

## Book of Hebrews Part 49 (2 of 2): 11:36-40; Champions of the Faith, Finale (4/11/2020)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/k94hkh4/book-of-hebrews-part-49-2-of-2>

\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

*For the full context of this teaching, please make sure you have watched Book of Hebrews Part 49 part 1 as this is a continuation of that teaching.*

Continuing from our story in part 1.

I am not going to get into this, but the fourth brother dies, the fifth brother dies, and the sixth brother dies. It is all recorded in the Book of Maccabees, and each one of them makes a statement that you could take right back to scripture. That is the thing about all these brothers: every time something comes out of their mouth, it's spiritually profound. It is something you can grab hold of, something that gives strength, and something that is anointed with the spirit you find in scripture. It is a beautiful thing.

Then we come to the last brother. He is the youngest. He is number 7, which is the number of perfection. And in 2 Maccabees 7:24 we read this—[The youngest brother being still alive, Antiochus not only appealed to him in words, but promised with oaths that he would make him rich and enviable...](#)

So now Antiochus ups the ante. It is kind of like, "Okay. You have just witnessed torture and intimidation. You saw your six brothers being put to death. Let that sink in a moment while I pitch this: I will make you rich and famous. I will give you honor." Everything Antiochus could possibly give him, wealth, fame, all of it, he was offering to the sixth brother.

It goes on in 2 Maccabees 7:6—[if he would turn from the ways of his ancestors, and that he would take him for his friend and entrust him with public affairs.](#)

So, it's not just about fame and honor, he was going to be given authority; people would have to answer to him. He would be considered in the arena of Antiochus' circle of friends. Like I said, everything that could possibly be put on the table is put on the table before this young man. And this is after he has had to watch his six brothers be tortured. I can't imagine what would happen with just one brother and how you would go stark raving numb over what's happening. But to see what he's experienced; you can't even put that into words. There is no description for that.

Continuing, how does this young man respond? I mean, the nightmare can end right here. All he needs to do is compromise. 2 Maccabees 7:2—[Since the young man would not listen to him at all, the king called the mother to him and urged her to advise the youth to save himself.](#)

So far Antiochus has tried intimidation and fear of bodily persecution. That did not work. Then he tries to entice the young man with fame, riches, wealth, honor, authority, and more. That does not work. So now Antiochus calls the man's mother. Here is where it gets intense.

2 Maccabees 7: 26—[After much urging on his \[Antiochus\] part, she undertook to persuade her son.](#)

Think about all of this. Let's talk about mom for a second before we continue here. Mom has been through a living hell no mother could possibly handle. She has just watch her six sons butchered right before her. How do you even respond to that other than now she's being given an opportunity by the king to talk to her last son? It's her only son left. She is urged to talk sense into him. Do you see how wickedly brilliant the devil is? And now he is scheming. He's moving multiple pieces together so that it all seems to make perfect sense. This is the most vulnerable point of the story. How could it get worse? Let's get mom involved, and certainly mom is not going to be willing to lose her last son. And certainly, this youngest one is going to adhere to the love of his mother. But listen to how this plays out, because she's going to come talk to her son. But this is going to go a little different than you might think.

2 Maccabees 7:27-28—[But, leaning close to him, she spoke in their native language as follows, deriding the cruel tyrant: "My son, have pity on me. I carried you nine months in my womb, and nursed you for three years, and have reared you and brought you up to this point in your life, and have taken care of you. <sup>28</sup>I beg you, my child, to look at the heaven and the earth and see everything that is in them, and recognize that God did not make them out of things that existed. And in the same way the human race came into being.](#)

This mother is anointed with the Holy Spirit. As she is speaking, the Holy Spirit is just flowing out of her mouth. This is just amazing!

2 Maccabees 7:29—[Do not fear this butcher, but prove worthy of your brothers. Accept death, so that in God's mercy I may get you back again along with your brothers."](#)

This did not go the way the Antichrist wanted it to go. It did not go the way the spirit of the devil wanted it to go. Look at this mother's faith! She knows the only possible way she can retain her son is if he gives his life. He must maintain obedience to God because she knows there is a resurrection of the dead. It is the same as Mary and Martha knew there was a resurrection. They had listened to Yeshua's teaching as He told them there is a resurrection at the last day. He told them, "All are going to rise up." Even when Lazarus was dead, Martha tells him, "I know my brother will rise at the last day." Martha knew it; this mother also knew she would get her son for all eternity if he followed the LORD.

This is what faith looks like. This is faith that is so moving. It transforms people when they hear about stories like this. This is the kind of people the writer of Hebrews is talking about in chapter eleven. This is the kind of faith all these men possessed whether they were delivered or whether they were tortured and killed. This is what it looks like.

So, how does the young man respond to Mom? This was the biggest gun the Antichrist could have pulled out. 2 Maccabees 7:30-32—[While she was still speaking, the young man said, "What are you waiting for? I will not obey the king's command, but I obey the command of the law that was given to our ancestors through Moses. <sup>31</sup>But you, who have contrived all sorts of evil against the Hebrews, will certainly not escape the hands of God. <sup>32</sup>For we are suffering because of our own sins.](#)

So here the youngest son recognizes the reason this spirit of Antichrist was able to come in like a flood and to have the power he had. It was because of the people's sin. Do you want to know why the spirit of Antichrist is going to rise in this world? It is because the door to allow him to come in and govern with such power is us falling away from the Lord. It is sin. He recognizes and confesses it was because of their own sin.

I must take you to Micah because this son is pulling from the prophet Micah. Micah 7:8-9— **Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; when I fall, I will arise** (This is exactly what this young man is telling Antiochus.); **when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me. <sup>9</sup>I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against Him,** (Exactly what this young man has come to the table with is exactly what we read here and Micah.) **Until He pleads my case And executes justice for me. He will bring me forth to the light; I will see His righteousness.** It will happen.

Continuing in our story in 2 Maccabees 7:36—**For our brothers after enduring a brief suffering have drunk of ever-flowing life, under God's covenant; but you, by the judgment of God, will receive just punishment for your arrogance.** They've drank of ever-flowing life. This is amazing!

This brother knows where his brothers are, and what they have done. He knows they're going to resurrect. He knows they're going to have all eternity. But for Antiochus, he's as good as dead.

2 Maccabees 7:37—**I, like my brothers, give up body and life for the laws of our ancestors, appealing to God to show mercy soon to our nation and by trials and plagues to make you confess that he alone is God....**

Isn't that amazing! By trials and plague to make you confess. You realize this young man is prophesying. He is basically telling you exactly what the Book of Revelation says, where the Lord is going to pour out His judgments and His bowls of wrath. The trumpet blasts are going to go forth, and He is going to show Himself strong to make the world confess that He alone is God. In fact, go back to the Passover story and the exodus out of Egypt. Pharaoh's magicians mimicked the first couple miracles Moses and Aaron performed, or the LORD performed through His prophets, until the third one. After that, they couldn't even stand before Pharaoh; after that, they couldn't mimic it. It tells us in scripture they knew it was the finger of God.

So, this is the reality that's going to come. This young man understands what is going to happen because there is a time coming when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Yeshua is Lord. It is coming.

2 Maccabees 7:39-40—**The king fell into a rage, and handled him worse than the others, being exasperated at his scorn. <sup>40</sup> So he died in his integrity, putting his whole trust in the Lord.** The king fell into a rage because when you don't do things his way, he absolutely flips out, loses it, and handled him worse than the others. How is that even possible? I mean, how much more excruciating and medieval, can you get on people?

If you read on, you find it wasn't just him that died. If you read the story, the mom also was killed, and she died in her integrity. And this story honors her. She was an honorable woman. The king sinned because he took the mother with the children. That is something that's prohibited in Torah even amongst the animals. You don't take the mother with their young. This is what the Antichrist does

because everything that is good and holy, he must do the opposite. He's pure rebellion; the essence of pure evil.

Here's what I want you to take away from this: Unless you have faith like these men, unless you have faith like the apostles, unless you have faith like all these men and women mentioned in Hebrews chapter eleven, and you have this kind of resolve, I'm telling you right now you're not going to make it in this generation. Persecution is coming. This sign of the Antichrist coming to power and great authority plays repeatedly throughout history. Those who don't know their history are doomed to repeat it. All you need to do is see this play out again. You can see it right in front of your face right now. It's even at the door right now. So, we need to have the same kind of resolve all these beautiful men and women we've been reading about demonstrated.

I want to share a recent headline to show you how close we really are. Without exaggeration, I could show you hundreds of things where we see this country has taken a turn. A page has turned, if you will, in how America views Christians and Jews. Isn't it interesting that both Jews and Christians are becoming that which is despised?

This article just came across my desk, and I just had to share it with you. This is from *The Federalists*, and the headline is *Coronavirus Is Christians' Fault, By Kylee Zempel, April 2, 2020*. So, here we have Jews and Christians being at fault for the Corona virus. This is the spirit of Antichrist. It's here.

The article states: The bigotry didn't get much clearer than a glaring New York Times headline: "The Road to Coronavirus Hell Was Paved by Evangelicals."

The article goes on: The March 27 article, the title of which was later changed to "The Religious Right's Hostility to Science Is Crippling Our Coronavirus Response,"

It's almost like they want to soften the blow. Let's just call it the religious right. In other words, even within government terms, the religious, or the religious conservatives, are being categorized with terrorists. I'm not making that up!

This is where we are at, and you must see what's coming. And when you know it's coming, my biggest concern is this: you need to be prepared. You need to be ready. You need to have a relationship with the Lord Yeshua, because if you don't, it's going to be the end of it. There is going to be no hope for you. If you think everything we read today was bad, and you're thinking pretty much the last thing that's on my bucket list to do is to end my life like that, that is nothing compared to the judgment of Yeshua.

So, if you think that's bad, that's nothing. The judgment of the Lord is far more terrifying, and is certainly something you do not want to see.

Let's get back to Hebrews 11:35-36 and finish this out. This is what we read—**Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.**

You know we read about stuff like this in the Book of Acts. Yeshua's apostles were persecuted. They were imprisoned. Peter was in prison. Paul was imprisoned. Paul received forty stripes minus one fifteen times. He was beaten with rods three times. We could go on. This stuff was happening in the

first century.

It says in Hebrews 11:37—**they were stoned...** Think about Steven. He was stoned and died. Paul was also stoned, but he didn't die. As Stephen died, he had this incredible vision of Yeshua. It also says in Hebrews 11:37—**...they were sawn in two....**

This is such a grotesque and vile way to die. And here is the thing: I know at least one of the primary people the writer of Hebrews has in mind was Isaiah because Isaiah was sawn in two. Here we have Isaiah, who brought all these beautiful, amazing prophecies about the Messiah Yeshua regarding the hope, redemption, and the forgiveness He would provide. And this prophet, Isaiah, who brought all these powerful, beautiful messages, died a horrific death.

In fact, to help give you a little insight, I want to show you some traditional writing on this. This is a Jewish-Christian writing that dates back to the first or early second century. It's called the Ascension of Isaiah, and it records a lot of what happened with Isaiah and this wicked King Manasseh, who was the son of Hezekiah.

This is part of the pseudepigrapha. This is outside the Canon of our Bible. With that disclaimer, let's go to the Ascension of Isaiah 3:6, 8-9— **And Belchîrâ (who is a false prophet) accused Isaiah and the prophets (the prophets who sided with Isaiah) who were with him, saying: 'Isaiah and those who are with him prophesy against Jerusalem and against the cities of Judah that they shall be laid waste....'** <sup>8</sup>And Isaiah himself hath said: 'I see more than Moses the prophet.'<sup>9</sup> But Moses said: 'No man can see God and live': and Isaiah hath said: 'I have seen God and behold I live.'

One of the reasons I wanted you to see this story is to understand this backdrop to Isaiah regarding this interaction between this false prophet Belchîrâ and Isaiah, a true prophet. Notice what the spirit of Antichrist did. This is pivotal. He comes in, and he uses the Torah to condemn Isaiah, and he quotes the passage. He didn't even distort the passage. He's using it in distorted context, but he comes out and quotes the Torah saying, "No one can see God and live."

Belchîrâ was right. You can read this in the Book of Exodus. It is true; it states it in the Book of Exodus. We know as you get to Isaiah chapter 6, Isaiah sees the LORD sitting on His throne. He is high and lifted up. Isaiah, with his own eyes, has seen the King of Glory, the LORD of hosts.

So, Isaiah says this, and Belchîrâ comes on the scene and says, "Isaiah, you're a liar because the Torah says no man can see God and live. But you say you can see God and live. Therefore, you are a liar.

I point this out because I want you to see how clever, seductive, and manipulative the enemy is. Again, he doesn't have a conscience. He doesn't ever say to himself, "I couldn't go that far. I couldn't do that to somebody." He is the most wicked and vile enemy the world has ever known. He is the schemer of schemers and the father of lies. He will use scripture as we have seen in his interaction with Yeshua. You have heard me say many times: he will absolutely toy with you. He tried with Isaiah. He tried to twist him and put a bad name on him through a statement in Torah that in itself is true: No man can see God and live. However, there are certainly times that men have seen God and survived for God's purpose.

Moving on to Ascension of Isaiah 3:10 where we find Belchîrâ, this false prophet, petitioning Manasseh. Belchîrâ is in Manasseh's camp, so to speak. They are buddy-buddy—**Know, therefore, O king, that he is**

lying. And Jerusalem also he hath called Sodom, and the princes of Judah and Jerusalem he hath declared to be the people of Gomorrah. This is true. You can read about this in the first chapter of Isaiah. Isaiah said this.

Can you see how Belchîrâ is distorting things? He is basically saying, “How dare this man come on the scene and start saying that our city, Jerusalem, which God has given us, is going to be destroyed? How dare this guy come on the scene and tell us that we are men of Sodom and Gomorrah knowing God destroyed them? But we are the people of God!” The same thing happened to Jeremiah the prophet that we see happening here. I'm going to tell you this: the same thing is going to happen at the end of the age, the very generation we are in. The enemy is going to attempt to use the Torah to pervert the truth.

Relating to this, there are so many aspects of the Hebrew Roots that are filled with the spirit of the Antichrist. It is not even funny; it is frightening. These people touting polygamy and all this nonsense essentially attempting to use the Torah saying, “Abraham and Jacob had multiple wives. Don't tell me that it doesn't matter. Torah even gives prescriptions for multiple wives.” They do this without even recognizing what the holy calling of God is going all the way back to the Garden. This stuff is perverse!

Continuing in Ascension of Isaiah 3:10—[And he brought many accusations against Isaiah and the prophets before Manasseh](#). Who's the accuser? It is the devil. Expect the Antichrist to behave this way.

Ascension of Isaiah 3:11-12—[But Beliar](#) (This is a demonic spirit: the spirit of Antichrist. This is a play off the demonic spirit Belea All, who is a demon without profit. It is a statement.) [dwelt in the heart of Manasseh](#) (Think about a demon dwelling in the heart. That is why he was so utterly vile and wicked. That's why he was a warlock, and that's why he did what he did: burned his children to Molech) [and in the heart of the princes of Judah and Benjamin and of the eunuchs and of the councilors of the king.](#) <sup>12</sup> [And the words of Belchîrâ pleased him, and he sent and seized Isaiah.](#)

Can you see the spirit of Antichrist, these demons, have great influence? Think about Proverbs 17:4, which helps me understand what's going on in the world and how all these people can listen to this media and drink the Kool-Aid. They believe half of the stuff that's being reported. It's just ludicrous. But then you remember—[an evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listened eagerly to a spiteful tongue](#). In other words, when people don't have Yeshua living in their heart, and they don't have the truth, it is easy to believe the lie. That's a reality.

Now, moving on in Ascension of Isaiah 5:1—[And he sawed him asunder with a wood-saw](#). This is absolutely vile! This beautiful, holy, and faithful prophet who saw the King of Glory being sawed in two.

Ascension of Isaiah 5:2—[And when Isaiah was being sawn in sunder Balchîrâ stood up, accusing him, and all the false prophets stood up, laughing and rejoicing because of Isaiah....](#)

You cannot make this stuff up! You need to understand something: The spirit of the Antichrist gets intoxicated by the blood of the saints. Look at the Harlot in the Book of Revelation who sits on the beast. She's intoxicated with the blood of the saints. They are laughing and giggling. It's demonic.

This is what happens as this holy and beautiful man of God is suffering. The demonic realm is giggling. It's so filthy wrong. There are no words to describe this.

Ascension of Isaiah 5:8—**And Balchîrâ spake thus to Isaiah: ‘Say what I say unto thee and I will turn their heart, and I will compel Manasseh and the princes of Judah and the people and all Jerusalem to reverence thee.’**

Does this sound familiar? The devil is willing to strike a deal here: If you basically call good evil and evil, good, you do what I say, we're not going to have any problems. We're going to be okay. I'll make sure they started accepting you, and everything's going to be fine. I will restore you.”

Ascension of Isaiah 5:9-10—**And Isaiah answered and said: ‘So far as I have utterance (I say): Damned and accursed be thou and all thy powers and all thy house. <sup>10</sup> For thou canst not take (from me) aught save the skin of my body.’**

In other words, you can't do me any harm. There's nothing you can do. You can destroy this flesh, but I'm going to resurrect. You can't kill me.

Again, I think about Yeshua's words in Matthew 10:28— **And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

Isaiah listened to the words of Yeshua. In fact, I'll take it a step further. If you read Isaiah and the Gospel of John carefully, you will discover Isaiah, when he saw the Lord of hosts, he saw Yeshua. That's who he saw. So he knew Him quite intimately, shall we say.

Ascension of Isaiah 5:11-13—**And they seized and sawed in sunder Isaiah, the son of Amoz, with a wood-saw. <sup>12</sup> And Manasseh and Balchîrâ and the false prophets and the princes and the people all stood looking on. <sup>13</sup> And to the prophets who were with him he said before he had been sawn in sunder: ‘Go ye to the region of Tyre and Sidon; for me only hath God mingled the cup.’**

So basically, what Isaiah is telling his prophet buddies is, “Go to Tyre and Sidon. The Lord has only appointed me to die. He has not appointed you to die here.”

Going back to Hebrews 11, you have some people who are going to receive deliverance and some people who are not that they might obtain a better resurrection. I assure you Isaiah will receive a better resurrection like that of John the Baptist.

Ascension of Isaiah 5:14—**And when Isaiah was being sawn in sunder, he neither cried aloud nor wept, but his lips spake with the Holy Spirit until he was sawn in twain.**

As we look at what the writer of Hebrews is saying here in Hebrews 11:37—**They were stoned, they were sawn in two...**—Isaiah is one of them. His story mirrors that of this story we read in The Book of Maccabees with Eliezer and with these seven brothers. These are awesome men and women of God who were willing to die for the faith.

Now the writer of Hebrews continues in Hebrews 11:37 and says—(these men) **...were tempted, were slain with the sword.** We can even read in Acts 12 where James, one of the sons of Zebedee, was slain with the sword.

Hebrews 11:37—**...They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented....**

This is a very different description than what you would get out of the prosperity gospel and how everybody's supposed to be wealthy and prosperous and have all the desires of their heart met. And those things are how, you know, you're walking in the beautiful grace of God, and that the favor of God is on your life. Yet you read a passage like this, and you are like, "What are you talking about?" There are many, many, many righteous men who went about being destitute. They were penniless. They were broke. They were afflicted and tormented. That's a reality of the faith.

The apostles were a great example of this. Isaiah is a great example of this. Zacharias is a great example. John the Baptist is a great example. We could go on and on.

Think about the sheepskins and goatskins. This is a reference. We can read this in one of the early writings of 1 Clement where it refers to Elijah and Elisha. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins; and as we know, Elijah wore a leather belt.

Hebrews 11:38-39—...of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. <sup>39</sup>And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith....

How are we going to obtain a good testimony? There's only one way. That is faith. You can't obtain a good testimony of faith without faith. You can't obtain salvation without faith. You can't obtain healing without faith. You can't obtain being victorious over the world, as it states in 1 John, without faith.

Faith is the most essential thing we must have. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. For he who comes to God, must believe that He is God. Do you see? It all begins with true faith. And true faith culminates love. The highest of heights. It brings faith full circle. Love brings full circle the beautiful thing of faith.

Hebrews 11:39-40—...did not receive the promise, <sup>40</sup>God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

So here is the amazing thing the writer shares: all these awesome men and women who have died for the faith, they're not going to resurrect apart from us. There is going to be this universal resurrection where all God's children are going to rise up at once. It is going to be mind-blowing to say the least!

Now, coming to the end of Hebrews 11, I want to compare all of this with Passover. What does this have to do with Passover you ask? This later part of Hebrews chapter 11 is about Passover. It's the perfect message for Passover. Why would I say that? What does it have to do with Pesach? Well, a lot more than you might think. Looking at Deuteronomy 16:1-2—"Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night. <sup>2</sup> Therefore you shall sacrifice the Passover to the LORD your God, from the flock and the herd, in the place where the LORD chooses to put His name. In other words, guess what? You don't get to sacrifice the Pesach lamb outside of Jerusalem. It could only be sacrificed there.

In Deuteronomy 16:3, we read this—You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it. So here we have the command that we are supposed to eat unleavened bread, and we do this for seven days from the 15th to the 21<sup>st</sup> of Abib.

Now, here's where it gets interesting. As we continue, we're going to discover a particular name for this



bread. And what is that? Deuteronomy 16:3—**that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste).** (Emphasis added)

Every year at this time of Passover, we are given this reminder that we need to eat the bread, the bread of affliction, and it reminds us of the following in Deuteronomy 16:3—**...that you may remember the day...** We can never forget. We remember the day—**...in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.**

Now, if you remember the Exodus, it was a hellish experience for the children of Israel. I want you to understand something: when Moses and Aaron came to them and said to Pharaoh, “let my people go,” Pharaoh immediately responded as the spirit of Antichrist, the devil, would. He doubled down on the affliction oppressing and tormenting them to a degree they had never experienced before. Make no mistake about it. They were eating the bread of affliction. But again, as that happened, as it got more intense, what happened? They got delivered; there was deliverance for them.

Every year, as we come to this time, we are to recall that very event. But not just that event; we are to recall another event, and we get this from Yeshua in Luke 22:19—**And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."**

So here again at the first Exodus you have the LORD taking them out of Egypt. And the reason we celebrate Pesach is because of that. But then Yeshua comes on the scene and tells them, “All of this that you have been celebrating is about me.” And what do we know about Him? What did He do? **Do this in remembrance of me?** We are never to forget what He did for us on the cross; the price, the great sacrifice, that He paid. He was afflicted. He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and it's by His stripes that we are healed.

Now, let me take this a step further because this all has to do with the bread of affliction; it all has to do with the persecution I've talked about today. We go back to 1 Peter 4:1, which I've quoted multiple times—**Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.** (Emphasis added). Do you understand? That affliction and suffering Yeshua experienced so that we could be saved, we are to arm ourselves with this same mind. We are to assume the bread of affliction. We are to partake of that.

If any of you went through the baptism series, you know one of the things I mentioned in traditional Judaism is when any Gentile was going to convert, one of the things they would warn you about was, “Do you understand that you are coming into a persecuted family? We are a nation that is extremely persecuted.” All you need to do is look at the history of Israel, and there's no mystery here. They're an extremely persecuted people. They are highly afflicted.

So they would tell the convert, “You need to know this before you convert.” And if the convert said, “Yes, I understand. I'm going to do that. I'm going to go through the mikveh, and I'm going to get the circumcision,” then there was full conversion. But that was one of the requirements for them to understand.

Like them, this is a requirement I think we forget because we got soft in America. We all get soft in America thinking we're not called to be afflicted. When in fact, that's exactly what we are called to experience. We are called to pick up our cross, follow Him, and to die to ourselves. Paul told us in

Galatians 2:20—I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

This Passover, we have a lot of time to ponder. One of the things you need to be thinking about is this bread of affliction. When we eat it, we are agreeing to lose our life for the sake of His. We are agreeing that if the Lord so chooses to call us to an Isaiah moment, to a seven brother's moment, to an Eleazar moment, to a Zechariah moment, to a John the Baptist moment, or to a Paul or Peter moment, we have agreed to eat this bread. We're willing to eat the bread of affliction because of what Yeshua did for us. That is the agreement. It's called coming into covenant with Yeshua, confessing Him as Lord and Savior, and being willing to go wherever we need to go.

Some of us may not face martyrdom. Some of us may be tortured. Some of us may be imprisoned. The Lord knows your future. He has your path marked out. The big thing is you need to be willing to eat that bread. That's the bread we've been given.

I'm going to close here for today. I just want to thank you for joining us. The Lord is so faithful always, even during this difficult time. This message was not intended to scare you at all. This message is intended to strengthen you.