

## DO NOT DESPISE PROPHECY!

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Our Father we give thanks to you. Yours is the honor, power and glory. How great are your works. It is you that have made us, and not we ourselves. We are your people and the sheep of your pasture. You are good, your mercy is everlasting and your truth endures to all generations. All your commandments are faithful. Guide us into your truth and pathway of light and life everlasting. We desire your true pathway of life. Give us understanding this day that we may learn and keep your commandments. Our hope and trust is in your word. We meditate on your precepts and pray to remain faithful to you. Help us to be full of zeal and diligent in keeping your teachings with unwavering faith. Give us a willing heart that we might love and serve you with all our heart, all our mind, all our soul and all of our strength. Thank you for warning your people to spiritually prepare today for the days ahead of us. Lord, we need your strength to love one another in patience, and to cease from criticizing, accusing, condemning, blaming and finding fault with one another. It is far too common in this end-time church age. Infuse us with more of your Holy Spirit. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Messiah. Amen.

The January—February issue of *Prophecy Flash* is in the mail. I've been working on a new article on Passover which will be in the March–April issue of the magazine which is just about ready and will go out shortly. The last issue was delayed as the previous one, but we will get this following one out in March prior to Passover.

This month of Adar is a month marked by joy. The thirteenth of Adar is observed as a fast day by the Jews in commemoration of the fast observed by Mordechai, Esther and all Israel. The fast is referred to as the Fast of Esther. Her uncle Mordechai, discovered a conspiracy against the Jews, and asked Queen Esther to risk her life for her people and go before the king. She courageously agreed to plea for her people and herself, saying “If I perish, I perish.” Esther and her maidens neither ate nor drank for three days. Mordecai did as Esther commanded, and in her behalf, all the Jews in Shushan neither ate nor drank three days (night or day). Esther prayed for God's mercy on his people and to grant her favor in the eyes of the king when she came before him *unrequested*, which was against the law and punishable by death. When King Xerxes, sitting on his throne, saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight and he held out the golden scepter that was in his hand to her that she might touch it and live. Haman, enemy of the Jews, conspired to annihilate all of the Jews with his plans, but the opposite occurred and the Jews held dominion over their enemies. Their grief and mourning, was transformed into a month of rejoicing and celebration. The month of Adar became a symbol of joy for them. The book of **Esther 1-9** tells the whole story.

Passover this year falls on April 4, which is only 34 days away. We are beginning to think about being ready for the Feast of Passover and getting rid of the leavened articles and leavening products in our home such as yeast used in bread making before sunset when Passover begins. Even though it is still a little early, it does take time to be sure our home is entirely free of leaven

(*chametz*) by nightfall on the day prior to Passover. The Seder meal will be Saturday evening, after sunset. Part of getting a job done, taking a trip, or attending a celebration is the anticipation, planning and getting ready for it. As Passover approaches, we need to ask ourselves are we really ready for Passover. Have we really been working on examining ourselves, overcoming and putting sin out of our lives? Passover is all about examining our self and getting rid of sin—getting rid of the spiritual leaven – out of our lives. **2 Corinthians 5:6-7**—“Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?” If you have just a little leaven present and add it to flour and add a little moisture it will automatically begin to ferment and cause the dough to rise and change its nature. Paul says, a little leaven leavens the whole lump. Leaven is a type a sin. Tolerance of a little sin, will soon become overwhelming and affect your entire mind and attitude.

This may sound like a negative message, but it is not. This is a positive message to positively get rid of sin. Sin is what is negative. If your mind is affected by sin, then your mind is negative. If you get rid of the sin and connect your mind on the things of God above, His word and Holy Spirit, your mind will be anchored in righteousness. **1 John 3:4-8** (NKJ). —“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.” Sin is breaking God’s commandments – lawlessness – which is an abomination to God. Christ “was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin.” Our human nature wants to do things our way like the song Frank Sinatra sang, *I’ll Do it My Way*. “Let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

We need to do things God’s way. **Isaiah 55:8-9**—“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.” For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are God’s ways higher than our ways and His thoughts than our thoughts. His means that we need to humble ourselves before God, read and search his word daily and ask him for correction. Because without it, we will go astray by tolerating a little sin here and there and it leads to disobedience to God. Take for example, the Feast of Tabernacles which God describes as a holy commandment. **Numbers 29:12 and Leviticus 23:21**—“You shall keep a feast to the Lord seven days on the fifteenth day of the seventh month and have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it. *It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations*”— a perpetual commandment.

What does God say in **Leviticus 23**? He says, build a temporary dwelling (*sukah*) and dwell in it for seven days, and take for yourselves on the first day the fruit (Citron) of beautiful trees— palm, leafy trees, willows, myrtle and wave them before the Lord. The Jews continue to obey God’s command. Some people relegate this command as Jewish and will have nothing to do with anything that “smacks of Jews” even if it is Biblical and the command of God. He also tells us how to keep it (verses 39-43). On the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook (waving the *lulav*); and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. You shall dwell in booths for seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths.” God says all Israelites. This is all who belong to God’s church. A *sukah* is a temporary dwelling with three sides and an open roof top covered with palm

and tree branches. The sukah is set up in your yard, on the balcony or roof – wherever you are staying for the feast. Therein, you purposely spend time visiting and fellowshiping with brethren and concentrating on fellowshiping with God—one of the major purposes of the feast. For 3,500 years brethren have been following this command since the days of Moses. Noah built the ark as God commanded, a temporary dwelling, and saved the lives of Noah, his family and the animals during the flood. Some people consider the Feast of Tabernacles as a vacation time to take trips, cruises and tours and skip God’s command to construct a sukah and dwell in booths for seven days. Are we going to follow God and please Him, or follow the wishes of our own heart and do what pleases us?

The apostle Paul lays it on the line in **1 Corinthians 5:6**—“Your glorying (own self confidence) is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven (sin) leavens the whole lump?” A little carelessness in allowing leaven (sin) in your life can kindle a fire in you that can cause you to lose your salvation, just as a little careless with a match can kindle a great blazing forest fire and destruction. Just as an untamable tongue, a little member of the body can cause strife and holds trouble and iniquity. **Verse 7**—“Therefore purge out the old leaven (sin), that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us **keep the feast**, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of **sincerity and truth**.” Clean out the old leaven in your mind and heart. Be genuinely free from hypocrisy or deceit according to the word of God’s truth. **John 17:17**—“your word is truth.” **John 10:35**—“**the scripture cannot be broken.**” **Psalms 33:4** —“The word of the Lord is right, and all his work is done in truth.” **Psalms 119:160**—“The entirety of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous judgments endures forever.”

A person can be sincere and be wrong and sadly mistaken. We are to serve God according to his words and his commands, not our own ideas. **Romans 3:2**—“the oracles of God were committed to the Jews.” As God commands, at the Feast of Tabernacles the Jews who know and keep God’s law dwell in temporary booths . The *New Testament* records that Jesus kept the Feast of Tabernacles. **John 7:2, 38, 37-39**—“the Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.” Christ’s brothers left for Judea to attend. After they went, Christ went also and about the middle of the feast he taught boldly in the temple. On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

In my new book, *The Mystery of the Holy Days*, I think that you will be astounded at how much there is to review and more to learn about the appointed times of God and his plan. It is easy to become complacent thinking you have learned it all and led away by those who appear in sheep’s clothing, yet are ravening wolves—ministers who are not obeying God. Why in this world, would you follow those who have abandoned God’s truth and endorse and praise them? God says to his people in **Isaiah 8:16, 20**—“Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.” “If people speak not to the law and to the testimony (according to God’s word) it is because there is no light in them.” Beware! One group specifically takes issue of those who bring to front the prophecies of the end of days who are warning people of current events happening in this world and to spiritually get ready for Christ’s coming. Their criticism is about “ministers

making big bucks” by scaring people to death, and make the statement that the majority of the *New Testament* is about Christian living, not prophecy and that the last book in the New Testament, Revelation is about prophecy. The final book in the Bible is all about prophecy for the end-times and a warning to nations of this earth. It is not a matter of how many words, but that it is the word of God. Christ said in **Matthew 4:4** and **Luke 4:4**—“**it is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.**” Those persons are at great risk who impugn prophecy and are impugning salvation and their own place in the kingdom of God.

**Revelation 19:10**—“And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For **the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**’ ” This informs us that prophecy is important and that it is the very testimony of Christ. What he lived and said is related to the coming of the kingdom of God and he taught keeping the commandments. The Law of God is related to prophecy. We won’t be in the kingdom of God if we do not keep His commandments. It is all related, like links of a chain. If you break one link, the chain is broken.

**Revelation 22:6-8**—“These words are faithful and true.” And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book. Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

I think that that the instruction in **Ezekiel 3:4-11** is a direct instruction for us today. God told Ezekiel (a type of the end-time church ministers today) “go to the house of Israel and speak these words to them. I am not sending you to a people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language whose words you cannot understand. Surely, they would have listened if I had sent you to them. The house of Israel will not listen to you, because they are not willing to listen to me. All the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted. I have made your face and forehead strong like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid of them or terrified by their looks, even though they are a rebellious people.” “Son of man, listen carefully and take to heart all the words I speak to you. Go now to your people in exile and speak to them. Say to them, ‘This is what the sovereign Lord says,’ whether they listen or fail to listen.”

**Ezekiel 3:12-17**—“Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me a loud rumbling sound as the glory of the LORD rose from the place where it was standing. It was the sound of the wings of the living creatures brushing against each other and the sound of the wheels beside them, a loud rumbling sound. The Spirit then lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness and in the anger of my spirit, with the strong hand of the LORD on me. I came to the exiles who lived at Tel Aviv near the Kebar River. And there, where they were living, I sat among them for seven days—deeply distressed.” At the end of seven days, the Lord told Ezekiel, “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. **Verses 18-21**—“When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that

same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.”

“Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul.”

Some of the people of God are filled with pride and arrogance and think that they can get by without preaching the prophecies of God. There are people who do not want to hear the word of God and want to hear just things that make them feel good and encouraging. Forget speaking to us about prophecy, there is too much gloominess, doom and negativity. Peter warned about the skeptics and scoffers that would come in the last days, who claim to be brethren. Brethren, I’m not pulling any punches here, but I am laying things directly on the line. I do not apologize for prophecy and teaching what I have said to warn the people.

**Isaiah 58:8-11**— “Go now, write it on a tablet for them, inscribe it on a scroll that for the days to come it may be an everlasting witness. These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the LORD’s instruction. They say to the seer (prophet/minister) ‘See no more visions!’ And to the prophets, ‘Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions. Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!’ ”

God is real. He created the universe. His eyes behold and his eyelids try all the children of men on this earth. He is watching every one of us, each and every day. For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.” For some years, I have been talking about prophecy, the end times and the Muslim menace as God has commanded me to do. It is my job.

**Isaiah 58:1-2**—“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.” You can read the rest of the chapter and fill in the story yourself.

Those ministers who are not doing this are false shepherds and falling down on the job. God’s warns about those who are ravening wolves in sheep’s clothing. If a person insists on going their own way, then that is what they are going to do. I cannot make a person change. Sometime a person gets upset and gives no explanation as to why they are upset, but walk away. One ex-WCCG elder told me, “I will not wave that *lulav*. It is Jewish; don’t expect me to wave the *lulav*.” A year or so later, he had a sudden a heart attack and was gone. **Isaiah 59: 1-4**—“Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your

lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None call for justice, nor any pleads for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.”

James talks about the toleration of evil. **James 1:13-16**—“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.”

Temptation toward some kind of sin, or to skip Bible study, or to not really pray comes when a person is drawn away by the enticement of their own personal desires. If that desire is stopped at the first thought it is nipped in the bud and goes no further. If it is allowed to remain it will be like leaving one dandelion with deep roots that is allowed to mature and seed. Then the wind comes along and causes the seeds to be airborne like a parachute and shortly your lawn is full of hundreds of dandelions as well as the thousands beyond your lawn. This is the way sin multiplies if allowed to take root and mature. It leads to death. “Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of His creatures.”

**James 1:19**—“Therefore, lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Be doers of the word not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:15-23**—“ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.” Give thanks for everything that you receive including the truth of God. Do not despise the message of warning; **do not despise prophecy** even if it seems negative, unsettling and the message difficult. Give thanks and praise to God for his warning. God says give thanks in everything. Quit being a complainer. Desire the will of God in Christ. Do not quench the Holy Spirit but welcome the prophetic warnings.

The statement that prophecy is a very small part of God’s work is an outright, boldfaced lie. It has been found, that **one third of the Bible is prophecy**. Most of it is in the Old Testament and refers to the times that we are now living in. We as human beings are involved in Christian living, and families, including parents, children, and grand-children and doing good works and loving our neighbors as we follow the commandments that God has put before us. First and foremost our eyes need to be focused on the word of

God, not the selfish cares and desires of the world. God can work with those who humble themselves and repent before the throne of Christ who tells us in his word what is important and what is not important. His instruction is: seek you first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all the other things we need including grand-parenting lessons will be added to us. Where is our heart?

What have we been seeking? Just what and where are the treasures we have been laying up for ourselves in the eyes of the Lord? **2 Chronicles 29:6**—“For our fathers have trespassed and done evil in the eyes of the LORD our God; they have forsaken Him, have turned their faces away from the dwelling place of the LORD, and turned their backs on Him.” **Isaiah 53:6**—“All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him (Christ) the iniquity of us all.”

Incense is a type of Christians' prayers. **2 Chronicles 29:7**—“... they have forsaken me, they have also shut up the doors of the vestibule, put out the lamps, and have not burned incense ...in the holy place to God.” **Jeremiah 18:5-10; 15**—“Because my people have forgotten me they have burned incense to worthless idols, and they have caused themselves to stumble in their ways, from the ancient paths.” God says, “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?” says the LORD. “Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel! <sup>7</sup> The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it, if it does evil in my sight so that it does not obey my voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it.”

Brethren, we are guilty of not burning our incense before God's throne day and night—we are guilty of neglecting prayer! The first line of defense in Christian overcoming **begins with prayer**. We must have clear continual connection in prayer with God in order to clear out sin. It keeps our lamps trimmed and full of oil (the Holy Spirit) so our light will be bright. **Revelation 5:8** mentions the twenty-four elders who each hold a golden bowl full of incense, which are the **prayers** of the saints. **Romans 12:1-2**—“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is **your reasonable service**. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may **prove** what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Our country needs to turn back to God in prayer for deliverance from destruction.

**1 Peter 2:1-6**—“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

This past week I read that a “so called” pastor and his wife said that churches today need to get away from preaching the Bible, and conform to the modern age reaching

out to people where they are today. Unless a church gets with “the new” program, it is going to become a laughing stock. Don’t tell them what God says in the Bible which is old fashioned. In our time today

where being politically correct seems to be the norm, many modern day churches have become “seeker friendly” in the U.S., as well as worldwide. In order to attract the “unchurched” and the non-religious crowd who might find Jesus in the traditional sense offensive, their premise is to “tone” down the Bible truth and seek to conform to the non-churchgoers in order to attract them to church. The seeker sensitive church model has produced a huge growth in numbers but not “disciples” of Christ.

**2 Chronicles 29:10-11**—In the first year of his reign, in the first month, King Hezekiah opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them and cleansed the temple. Then he brought in the priests and the Levites and said to them, “Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel that His fierce wrath may turn away from us. My sons, do not be negligent now, for **the LORD has chosen you** to stand before Him, to serve Him, and that you should minister to Him and burn incense.”

**Verses 14-15**—“And they gathered their brethren, sanctified themselves, and went according to the commandment of the king, at the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the Lord —and they cleansed all the house of the LORD.” Today that would mean clean up the church and stop compromising with the word of God. Brethren, God has chosen each one of us to be part of his end-time body in the body of Christ. Do not be negligent before Him. Serve Him, beginning with prayer and praise without ceasing as if today were your last day on earth.

**Revelation 3:14-19**—“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: “I know your works that you are neither cold nor hot. So then, because you are *lukewarm*, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth.” Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.** Therefore *be zealous and repent.* He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

The book of Revelation is the revelation and words of Jesus Christ— the revelation of Yeshua the Messiah. Take heed, these words are for our warning for us to wake up and make certain that we work out our salvation *with fear and trembling* (Philippians 2:12-13). We need to guard against the carnal mentality of a self-centered attitude, humble our self on our knees before the throne of God and cry out to Him with weeping, moaning, sobbing and soul searching repentance. Stop making excuses and make the change that is necessary. God says turn to me and I will turn back to you.

**Revelation 3:20**—“Behold, **I stand at the door and knock.** If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with me on my throne, as I also overcame and sat



down with my Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Our fellowship is with Christ. Will you open the door?

**2 Chronicles 30:1-19**—“Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the LORD God of Israel. They could not keep it at the regular time, because a sufficient number of priests had not consecrated themselves, nor had the people gathered together at Jerusalem. And the matter pleased the king and all the assembly. So they resolved to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that they should come to keep the Passover to the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem, since they *had not done it for a long time in the prescribed manner.*”

Then the runners went throughout all Israel and Judah with the letters from the king and his leaders, and spoke according to the command of the king: “Children of Israel, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; then He will return to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. And do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who trespassed against the Lord God of their fathers, so that He gave them up to desolation, as you see. Now do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD; and enter His sanctuary, which He has sanctified forever, and serve the LORD your God that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you. For if you return to the LORD, your brethren and your children will be treated with compassion by those who lead them captive, so that they may come back to this land; for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn His face from you if you return to Him.” So the runners passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulon; but “they laughed at them and mocked them. Nevertheless some from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulon humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. Also the hand of God was on Judah to give them singleness of heart to obey the command of the king and the leaders, at the word of the LORD.”

“Now many people, a very great assembly, gathered at Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month. They arose and took away the altars that were in Jerusalem, and they took away all the incense altars and cast them into the Brook Kidron. Then they slaughtered the Passover lambs on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought the burnt offerings to the house of the LORD. They stood in their place according to their custom, according to the Law of Moses the man of God; the priests sprinkled the blood received from the hand of the Levites. For there were many in the assembly who had not sanctified themselves; therefore the Levites had charge of the slaughter of the Passover lambs for everyone who was not clean, to sanctify them to the LORD. For a multitude of the people, many from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulon, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, ‘May the good LORD provide atonement for everyone who prepares his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he is not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary.’ The LORD listened to Hezekiah and healed the people.”

**2 Chronicles 30:21-22; 26**—“So the children of Israel who were present at Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with great gladness; and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, singing to the LORD, accompanied by loud instruments. And Hezekiah gave encouragement to all the Levites who taught the good knowledge of the LORD; and they ate throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings and making confession to the Lord God of their fathers.” “So there was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup> Then the priests, the Levites, arose and blessed the people, and their voice was heard; and their prayer came up to His holy dwelling place, to heaven.” God gave Judah singleness of heart and mind to obey the commands of their king at the word of the Lord. It is those who have willing hearts who will pay attention and obey. When we do what God ordains and in the prescribed manner that he commands, then we will be blessed.

**2 Timothy 4:1-5**—**Paul says to Timothy:** “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom. Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.” We all have afflictions that we have to bear. There will be times of loneliness and discouragement that we have to endure and do what God has called each of us to do in His work. We all have a ministry to fulfill. Are we achieving what we have been called to do and serving for God’s glory?

**1 Peter 4:7-11**—“The end of all things is at hand, therefore be serious and watchful and instant in prayer with fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins.” This means to love Cappy and me, too, even though I may bare the rod because God tells me too. I’m human and need love and compassion; people to be thankful and supportive in this ministry, we need prayers and good works with a positive attitude—not negative complaining. We cannot afford to be grumblers and complainers like Israel when they came out of Egypt. “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Use the gifts that God has given you to serve others in the church and to help do the work of God in this generation to bring the knowledge of Christ to this generation around this globe. What are we doing with our tithes and offerings? What are we doing with our prayers? What are we doing with our time? Who are we listening to? Are we searching and studying the Bible every day? How much do we really want to obey God, or have we gotten on the road of “compromise”. Paul Bunyan wrote the book *Pilgrim’s Progress* when he was imprisoned in England for his faith and belief in the word of God as one of the Separatist Brethren, not the Church of England. It is an allegory of Christian’s journey to the Kingdom of God. We are on a journey to the kingdom of God today. He who endures to the end will be saved. “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all

things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever.”

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom. Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”

**Matthew 7:20**—“by their fruits you will know them.” Consider what you are being taught and consider the end. Submit to God; draw near to Him in singleness of heart, and he will draw near to you. “Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Cleanse your hands. Purify your hearts you double-minded (you who are pulled this way and that way).”

The kingdom of God is drawing nigh. Do not follow men; follow God the author of every good and perfect gift. Keep your eyes in Christ; he is the author of salvation and the Spirit of Prophecy.