

Pinhas and Elijah – the Sons of Zeal

Father, you are our God, the defense of our soul and the rock of our refuge. Praise, honor and glory belong to you for your mighty acts according to your excellent greatness. Your mercy is everlasting, your judgments are righteous and your truth endures to all generations. Bless the name of the Lord who made the heavens and earth from whom our help comes and who comforts our soul. We pray that you will bless us as we seek your understanding and plan of salvation. Thank you for your loving kindness in the morning and your faithfulness every night. Intervene with your Holy Spirit to bring the return of your son Yeshua to this earth, our Savior in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

Welcome to Bible study! Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of the water, that brings forth his fruit in his season. This is the day—the day that the Lord has made and we will be glad and rejoice in it – as we are in every day that he has made. This is a special Sabbath day during the days of the time between the *straights* from Tammuz 17 to the 9th of Av. Tammuz 17 begins a period of three weeks of mourning in remembrance of the pain and suffering that has historically come upon God’s people, the Jews and the Israelites. It began when Moses came down Mount Sinai on Tammuz 17 with the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone and threw the tablets down in anger, breaking them because he found the Israelites had so soon forsaken the Lord. They were dancing and cavorting naked around a golden calf made by Aaron. In their reckoning of days, Moses was a day late in returning, but they had wrongly calculated the number of days.

Exodus 32:26-29 —“Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, ‘Who is on the Lord’s side? Let him come to me.’ All the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. The children of Levi did according to the word of Moses and killed those who had worshipped the golden calf—about 3,000 men. Moses had said, ‘Consecrate yourselves today to the Lord, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.’” Worship of the golden calf was the beginning of the beginning of the days of the “*straights*” on Tammuz 17. Av 9 was the day when Nebuchadnezzar burned down the temple of Israel in 486 B.C. On that same date, the Roman general Titus burned down the second temple in 70 A.D. Today is the 23rd day of Tammuz and the 7th day into the time of *the straights*.

God is sending his people forth today, saying those who are on the Lord’s side, come to me. If not, go serve Baal and go to hell. It is a crucial choice. **Deuteronomy 30:18**—“I announce to you this day, that you shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither you pass over Jordan to go to possess it. I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life that both you and your seed may live.” How are we to show that we choose life? By showing “that you may love the Lord your God, and that you may obey his voice, and that you may cleave to him: for He is your life and the length of your days that you may dwell in

the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob to give them.”

I believe that America is part of the Promised Land that God gave Ephraim, Manasseh and all the tribes of Israel. We have about as many Jews living in America today as there are living in Judah (Israel), and we have been blessed by God more than any other nation on the face of the earth. America is transgressing the laws of God, trampling them into the dirt and ignoring the God who created us. Toward the end of June 2015, the Supreme Court made same sex marriage legal in every state in the Union. Now it is against the law therefore, not to accept same sex marriages in the United States. The U.S. has gone the way of Baal-Peor, the ancient god of sex worshiped by the Canaanites, Moabites, and Midianites.

Numbers 25:3-18-Moab was terrified and filled with dread because there were so many people. So the prophet Balaam was hired by the Midianite King Balak of Moab to curse Israel when they came out of Egypt and settled on the plains of Moab in this side Jordan by Jericho. God said to Balaam “do not go, you shall not curse the people for they are blessed.” Balaam was a hireling prophet, seeking only to make a market of his gift and lusting after the gold and wealth King Balak promised to give him. Because God said, “speak only the word that I speak to you,” Balaam wound up blessing the Israelites three times instead of cursing them. This made King Balak extremely angry, so Balaam taught him how to corrupt the Israelites to get around the blessing of Israel.

Israel remained in Shittim and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. They called the people to the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. **Verses 3-10** – “And Israel joined himself unto Baal-Peor (as in sexual intercourse) and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel.” **Verses 10-18** —“And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel. And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baal-Peor. And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand. And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

The Lord spake unto Moses, saying, “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in my zeal. Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him my covenant of peace; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a **covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.**’” Phinehas saw what was being done and he took action. God spared the people because of the zeal of Phinehas for God and His law.

Verses 14-17-- the name of the Israelite who was killed, who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, a leader of a father's house among the Simeonites. The name Salu means rock. And the name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi the daughter of Zur; he was head of the people of a father's house in Midian. The name Cozbi means liar/deceitful. She flaunted Simeon with the rites of Baal-Peor and he lusted after her and carried her to his tent in the sight of all the Israelite people, totally disdaining God (his laws) and Moses. So Phinehas killed both the rebellious Zimri and his seducer, Cozbi.

Now, why did this occur? Where did the Midianites get the idea to attack Israel by subterfuge and scheming, by offering them their women to lead the Israelite men astray?

Numbers 31:17--Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Harass the Midianites, and attack them; for they **harassed you with their schemes by which they seduced you in the matter of Peor and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a leader of Midian, their sister, who was killed in the day of the plague** because of Peor."

Numbers 31:1--The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Take vengeance on the Midianites for the children of Israel. Afterward you shall be gathered to your people." So Moses spoke to the people, saying, "Arm some of yourselves for war, and let them go against the Midianites to take vengeance for the LORD on Midian. A thousand from each tribe of all the tribes of Israel you shall send to the war." So there were recruited from the divisions of Israel one thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war. Then Moses sent them to the war, one thousand from each tribe; he sent them to the war with Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, with the holy articles and the signal trumpets in his hand. And they warred against the Midianites, just as the LORD commanded Moses, and they killed all the males. They killed the kings of Midian with the rest of those who were killed—Evi, Rekem, Zur (father of Cosbi), Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian. **Verse 8**—"Balaam the son of Beor they killed with the sword."

Numbers 31:13-18—"And Moses, Eleazar the priest, and all the leaders of the congregation, went to meet them outside the camp. But Moses was angry with the officers of the army, with the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, who had come from the battle. And Moses said to them: 'Have you kept all the women alive? Look, **these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the Lord in the incident of Peor**, and there was a plague among the congregation of the Lord. Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known a man intimately (sexually). But keep alive for yourselves all the young girls who have not known a man intimately.'

Jude 1:5-11—"I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

"Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed

about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!' But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, *have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit*, and *perished in the rebellion of Korah.*"

Today we need to be very careful and cautious of those who want to come in and lead people astray. **2 Peter 2:1-18**--"there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children."

"They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness. But he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet. These false teachers are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. When they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones (those who have come out of the world) who have actually *escaped from those who live in error.*" **Verses 19-22**—"While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: 'A dog returns to his own vomit,' and, 'a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.'"

Phinehas, grandson of Aaron, set an example of zeal for all of us -- **zeal for the Lord**. He saw what was being done by the Midianite women in enticing the Israelite men into sin and wickedness. Phinehas loved God and had zero tolerance for evil. When he saw the audacity and wickedness of Zimri, a Prince and leader of Israel taking the Midianite Princess to his tent, Phinehas rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel.

Did God say Phinehas murdered them? No, God did not. The Lord said to Moses, "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with my zeal among them, so that I did not

consume the children of Israel in my zeal.” We need to understand that Phinehas did a righteous thing, he did not commit murder. He executed the judgment of God. At that time he was not an ordained priest, although he was a grandson of Aaron. After he showed his zeal for the Lord, God spoke to Moses “Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.”

Revelation 3:14—“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. I could wish you were cold or 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**. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hear 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.’ ”

Many centuries later another man was also full of zeal, the prophet Elijah. **1 Kings 19:14**--This was after Elijah appeared after three years of famine in the land and Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets of Baal together on Mount Carmel. Elijah spoke to all Israel at Mount Caramel and challenged them, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; Elijah but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word. Elijah said, “I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal’s prophets are four hundred and fifty men. I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.” So all the people answered and said, “It is well spoken.”

Baal's prophets put no fire under their bull and cried aloud, cut themselves with lances and knives until their blood gushed from morning to evening and prophesied but there was no answer or voice. At noon Elijah mocked them. Then Elijah called the people near him and repaired the altar of the of the Lord that was broken down with twelve stones, the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying “Israel shall be your name.” He made a large trench around the altar, put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, laid it on the wood. Three times, four large pots of water were filled and poured over the burnt sacrifice and the wood. Water ran all around the altar and he also filled the trench with water.

At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice Elijah called the people to him and said, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel and I am your servant, and I have done all these things at your word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that you are the Lord God, and that you have turned their hearts back to you again." Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God." Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

Who are the worshipers of Baal today? Every pagan religion is a worshiper of Baal. The Islam religion is worshipping Baal. It has been proven historically that the worship of Allah goes back to the ancient Canaanite religion of Baal and Baalism. Judgment is coming on America for having forsaken the Torah and the laws of God. Even many in the churches of God today have forsaken God and are compromising and have departed from the faith once delivered and have become part of the great apostasy.

Elijah was very faithful to God. But because of his faith and zeal Ahab's wife and high priestess of the prophets of Baal, Jezebel, was furious with Elijah for having executed all her prophets with the sword. She sent a message to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me and me also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." **1Kings 19:3**—"Elijah heard this and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba. He went a day's journey into the wilderness and sat down under a broom tree and prayed that the Lord would take his life and then fell asleep. An angel touched him and said eat. He found a cake baked on coals by his head and a jar of water which he ate and drank and lay down again. The angel came a second time, touched him and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." So he arose, ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God. This was down in the area of Saudi Arabia. There he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him and said, "What are you doing here?" So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

Then God said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice."

So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" And he said again, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." Then the Lord told Elijah, "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and

when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. (Elijah still had a ministry to perform). Also, you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimishi as king over Israel. Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.” **Verse 17**—“It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. *Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.*”

Elijah was a man of zeal. God used him mightily. Let’s learn the lesson of doing God's work with zeal with all of our heart, all of our soul and all of our energy and strength to proclaim the word of the Lord without compromise. Do not fear or falter. The way to serve God is to keep your eyes on God and Christ and on his word and they will do the work in and through us.

2 Corinthians 10:12—“We dare not class our selves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.” We are not to become proud and lift our self up. Phinehas, when he had the opportunity, seized the javelin and stabbed the couple who were sinning flagrantly with sheer effrontery before the people of Israel. Elijah began his story by proclaiming a drought to all Israel after King Ahab married Jezebel, the daughter of the king of Sidon where they worshiped Baal. Under her influence, Baal worship was introduced into the kingdom of Israel where they built a temple and erected a pole in Samaria honoring their goddess, Asherah. The pole was a symbol of a male upright sex organ.

My wife and I took a tour about 1980 to the ruins of Pompeii south of Italy which had been a pagan city steeped in Baal worship with a Roman name. One of the names of the gods worshiped was Priapus. At the doorway of many of the dwellings of the Pompeiians was a little image of Priapus who was a god of procreation. As I recall, all these images were nude and their male sex organ looked like Pinocchio's nose after he lied. This was the god that had been worshiped in Pompeii. Pompeii, along with Herculaneum and many villas in the surrounding area, was destroyed and buried under 4 to 6 m (13 to 20 ft) of ash and pumice in the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. Because the city was buried so quickly by volcanic ash, the site is a well-preserved snapshot of life in a Roman city.

Pliny the Younger was the eye witness, who watched from the town of Misenum, approximately 13 miles from Pompeii and wrote about it. He described the explosion and massive debris cloud that went high like a Mediterranean pine and expanded in different colored branches of heavy ash and sand falling at the rate of about 6 inches an hour. Ash blocked the sun by 1 p.m. as a glowing cloud of volcanic gases and debris rolled down Vesuvius' slopes and enveloped the city of Pompeii. Most victims died instantly as the superheated air burned their lungs and contracted their muscles, leaving the bodies in a semi-curling position to be quickly buried in ash and thus preserved in detail for hundreds of years.

Foreign Baal cultists entered the north with the marriage of the 9th-century-BCE king Ahab to the Tyrian princess Jezebel. Jezebel brought with her a large entourage of sacred personnel to staff the temple of Baal and Asherah that Ahab built for her in Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel. Ahab was one of the greatest kings in Israel's history, on a level with David and Solomon (Sholomo) the Rabbis of the Talmud tell us.

There was king Pharaoh of Egypt when God brought Israel out of Egypt, king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and then there was king Solomon of Israel. Then Ahab of the northern kingdom of Israel was the fourth greatest king in the history of mankind. Israel was a mighty land in those days.

Today, the greatest kingdom in the world is the United States of America. We also have a paganized leader (president/or king) who is leading America down a primrose path of destruction spitting on the Christians who don't endorse his agenda and program. The Christian church has become perverted and apostate.

Many Christians don't know the truth about the Sabbath. It is one of Ten Commandments. They are all key commandments. But what you don't know you are not guilty of, God will forgive. But if you knowingly disobey God, knowingly reject truth, you then condemn yourself. That is the unpardonable sin—to knowingly reject the truth of God and deliberately disobey him and refuse to repent. That is unpardonable. Churches today better wake up, because they are treading on the edge of the unpardonable sin by closing their eyes to the truth and rejecting the truth of God. As I said, it is one thing to not understand the truth, because we all have to grow in grace and knowledge. Some do not learn much before they die but they learned enough. God is the judge. A lot of us need to stop comparing our self with other people and other churches and concentrate on loving God, serving God, worshiping God, rejoicing in the word of God and being thankful to God. Let God sort out all the rest. Don't worry about it.

Billy Graham and his son, Franklin Graham, are standing up for the truth that they do know, and I think they will be rewarded. Christ is the judge. **Romans 14:10**—Paul says, “Why do you judge your brother? Of why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” **Verses 12-13**—“**So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another anymore: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling lock, or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.**”

It is high time for people to get off their high horse and quit condemning people of other churches. How do you know what their heart is? They may be very earnest and sincere, yet they have not had the seventh day Sabbath revealed to them. In the New Testament there were some things that the Apostle Paul taught that were hard to be understood about the Law. Some places seem to say the law is nailed to the cross. If you don't know any better you may assume that is what it means. But the way the KJV is written, you have to really search deep to understand and search the Greek and study all the verses and put them together. Peter commented on that in **2 Peter 3:15**—“Consider the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation, even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him has written unto you; He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.”

Paul taught to keep the laws of God. **Romans 14:11-9**—“Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.”

John 13:4-35—“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” Who is John talking about? He is talking about all those who have accepted Christ. Only God knows what is in the heart of a person. Peter was in the Roman Catholic Church until he was disfellowshipped and he kept on being a Christian and his followers were called the Waldensians and they kept Sunday because Christ arose on the first day of the week.

An email I received from a woman who has been learning more of the word of God has been coming out of the Living Church of God and she is very zealous. She was told by one of the ministers who visited her not to return to church because of the new truths she has been learning. She has been told not to contact any of the church members and that she is disfellowshipped. Pastor Doug Winail from headquarters informed her that nowhere do the scriptures tell a member of the church to take it upon himself or herself to save the church. He wrote members of the church disclaiming the letter she sent to certain members about the Biblical calendar truth she has learned and which is not the long-held teaching of the LCG.

John 5:39—“Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life and they are which testify of me.”

Be zealous for God. Do not compromise with false ministers and churches teaching error. Hold them up for rebuke, hold them up for reproof, and hold them up for error and God will give you an entrance into the kingdom of God.