

I am truly honored to be allowed to stand here and present these messages to this assembly. There is a great responsibility that is expected when someone shares a sermon, teaching or even words of encouragement. May what I have to speak today encourage you and help you stay in the right direction as we walk on this journey toward Yahweh and His kingdom with humility.

The Next Greatest Thing

Looking back, I believe I tend to get up here and speak the most on topics of apologetics. This includes questions like “Why do I believe something?” and “Why should you believe something that I believe?” I don’t like to present anything that is “new”, controversial and hopefully nothing that is questionable. The ideas dealing with the current greatest concept can drive Bible believers away from a solid foundation on scripture. In general, when you consider the phrase, “The next greatest thing”, what comes to mind?

The Next Greatest Thing



Sliced bread, a mid-engine Corvette, or the latest iPhone? These might be a few things that may or may not come to mind. Great things come in many shapes and materials. Great things also come in many different ways of thinking and those ways of thinking come with many different price tags.

I think humanity is a people created to look at a challenge and is equipped to find out how we can overcome those challenges. We are also a people who were designed to be looking for something good and beneficial. We look for great art, we look for a good and reliable job, we look for a good education for our children. Those are not bad things to look for. I would even recommend all of those goals with good judgement.

The Next Greatest Thing

When it comes to Biblical ideas and what good ideas we need to seek out, I believe we can find them in scripture. Specifically, those of us who were brought up in denominational or even non-denominational churches, we have sought answers to questions that we couldn't seem to get straight answers for. Many of my own questions have been answered and I would say that personally going down this Torah Observant, Hebrew Root, Sacred Name path has been the thing that answered many of my own questions.

I am going to take you through three primary people groups that I think of when someone mentions "the next greatest thing".

The Next Greatest Thing

Innovators

Nomads

Watchmen

The first group is regarding those who make the next greatest thing, I call them the innovators. The second group is those who seek the next greatest thing, the nomads. Finally, those who expect the next greatest thing, as the watchmen.

The Next Greatest Thing

Innovators

Making the Next Greatest Thing

These innovators aren't always creating material things like I mentioned earlier but they would also include new ways of thinking. Some of you may have heard of Michio Kaku, Stephen Hawking and Albert Einstein. They were all Theoretical Physicists and they paved the way for many things our current society takes for granted. Google had this to say about these three physicists' contributions, "Einstein's relativity fuels GPS technology, Hawking's black hole theories merged quantum mechanics with gravity, and Kaku's work in string field theory and science communication advances the popularity and understanding of theoretical physics." These are only a small handful of people that effectively diminished the thought of giving Yahweh credit for what we see on earth or in the heavens.

The Next Greatest Thing

Nomads

Seeking the Next Greatest Thing

Nomads, those who seek the next greatest things aren't always negatively affected by what these innovators produce. They are also not always caught up in a cycle of upgrading their lives like those who keep up with the Jones'. Finding truth and improved lifestyles are some reasons for people to find something new and great. More importantly, there are some cautions that we need to be aware of when we listen to and agree with teachers that we may heap up for ourselves.

The Next Greatest Thing

Watchmen

Expecting the Next Greatest Thing

I will end with covering the idea of what “Next Greatest Thing” that we are to look forward to, the coming of Yahshua and New Jerusalem coming to earth. We who are waiting in obedience and faith are the watchmen. I believe we should live our lives in a way that pursues Yahweh and His Son Yahshua before the great day of Yahweh arrives. That, I believe, is the “Next Greatest Thing” we should concern ourselves with.

The Next Greatest Thing

Innovators

Making the Next Greatest Thing

To get into the first concept regarding the innovators, those who create these great things. When we go to stores and see new products or look on Facebook or TikTok for what new product is being reviewed, there has to be an inventor or manufacturer behind it who found a need and was able to market a solution. Finding a need and selling a product has been a staple for humanity for thousands of years. This should be easy enough to understand, that's how we got the printing press, peanut butter, and the Titanic. That's just the tip of the iceberg for the great creations we come in contact with every day.

They might come up with new ways to enliven their faith and beliefs with innovations to their religion. Like a businessman looking to share their knowledge about a product or service, a philosopher with a new idea tends to share their newly acquired knowledge and insight. Both the business man and the thinker will typically seek a market in order to gain a following. I am not trying to say that all of the people who search scripture and historical books for new or even strange ideas are coming up with new information from bad intentions. I will say, there should be some caution for the stagnant believers to simply read the scripture for what it is.

The Next Greatest Thing

Innovators



If you can't get even a simple understanding from scripture, you shouldn't have to dig several holes in a beach looking for treasure when there is already valuable treasure sitting on the surface. If the Holy Spirit speaks to you and reveals connections or insight, that's great. Be cautious though, there are many people that believe they have heard from the Holy Spirit. What they share clearly goes against scripture, that's even from a Protestant/Evangelical Christian standpoint let alone a Torah observant perspective. We need to make sure we are extracting a clear message from a passage in its whole context, not pulling verses from the context to fit a narrative.

The Next Greatest Thing

Innovators

Making the Next Greatest Thing

I will give a couple examples of questionable theology pulled from select verses instead of a greater context. There are several Christian pastors that have an understanding of Psalm 82:6 and John 10:34-35 stating that it means the born again believers have essentially become gods. They equate this to the concept that one kind of animal creates more of the same kind of animal. A dog creates more dogs and dolphins create more dolphins. So God, our Elohim, will create believers into more gods through our conversion. Like begets like. They might also see the verse 2 Corinthians 5:17 as another witness, "Therefore if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." to further prove their "little gods" theology. This is ultimately a Gnostic thought that elevates the spiritual over the physical.

In a sense, we should elevate the Spirit over the flesh. The question becomes, "What Spirit is leading us over our flesh?" Does this Spirit encourage us to die to ourselves and our flesh? Do we forgo our earthly desires to seek Yahweh's righteousness? Yahshua in John 6:63 states that the Holy Spirit is the one who gives life and the flesh profits nothing. Romans 8 has a lot to further flesh out this Spiritual topic. To keep this sermon shorter, I will only bring up verses 13 and 14 at this time. "13 [...] if you are living according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the practices of the body, you will live. 14 For as many as are being led by the Spirit of Elohim, these are sons of Elohim." Please go back and read through the rest of

chapter 8 for a more complete context. We who claim to be sons of Elohim need to live being led by the Spirit of Yahweh. Not like the world and definitely not by the desires of the flesh. I hope you all have read the book of Galatians if you really think you should be keeping the Law or instructions of Yahweh. Galatians 5:16-26 lays out a great encouragement that a life being led by the Spirit and not by the flesh will be in line with keeping the Law of Yahweh. If we are led by the Spirit and obedient to Yahweh, there will not be a law to condemn us.

The Next Greatest Thing

If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us walk after other mighty ones (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for Yahweh your Elohim is testing you to find out if you love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 13:1-5

I know I have used these passages a few times before and I don't want to flog a deceased equine but, let's do it one more time. The warning about false prophets in Deuteronomy 13:1-5, "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us walk after other mighty ones (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for Yahweh your Elohim is testing you to find out if you love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul.

The Next Greatest Thing

You shall walk after Yahweh your Elohim and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death because he has counseled rebellion against Yahweh your Elohim who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to drive you from the way in which Yahweh your Elohim commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you.

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Similarly, Deuteronomy 18 Moses is speaking to the Israelites starting in verse 20. He speaks of a prophet who also speaks of his own accord. “But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ 21 Now you may say in your heart, ‘How will we know the word which Yahweh has not spoken?’ 22 When a prophet speaks in the name of Yahweh, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which Yahweh has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”

The Next Greatest Thing

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Deuteronomy 18:20-22

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The Next Greatest Thing

Then the word of Yahweh came to me saying, 2 “Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy from their own heart, ‘Hear the word of Yahweh! 3 Thus says Sovereign Yahweh, “Woe to the wickedly foolish prophets who are walking after their own spirit and have seen nothing. 4 O Israel, your prophets have been like foxes among waste places. 5 You have not gone up into the breaches, nor did you build the wall around the house of Israel to stand in the battle on the day of Yahweh. 6 They behold worthlessness and lying divination who are saying, ‘Yahweh declares,’ when Yahweh has not sent them; yet they wait for the establishing of their word.

Ezekiel 13:1-10

If you want to turn to chapter 13 of Ezekiel or read on the screen, I do not require one or the other. Ezekiel has this to say about lying prophets who proclaim messages from themselves as if they are speaking from Yahweh. Starting in verse 1, “Then the word of Yahweh came to me saying, 2 “Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy from their own heart, ‘Hear the word of Yahweh! 3 Thus says Sovereign Yahweh, “Woe to the wickedly foolish prophets who are walking after their own spirit and have seen nothing. 4 O Israel, your prophets have been like foxes among waste places. 5 You have not gone up into the breaches, nor did you build the wall around the house of Israel to stand in the battle on the day of Yahweh. 6 They behold worthlessness and lying divination who are saying, ‘Yahweh declares,’ when Yahweh has not sent them; yet they wait for the establishing of their word.

The Next Greatest Thing

7 Did you not see a worthless vision and speak a lying divination when you said, 'Yahweh declares,' but it is not I who have spoken?" 8 Therefore, thus says the Sovereign Yahweh, "Because you have spoken worthlessness and beheld a lie, therefore behold, I am against you," declares Sovereign Yahweh. 9 "So My hand will be against the prophets who see worthless visions and utter lying divinations. They will not be in the council of My people, nor will they be written down in the register of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel, that you may know that I am Sovereign Yahweh. 10 It is definitely because they have misled My people by saying, 'Peace!' when there is no peace. And when anyone builds a wall, behold, they plaster it over with whitewash

Ezekiel 13:1-10

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The Next Greatest Thing

Innovators

Making the Next Greatest Thing

Matthew 15, Mark 7

Luke 11

Matthew 23

In all three of these passages in Deuteronomy and Ezekiel, there is a person that is providing an alluring message. This tempting message draws people away from Yahweh's spoken truth. This false message entices the people of Israel away from the true prophets who actually spoke Yahweh's message. Back then and even now, there must be witnesses to confirm a message. The witness that confirms a message, I believe, is the Torah. Just about everything in the books of the Prophets and in the New Testament has a reference to or a quote of the Torah. I hope that idea can be pretty reasonable to understand. Yahshua and his disciples were Jewish, they were at least members of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. They were able to put the laws of Yahweh above the traditions of the Pharisees after Yahshua explained the simple truths of Torah. Yahshua clarified what Yahweh expected from the Torah and Prophets. Yahshua rebuked the Pharisees several times. The Pharisees had a history of accusing Yahshua of breaking Torah, when in reality it was the traditions of their fathers, their Rabbis, that Yahshua broke and not the Laws of Yahweh. My favorite passages for the rebukes are Matthew 15 and Mark 7, Luke 11 and Matthew 23.

Continuing the theme in Isaiah 5:20-21, the prophet Isaiah continues a message against injustice in Jerusalem and Judah. "20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness, who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and understanding in their own sight!" These speakers and teachers were in a bad

spot when this was told to them. I want to make sure you heard the verses correctly. Isaiah said, "woe to those who call evil good and good evil." You can think of it like a horse, when you read the words woe "W-O-E" can be understood as a warning of falling off a cliff and you need to tell your horse, "whoa" "W-H-O-A".

The Next Greatest Thing

Innovators

Making the Next Greatest Thing

James 3:1

Acts 17:29-31

If we are one who provides a message or idea, we need to be cautious. When we relay a new concept we could be considered a “teacher”. James, writing to the dispersed tribes of Israel, in chapter 3 verse 1 warns those tempted to teach, “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.” He then warns about what proceeds from our mouths. He also compares how the tongue is like a small fire that can burn down a whole forest. One teacher can have many students and those students have their own students. Soon you may have early church councils that cement theology into official doctrines that equate someone who doesn’t agree as heretics. The analogy of a small spark starting a large forest fire is very accurate.

My concern to you is what is the benefit of what we spread? What is the intention behind you sharing the tidbits of knowledge you are gleaning? Can you take criticism or skepticism when you speak about any newly found knowledge? There will always be someone who doesn’t like change or doesn’t want to face the responsibility of something different than their established understanding. I will say that there is strength to an established understanding. Don’t get me wrong on that. We need to be sure to make our own path and to work out our own salvation. Our fathers and grandfathers and great-grandfathers have all left a legacy. We can use their faith and ideas as a springboard in our own faith and understanding. When it comes down to it, we are held responsible for why we believe something and how we act upon that

belief. It may come to defiance toward Yahweh if we gain truth and refuse to change our thinking or lifestyles. When Paul in Acts 17:29-31 was addressing the people in Athens “29 Being then Elohim's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. 30 The times of ignorance Elohim overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” We have a responsibility to repent from lies and relaying information that goes against the words of Yahweh. We will be held accountable since we are aware of what is written in the Bible. We need to look past our own flesh and our own perspectives to focus on Yahweh as we speak and teach others.

The Next Greatest Thing

Nomads:

Seeking the Next Greatest Thing

Luke 7:24-26

2 Timothy 4:2-5

Ephesians 4:14

2 Timothy 3:15-17

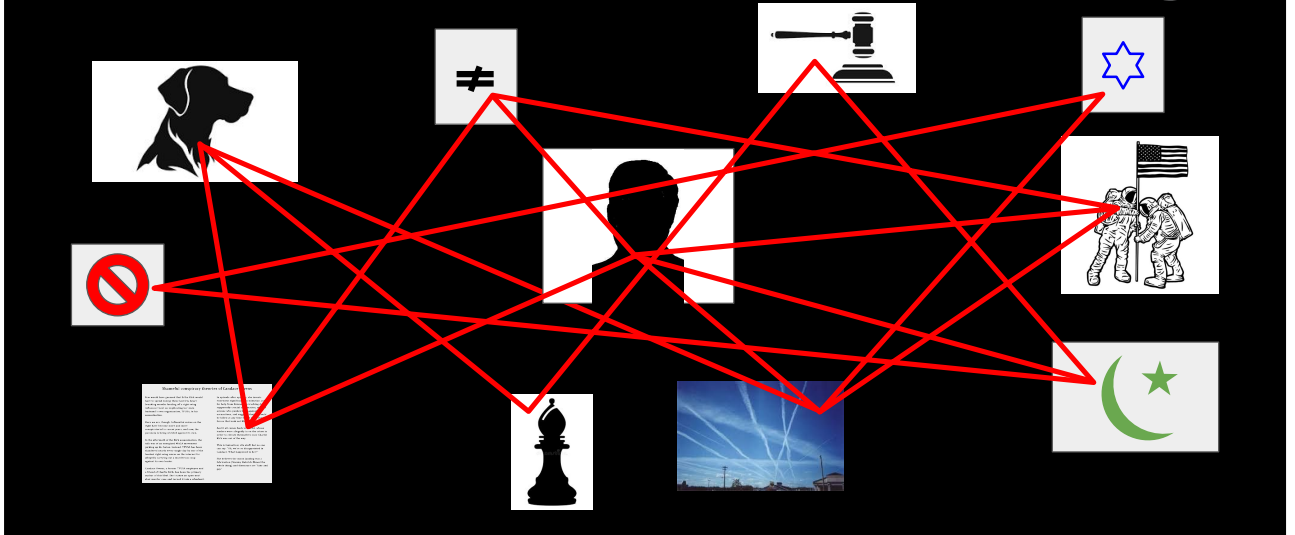
2 Timothy 2:1

This next group are the ones who wander from one source of enrichment to another, I am calling this group Nomads. There are a lot of people who seem to feel their Biblical understanding and faith have plateaued and grown stale. They might have always had questions and never stopped questioning even to the point of questioning Paul and Yahshua as the Messiah. They long to have a fresh fire or a new excitement to keep their faith increased. We may have doubts and questions along the journey. We need to strive for stability in our faith and understanding. A few examples of a stable faith can be found in Luke 7:24-26 where Yahshua spoke of John the Baptizer as not being like a reed shaken in the wind, Ephesians 4:14 that “we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming,” and 2 Timothy 2:1 where Paul encourages Timothy to be strong in the grace of Messiah Yahshua, among many more passages about standing firmly in your faith and allegiance to Yahweh.

Wolves have come into Yahweh’s flock of sheep for quite some time. The somber warning Paul gave to Timothy also in 2 Timothy 4:2-5, “2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and fulfill your ministry.”

As far as what we can learn goes, I urge you to be discerning from a perspective of scripture. 2 Timothy 3:15-17, “15 [...] from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Messiah Yahshua. 16 All Scripture is breathed by Elohim and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of Elohim may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

The Next Greatest Thing



Sometimes, we may have heard ideas that sound like a weird conspiracy theory and had to have lengthy rabbit trails to get to the conclusion. I understand that a Biblical truth doesn't have to have the equivalent of a thirty minute interpretive dance to know the simple truth we can find in scripture. I might be a little bit of a skeptic when I hear "this (off the wall topic) is the truth and we need to change everything we believe in all over again." We can see this with the ideas spoken by people like Candace Owens about her daily Charlie Kirk conspiracies. Although Proverbs 25:2 states, "It is the glory of Elohim to conceal a matter, but the glory of Kings is to search out a matter." This is not a verse we should use to accept crazy ideas because we want to find something exciting. You should be able to find enough excitement if you simply read through the Old and New Testaments. The verse in Proverbs 25 is relaying the desire of Yahweh to hide truths just below the surface that can be easy enough to find without the use of a conspiracy board and red strings. Through the rest of Proverbs 25, we see the urging of Solomon to future kings to judge righteously, to settle arguments privately and to do everything with humility.

The Next Greatest Thing

Nomads:

Seeking the Next Greatest Thing

Deuteronomy 17:18-20

All the kings of Israel and Judah were specifically given a set of laws in Deuteronomy 17:14-20. The set of laws in that passage that really stands out to me is verses 18-20, where Yahweh desired and commanded kings, that He knew would arise, were to write a copy of the Torah. When the king did this, he was expected to have that copy remain with him, he was to read it all the days of his life so that he would fear Yahweh and keep all the words of the Torah and the statutes. As a consequence, the king's heart would not be exalted above his brothers and he would not turn from the commandments that he rewrote to the right or left. If he did all of that, his days of his kingship were to be prolonged. In addition, his sons' lives would be prolonged in Israel.

If we were to do the same as the kings should do, how much improved would we be in our lives? Would we offer the same mercy that was expected of the rulers of Israel? Would we give willingly to the widows and orphans of our community? A similar idea came to my mind from social media, writing by hand all of scripture over a year or two. If you wanted to just write out the five books of Torah, that would be a good start. This rewriting would need to be very intentional and should be slower than a student trying to crank out a school assignment that's due the next morning. This, in my mind, would have the word of Yahweh ingrained in our minds better because it is having to be taken in from our eyes and processed through our brain and meticulously written on paper.

The Next Greatest Thing

Nomads:

Seeking the Next Greatest Thing

Acts 17:10-12

We have a responsibility to seek the written word of Yahweh just as the Berean Jews had their example in Acts 17. Acts 17 is a passage I have mentioned earlier about the Berean Jews, I'll go ahead and read verses 10 through 12, "The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men." The new ideas that Paul offered about Yahshua to them were tested against what we know as the Old Testament. Because of that testing, many of the Berean Jews accepted the words of Paul and Silas about Yahshua. Are the ideas we accept supported by the Tanakh or Old Testament and New Testament? We need to hold to what scripture says. Be skeptical in testing ideas. Push the idea to the logical extent. Ask yourself questions both for and against the idea. If I am hearing something as truth, what is the scholarship of the statement? Is it tested by research, science and history? What is the benefit? Is this placing a burden on me that Yahweh said would not be a burden to me? As we study and listen to teachers, be careful to not change scripture to fit your perspective, but let scripture change your perspective.

The Next Greatest Thing

Nomads:

Seeking the Next Greatest Thing

Acts 17:10-12

I might be able to speak for some younger men of my community on this topic, if I had any doubt of my own masculinity and how to express it, I can look to men who are confident, bold and successful to see what they have to offer on masculinity. I will admit there was a time I had started listening to a guy named Andrew Tate and I thought I had enjoyed a few things he had to say. I publicly confess now, that I was horribly wrong for that and I quickly stopped listening to him when I realized that he was a womanizer, arrogant and that he had left his shallow shell of the Christian faith for Islam. Like I mentioned, I've briefly looked at Andrew Tate. I have also looked into Tony Robbins. Both offer a secular "pull yourself up from your bootstraps" kind of influence. I had also looked to a pastor and author named Eric Ludy. I enjoy Eric Ludy's enthusiasm and his speaking on the Bible. They are all charismatic in different ways. My primary reservations against Mr. Robbins and Mr. Tate is that they don't have the same worldview and biblical faith as someone like Eric Ludy. We, men, don't have to act or think like Tate and Robbins to be masculine. I see a lot of men here that would be great examples for any young man to see how they should behave. If you listen and take in advice from anyone, be sure they are coming from a biblical worldview. Check their message and their perspective. This would even include people like Jordan Peterson, a wise and well studied in Christianity and the Bible. My reservation is that he is very careful about not calling himself a Christian though he accepts the idea and life of Yahshua.

The Next Greatest Thing

Nomads:

Seeking the Next Greatest Thing

1 Thessalonians 5:21

2 Corinthians 10:5

Luke 14:28-32

Self help speakers and New Age teachers might speak of “God” or quote verses of the Bible. We who listen to any “teachers” need to analyze anything that comes across Instagram, TikTok or Facebook. In 1 Thessalonians 5:21 Paul says to “test all things, hold tight to what is good.” We need to measure any idea we listen to against scripture. As well, Paul in 2 Corinthians 10:5 , “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of Elohim, and take every thought captive to obey Messiah [Yahshua].” We don’t need to do anything different than what Paul charged the Corinth assembly with. We need to understand that when someone is saying something as if it is the truth, we need to take it to scripture. Many times these “portions of truth” are spoken out of context and spoken with a pre-supposed idea. Trying to argue with them is many times fruitless if they don’t have the same foundation and perspective as you. Fringe topics aren’t all bad. I love to get into a bit of conspiracy every once in a while. When it comes to fringe topics of the Bible, though, I might be a little dismissive. I will be respectful and inquire more information but take the topics to scripture if I’m still curious.

Men are one group that can be easily influenced to “buy into” a thought process and lifestyle change. Those that aren’t content with the life and situation Yahweh has allowed us to be in can think, “How can I become a successful man to make a million dollars in six months?” Those popular men in exotic cars and large mansions, like Tate and Robbins might say, “You just need focus and self discipline. Focus your

thoughts on the key factors and be willing to take risks.” To the contrary, scripture talks about being cautious and wise. Yahshua, in Luke 14:28-32, speaks of someone who starts building something and fails to finish. “28 For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? 29 Lest, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.” Weighing the cost of building is not any different than the everyday choices we make. Although, deciding to go to Denny’s instead of Dairy Queen is a bit more trivial in the long run than starting a costly building project with limited funds.

The Next Greatest Thing

Nomads:

Seeking the Next Greatest Thing

2 Kings 23:1-3

2 Kings 18

Isaiah 8:12

I believe we should be like King Josiah when he read the book of the covenant to know what he needed to turn away from and to know what sins he needed to repent from. In 2 Kings 23 verse 1: “1 Then the king sent, and they gathered to him all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. 2 And the king went up to the house of Yahweh and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great; and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of Yahweh. 3 Then the king stood by the pillar and cut a covenant before Yahweh, to walk after Yahweh, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to establish the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people entered into the covenant.”

As well, King Hezekiah before Josiah in 2 Kings 18 sought Yahweh consistently and removed idolatry from the kingdom of Judah. For me, the people of Judah at this time were “spiritual nomads” until they learned the ancient ways established through the book of the covenant. It is understood to be either the book of Deuteronomy or the whole Torah. They heard these words of the covenant repeated by the king’s desire and as a whole, Judah entered into the covenant with Yahweh.

To finish this section, listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah in chapter 8 verse 12, “You are not to say, ‘It is a conspiracy!’ In regard to all that this people call a

conspiracy; And you are not to fear what they fear, and you shall not tremble.” We may come across new ideas that resonate with us and lead us to question if we have to be using Hebrew or Paleo-Hebrew for the fullness of Yahweh’s blessing or that the Bible of the Ethiopian Church is more accurate than the Catholic Church approved Bible. I’m not saying we need to reject any of those ideas. We do need to be very careful when we accept what is being taught to us. Not everything we hear and accept from a teacher is going to keep us on a good path with Yahweh.

The Next Greatest Thing

Watchmen

Expecting the Next Greatest Thing

Titus 2:11-14

Deuteronomy 18:15-18

Psalms 119:105

The final group I consider as watchmen. We should be watchmen looking toward the horizon and on guard for what crests the hillside. When I think about how the Next Greatest Thing can be expressed Biblically, I am thinking of the end times. This includes the Left Behind books, though I am not endorsing them, I mention them only as an example. I do think of the Apocalypse, the great Judgement we will all face and the coming of Yahshua to reign over the earth. I believe this should be our perspective and hope as Titus 2:11-14 says, “11 For the grace of Elohim has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 It teaches us not to live against Elohim and not to do the evil things the world wants to do. That grace teaches us to live in the present age in a wise and right way—a way that shows that we serve Elohim. 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great Elohim as well as our Savior, Yahshua Messiah, 14 who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all lawlessness, and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good works.” True faith isn't about chasing the unknown but about us living obediently according to what is true, with a confident hope in the ultimate promise that is to come.

From the Old Testament or Tanakh, we find many guides for our expectations and how we should live long before anything is repeated in the New Testament.

Deuteronomy 18:15-18 describes a prophet like Moses that will come. We believe that a prophet, Yahshua, has come and is the fulfillment of the prophecy. Psalm 119 is the

longest book of the Bible and describes the goodness, sufficiency and trustworthiness of Yahweh's law. The Torah is the guide and instruction of how we should live our life as we wait for the great day of Yahweh. Psalm 119:105 specifically describes Yahweh's word as a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Yahweh's word is enough of a standard for us to live by.

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The standard for obedience, humility and compassion is seen in verses like Deuteronomy 15:11, "For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'" Micah 6:8, "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does Yahweh require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your Elohim?", Ecclesiastes 12:13, "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear Elohim and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." There is an expectation for those who align themselves with Yahweh, not just Jewish people. Orthodox Jews will typically refuse you to convert to Judaism and only require you to obey the 7 Laws of Noah despite Isaiah 56 and other passages. If you truly desire to fear Yahweh and join into a covenant with Him, you are to obey His Torah. Isaiah 56 presents the necessity of a eunuch and a foreigner who desires to obey the Sabbath day and hold to Yahweh's commandments. Starting with verse 4 and going to verse 7: "This is what Yahweh says: "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, who choose what pleases Me and hold fast to My covenant 5 I will give them, in My house and within My walls, a memorial and a name better than that of sons and daughters. I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off. 6 And the foreigners who join themselves to Yahweh to minister to Him, to love the name of Yahweh, and to be His servants all who keep the Sabbath without profaning it and who hold fast to My covenant 7 I will bring them to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar, for My house

will be called a house of prayer for all the nations.” 8 Thus declares the Sovereign Elohim, who gathers the dispersed of Israel: “I will gather to them still others besides those already gathered.”

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Romans 2:6-7

2 Timothy 4:7-8

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

We can look to Paul and his letters to the believers in Rome. In Romans 2:6-7 “6 who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality” and 2 Timothy 4:7-8 share a similar reminder of a righteous judgement, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which Yahweh, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”

With this blessing of a promise to the faithful and obedient, we also have promises of difficulty in this life. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 “16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our trouble, light and momentary, is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen. For what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.” There are many other passages we can look to for encouragement despite the trouble we will face.

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You can think of this analogy. The Israelites were to remember their time as slaves in Egypt. They had 400 or more years waiting for their Exodus to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We, in like manner, need to be patiently waiting for our salvation into the coming Kingdom of Yahweh and the restoration of Yahweh's creation. The tribes of Israel cried out to Yahweh for a redeemer. Believers in this nation haven't experienced trouble like Israel in Egypt. I don't think it will take too long for many in this room to be praying the same prayers. Just as the Israelites were in Goshen and spared many difficulties and plagues, I understand it that faithful believers will be protected and spared from much of the tribulation that is coming to the earth in the final days. We need to remain faithful and live our lives according to Torah and how Yahshua lived his life in keeping His Father's commands.

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Revelation 12:17

Revelation 14:12

Revelation 22:14

There is a lot of debate when it comes to the book of Revelation and who the woman is in Chapter 12. For me, the importance is found in verse 17 of the chapter because I believe that it describes faithful believers. Do we really need to know who the woman is or is it better to know the description of who the adversary is attacking? Revelation 12:17 [...] the dragon was enraged with the woman and went off to make war with the rest of her seed, who keep the commandments of Elohim and have the witness of Yahshua. What follows in Chapter 14 and 22 are very similar in the descriptions. Revelation 14:12 Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of Elohim and their faith in Yahshua. Revelation 22:14 in older translations that follow the Textus Receptus Greek manuscripts state, "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city." Newer translations based on older manuscripts state, "those who wash their robes" instead of "those who do His commandments". Either way, there is a level of righteousness and purity we are to live by in Revelation 22:14 to partake in the tree of life and to enter the New Jerusalem by its gates. What is your expectation? How are you being watchful? How are you living your life?

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Matthew 12:36-37

Proverbs 18:21

1 Thessalonians 5:20-21

To give a recap of this message, we will be held accountable in what we say and teach. We will be held responsible and even judged by our words, not only by our actions. Matthew 12:36-37, where Yahshua was speaking against the Pharisees about knowing a tree by the fruit, said, "I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it on the day of judgment. [...] by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." Proverbs 18:21, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."

We need to be careful in who we accept teachings from. If at all possible, read scripture and don't blindly trust anyone's opinion about it. 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 "Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good." Listen to commentary but hold it to the confirmed word of Yahweh. Does it line up? Does it strengthen your understanding or lead you to more questions? Just because you might have more questions, you don't have to throw it out immediately. Weigh it, measure it and take it captive in light of scripture. Hold firmly to what remains true.

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Romans 3:23-25

Finally, we need to be careful to live a life in obedience to scripture. If we believe we will enter into Yahweh's kingdom, we need to live like Yahshua in subjection to the Father's will and instruction. We are by no means righteous on our own. Romans 3:23-25 clearly states, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of Elohim, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Messiah Yahshua; 25 whom Elohim displayed publicly as a sacrifice in His blood through faith, for a demonstration of [Elohim's] righteousness [...]" Live like Yahweh matters to you. May all praise be given to Yahweh.