust me behind your back”.’

1 Kings 14:10-17 —“ ‘Because of this, I am going to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam. I will cut off from Jeroboam every last male in Israel—slave or free. I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns dung, until it is all gone. Dogs will eat those belonging to Jeroboam who die in the city, and the birds of the air will feed on those who die in the country.’ The Lord has spoken. **12** As for you, go back home. When you set foot in your city, the boy will die. All Israel will mourn for him and bury him. He is the only one belonging to Jeroboam who will be buried, because *he is the only one in the house of Jeroboam in whom the Lord, the God of Israel, has found anything good.* **14** The Lord will raise up for himself a king over Israel who will cut off the family of Jeroboam. This is the day! **15** The Lord will strike Israel, so that it will be like a reed swaying in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land that he gave to their forefathers and scatter them beyond the River, because they provoked the Lord to anger by making Asherah poles, and he will give Israel up because of the sins Jeroboam has committed and has caused Israel to commit. **17** Then Jeroboam’s wife got up and left and went to Tirzah. As soon as she stepped over the threshold of the house, the boy died. They buried him, and all Israel mourned for him, as the Lord had said through his servant the prophet Ahijah.” All this came to pass because of the abominations Jeroboam caused Israel to commit.

1 Kings 14:22-24—“Rehoboam reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem; the city which the Lord did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. Judah did evil in the eyes of the Lord. By the sins they committed they stirred up his jealous anger more than all their fathers had done. **23** They also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree. **24** here were also *sodomites* (perverted persons /homosexual male shrine prostitutes) in the land: the people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the children of Israel.” The Hebrew word used for sodomites means one who practices sodomy and prostitution and

religious rituals. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the Lord cast out before the children of Israel. Because of this king Shishak of Egypt came against Judah in the fifth year of king Rehoboam and carried off the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house; **26** He took everything including all the gold shields Solomon had made.”

Our land is full of perverted persons just like Nazi Germany when homosexuals ruled the land and led that nation into a conquest to destroy the people of the earth. Now, our government is becoming the same from the top to the bottom. The worst one of them all is the president who is leading our country into spiritual prostitution with worship of Allah and paganized Christianity with overtures being made to Pope Francis. Cover of the National Enquirer this week pictures a disapproving look from Michelle Obama as President Obama cozies up to the overly friendly leggy blonde Prime Minister of Denmark Helle Thorning-Schmidt taking a *selfie* picture with President Obama and UK Prime Minister David Cameron at Mandela's memorial services in South Africa.

Proverbs 3—“Let not mercy and truth forsake you. Bind them around your neck and write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and esteem in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord God with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will direct your path. Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and depart from evil.” Stand up for the word of God without compromise. Amen!