

Book of Hebrews Part 18: 4:12; Open Graves; Saul Calls Samuel's Spirit; Eternal Judgment (1/19/2019)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://cornerfringe.com/media/6f45ytk/book-of-hebrews-part-18>.

***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.**

We are, if you didn't know, still in Hebrews, and we are still looking at this elementary principle of the resurrection of the dead. We have been here for several weeks now. Well, we are going to continue today to look at this. There are a few more details I want to cover, because we are going to be so motivated today. We are going to be breaking into our next elementary principal. So that's good. But, first things first. There are a couple of passages that come up anytime I talk about the resurrection of the dead. People ask me questions about these two particular passages. One is hotly debated, and the other one is just dramatically mysterious. We are going to begin today by digging into each one of these. Then, we will move on to our next elementary principal.

So, with no further ado, let us kick this off by going to Matthew 27:50-53 where we read—⁵⁰ **And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.** [He's on the cross. He's been crucified. He yielded up His spirit] ⁵¹ **Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,** ⁵² **and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;** ⁵³ **and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many** (emphasis added). I wish I had a nickel for every time somebody came and asked me about this passage. What is this?

One of the things about this that makes it so mysterious is the fact there is no other testimony in Scripture about it. How do you have an event of this magnitude, that is one of the most incredible events recorded anywhere in history or that has ever happened in Scripture, and there is no other testimony to it. None of the other gospels talk about it; and so, there is a lot of mystery that shrouds this particular passage. The good news is we are given details and they are specific. Let us walk through this together.

The first thing we know is the graves were opened and many bodies of the Saints were raised. Now we learn a lot right there. Number one, this is an authentic resurrection. This is not spirits or ghosts, whatever you want to call spirits rising up; this is not that situation. This is flesh and bone. A total resurrection of the dead. They are coming out of the graves, but that's not all we're told. It is a specific group of people. What people. It's the Saints. This is important. Why is this recorded? What was the purpose of any of this? This is significant, and you need to know it is the Saints. This is not the wicked.

The second point I want to make is this; the timing of this resurrection of the righteous is very specific. It happened after the resurrection of Yeshua. Now that tells you a lot.

What does it tell you? The whole point here is you can see it unfolding. The LORD wanted to leave Himself a testimony to the resurrection of His Son. This is what is at work here. It is so powerful when you see it.

Now, just think about this for a second. We know Yeshua showed Himself only to select people. This is a fact. He first shows Himself to Mary and then goes on to show Himself to His Apostles. Then, eventually we're told, according to Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15, He shows Himself to 500 people at once.

When you're dealing with an empty tomb and the lie that was created, that His disciples came and stole Him away, they are combating the lies of the devil. It is critical, because the word hangs in the balance on this testimony. Our faith hangs in the balance on the resurrection of the Messiah Yeshua. The LORD took steps to ensure He had legitimate testimony and legitimate witnesses. We also have, beyond those witnesses, true believers who were willing to die for the faith that He rose from the dead.

Now, to put this in context; you are sitting in a house having a wonderful meal. You have your challah bread there. You're in Jerusalem. It's the first century. The Messiah has been crucified, and you heard about some of our people proclaiming Him to be the Messiah. You're not quite sure. All of a sudden, walking through the door, comes Uncle Jacob who's been dead for three years.

What do you do with that? Think about this for a second because, this is realistic and it's many, it is not some, it is many of the bodies of the righteous. They go into Jerusalem, and they appear too many. So, imagine you're sitting there, you're having a meal, and Uncle Jacob walks in. He has been dead three years. There would be people fainting. Let's be honest because we know that would happen today. Let's say you were at the funeral; they died two, three, four, or five years ago, whatever the case may be, and they showed up your door. It's beyond overwhelming. With that rush of feelings people would faint.

So, you can imagine many of these people showing up? Scripture does not tell us how many rose, but could we estimate, fifty, a hundred, or three hundred? We don't know, but they entered into the city. Now, think about all these Jewish people who are living in Jerusalem who are seeing their lost loved ones come to life. Think about that. Then, you have the Apostles running around trying to spread the gospel of Yeshua. They are saying, "The LORD was resurrected. The One they crucified. The One you have heard of. He is Messiah. He's been resurrected from the dead." You could just imagine the person saying, "You know, yesterday I wanted to believe you, but today Uncle Jacob walked through the door; now I believe you!"

Do you understand? The purpose of this testimony is to proclaim and promote the truth of Yeshua's resurrection. It's a powerful testimony. Like I said; it is one of the most incredible events recorded anywhere in Scripture; however, you have that mystery nobody else picks up on it. So, this adds to that.

The other thing I want to mention about this is that most likely, and I say we can safely assume because the text is not explicit, but we can safely assume all these many righteous men who rose and went into Jerusalem appearing to many were from that generation. So, they could have been dead six weeks or five years. They could have been dead seven years, maybe ten years. Why do I say that? What good does it do to raise a people from the dead when that generation has no idea who they are? It does not

do any good. So, this eludes to the reality all these righteous men who would testify and bear witness. The people would know them. It would rock them to the core.

Put this in context. If I had somebody come up to me and say, "You know, I was your 15th great, great, great, great, grandfather," I'm sure I'm thinking that person's medications are low. You're not going to take somebody like that seriously. I've never seen you before in my life. You can tell me anything you want. But if I know I walked with somebody, I talked with them, I spent time with them, and then they show up raised from the dead; I have no question. Something great and awesome is going on. At that point, the gospel goes out. The Savior of the Jewish people has come. He is risen from the dead. This is a powerful story that helps promote the gospel.

One of the other things I get asked about is, "Where did they go? Well, they died again. Think about this; this is biblical. You go through the Bible, and the Bible is consistent. When Elijah raised the widow of Zeraphath's son, what happened to the son? The LORD expanded his days allowing him to live; then he died. The same thing happened with Elijah. He raised the Shunammite woman's son from the dead. What happened to him? He would spend more days in the time allotted for him, then he would die. He would go to what they call in Hebrew, Sheol. He would go to the grave.

What about Lazarus? Yeshua raised him from the dead. He didn't ascend into heaven. No. He lived out X amount of days, whatever he was allowed, and then he died.

So, such is the situation we would have here. If they ascended to heaven, that would have been recorded without question. We find it recorded in Scripture, whether we're talking about Enoch or whether we're talking about Elijah, it is very specific, but we don't see that here. And so again, it's clear these people would be given X amount of days to live, to bear that testimony. It was all for the glory of Yeshua's name, and then they would die again. They would go to Sheol.

There's one other thing I want to mention about this passage, and that is there may be another testimony in Scripture, and here is where it gets interesting. We've already covered it, but I want to take you there because this is some interesting food for thought. Going to 2 Timothy 2:17, we read—**and their message will spread like cancer Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth** [And what did they say?] **saying that the resurrection is already past** (emphasis added). I want you to think about something for a moment. Could it be Hymenaeus and Philetus are responding to Matthew 27 and what is recorded there? Let me ask you this; how could you go out and preach a false message with this gospel that's built on nothing? They had something. They were working with, something. They were working with some event to justify their eschatology telling people they were missing it. Matthew 27 would offer that opportunity perfectly because it was the righteous. They were resurrected, and Philetus and Hymenaeus would be able to look back and say, "We missed the resurrection. Sorry guys, you know, it happened. Everyone's heard about what happened in Jerusalem." Think about that because the potential is absolutely fascinating.

I have one thing to add; every time I look at a magnificent event performed by Yeshua, the Devil comes in after and perverts it. So, what I'm proclaiming here wouldn't be like, "Oh, that's crazy out of the box." Not at all. Yeshua goes out and is casting out demons. The Pharisees and the devil came in and turned it saying, "Yeshua casts out demons by the devil. He heals on the Shabbat." Yeshua does miracles and awesome moves of God to which He says, "the Kingdom of God has come upon you," and the Pharisees and Devil come in and say, "Oh no. Yeshua committed sin."

At every historic event, every awesome event, every move of God and the power of God, the Devil comes in to destroy. He has to because it all bears witness to Yeshua. It all bears witness to Him. So, I just throw that one out to you for food for thought.

Moving on to our second passage, and this is found in 1 Samuel 28. This is a one-of-a-kind. You won't find any other passage like this in all of Scripture. The situation here is Samuel the prophet, who was so close to Saul, at least for a time, has died. Saul is in some trouble. He's desperate, but he doesn't have Samuel to communicate with. So here is what we read in 1 Samuel 28:5-6—**When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid and his heart trembled greatly. ⁶ And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by the Urim [Which is to say the Urim and Thummim], or by the prophets.** Those are the sacred stones that were literally placed on the breastplate, the vestment, of the high priest. The priest would consult these sacred stones. The LORD would speak through these stones. They are known as Oracle Stones: Lights and Perfections.

If you hear stuff like this, you might be thinking, “Are you reading the Lord of the Rings books, Daniel?” I haven't read that but, but this stuff is in Scripture. This is the thing about the LORD. The LORD speaks in different ways, and, these Urim and Thummim would be over the heart of the priests. It was one of the ways the LORD would speak. He would also speak by dreams, but now, however, the LORD is not speaking by the Urim and Thummim, and Saul is panicking.

Moving to 1 Samuel 28:7—**Then Saul said to his servants, “Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her.” And his servants said to him “In fact, there is a woman who is a medium at En Dor.”** The term medium in Hebrews is אֹבִיט (‘*owb*). It is a necromancer. This is somebody who calls up the dead. You need to understand this is real; they were getting into witchcraft. It is Satanism.

So Saul is calling for this necromancer who lives at En Dor. Now, not that it has anything to do with what we are discussing, but I will mention this because it is interesting to me that this witch has taken habitation in En Dor. The reason I say that is because this city of En Dor is within the tribe of Manasseh. This is in Israel. We're within the tribes, but this was one of the cities that Israel never conquered. The Canaanites maintained it.

Isn't it interesting? Here you have a witch taking refuge in this Canaanite City, and the Canaanites were fraught with Satanism and witchcraft. They practiced it; the Torah tells us they were very, very engaged in it. So this woman is in her home town of En Dor.

Moving on, this is what we read in 1 Samuel 28:8—**So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes, and he went, and two men with him; and they came to the woman by night.** Why are they coming to her by night? Because according to the Torah, they are doing something they shouldn't be doing—**And he said, “Please conduct a séance for me and bring up for me the one I shall name to you.”** We go on to verse 9—**Then the woman said to him, “Look, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the spiritists from the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?”** She said this because Saul had cast them out. They were anti-Torah. It was ungodly; they were to be cast out of land. That's what he did.

1 Samuel 28:10—**And Saul swore to her by the LORD saying, “As the LORD lives, Does this seem crazy to you? They are engaging in a practice that is abominable to God, but Saul says—as the LORD lives. In other words, it is going to be okay. 1 Samuel 28:10-13—As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing.” ¹¹ Then the woman said, “Whom shall I bring up for you?” And he said, “Bring up Samuel for me.” ¹² When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman**

spoke to Saul, saying, “Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!” ¹³And the King said to her, “Do not be afraid. What did you see?”

You need to pay attention to that because Saul doesn't see Samuel. This is a critical piece to this puzzle, and I'll elaborate on that in a moment. The witch sees Samuel because she is in a spirit realm.

1 Samuel 28:13—**And the woman said to Saul, “I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth”** (emphasis added). This is interesting especially after all the things we've covered in regard to the resurrection of the dead. She does not see the spirit descending from heaven because, where are the righteous? They are in the earth; they are in Sheol. They are in the grave, and this is where she sees him coming from.

I want to draw your attention to one thing that doesn't affect the passage. It is the word spirit. In Hebrew it is אֱלֹהִים (*'elohiyim*). So in reality she said, “I saw an *'elohiyim* ascending out of the earth.” The reason I brought this up is I have seen some really bad commentaries stating what she saw was God. God was coming out of the earth. Typically, *elohim* is the word used for God, but it can be used in the context of false gods too. This is important, explicitly of judges. You can read Exodus 21 and Exodus 22. What was Samuel? He was a judge. He literally judged Israel all the days of his life. So the reality of what she has seen come out is that she has seen a great one. She has seen a great man. She has seen a judge. It is Samuel.

Moving to 1 Samuel 28:14—**So he said to her, “What is his form?” And she said, “An old man is coming up, and he is covered with the mantle.” And Saul perceived that it was Samuel.**” She has to describe this event because Saul doesn't see him. This is in the spirit realm.

Continuing in 1 Samuel 28:14-- **and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down.** Now listen to this—¹⁵ **And Samuel said to Saul** (emphasis added). This is critical, so we have to stop here. **Samuel said to Saul.** The reason I have highlighted this is because you will find countless pastors and people going out telling their version of the story giving their interpretation. I cannot tell you how many times I've heard people say she was literally talking to a demon, a familiar spirit. They say she has raised a familiar spirit. How many of you have heard this before? I'm going to tell you right now, it is a lie from the pit of Hell. That proposition does not work because it is biblically inaccurate. All you need to do is read the biblical account. What is highlighted in the verse is not my opinion. This is the Bible's account of it.

Here's what's important. You need to understand the book of Samuel was not written by Samuel. It is attributed to him because he is the main character, but Samuel is not even mentioned in 2 Samuel. These two books were originally one book. It was written by another writer. We don't know who, but, somebody chronicled an account of the life of Samuel and everything about David and so forth. You need to understand, it is not written contemporaneously as he's in the moment going through these things. He is not writing as these things happened. He's looking at the past. He's collecting all this information, and he is chronicling it, like Luke does.

Have you read what he says? Why does that matter? It makes all the difference in the world because as a chronicler you're looking at history. You are recording history and being very careful to lay out all the things. When you do it like that, if Saul was talking to a demon, he would say, “The demon said to Saul.” This is what he would say.

This is not what he says. This is authentically Samuel, and this is critical. The deeper we get into this, the more you're going to see this. We have been talking about the importance of the resurrection of the dead and the fact the righteous do not ascend until the last day. As we look at that passage, I want to show you why it has value regarding having your eschatology in order.

There is one particular commentator telling his interpretation that Saul could not have been talking to Samuel because Samuel was in heaven. You see what happens? This commentator tells us Saul is talking to a familiar spirit because the righteous are not in Sheol. Do you see the distortion of what happens when you come to a story like this? It is great perversion to call Samuel a demon. This is not okay, and the devil loves it.

Continue in I Samuel 28:15—**Now Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?”** (Emphasis added). Again, where is he coming from? From Sheol, and this is his spirit. I want to be clear; this story is very different than Matthew 27 where we have flesh and bone being resurrected. That is not the situation here. This is the spirit of Samuel, and he's communicating through a witch. I know that's bonkers, but here's the reality. Unless, you have met somebody who has been in Satanism as a warlock or a witch, practiced black magic, and have astral projected, you do not appreciate the power of the occult. It is real. It's not a game.

There are imposters who will read your palm. They give you a very ambiguous answers and so on and so forth. There's no question about that. There are also imposters in Christianity who truly serve the devil. Guys like John Ramirez will tell you how real it is and how much power there is in the occult. He traded it in for the faith in Yeshua. But you have to understand there's real power here.

So we continue in verse I Samuel 28:15—**And Saul answered, “I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and does not answer me anymore, neither by prophets nor by dreams. Therefore I have called you, that you may reveal to me what I should do.”**¹⁶ **Then Samuel said:** [Not a familiar Spirit; not a demon] **“So why do you ask me, seeing the LORD has departed from you and has become your enemy?”**¹⁷ **“And the LORD has done for Himself as He spoke by me** [see because Samuel prophesied over him and said the LORD had torn the Kingdom from him.] **For the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David.**¹⁸ **Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day.**¹⁹ **Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines.** [Listen to this] **And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me** (emphasis added).

It happened exactly how Samuel told him. The very next day Saul was killed. Isn't this interesting? This is what Samuel tells him—**tomorrow you are going to be with me.** That's interesting. Where is Samuel? He's in Sheol. He's in the grave. Where is Saul going? Where was he to be with Samuel? In the grave? That's fascinating because up to this point we have only been talking about the righteous and what happens to the righteous when they die? They go to Sheol. They rest in the grave until the last day, until the end of the age, and until Jacob grabs the heel of Esau.

Guess what? So, do the wicked immediately upon death. They don't immediately receive the reward of hell. Here's some additional proof from Job 21:30—**For the wicked are reserved for the day of doom; they should be brought out on the day of wrath.** They are totally reserved. In John 5:28, we read what Yeshua said—**“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth those who have done good.** [What do they come forth to?] **John 5:28—to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.** (emphasis added).

You're either resurrecting to life or to death, but you are not immediately receiving your order upon death. Look at Isaiah 1:28—**The destruction of transgressors and of sinners shall be together** (emphasis added). Isn't this interesting? What did we talk about regarding the righteous? The righteous are collected and unified unanimously together, and then they go up into Shamayim (שָׁמַיִם), Heaven. The same thing happens with the wicked, they are collected together.

This is all interesting because this very statement—**transgressors and sinners shall be together**—is the same thing Yeshua says in Matthew 13:41—**The Son of Man will send out His angel, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness** (emphasis added). Now that is fascinating because, we talked about the angels. They come and get the righteous. Guess what? There are angels that are reserved to go get the wicked.

That's when Yeshua says He will separate the sheep from the goats. It is because He has sent His warriors to go out and literally bind the wicked. This is an amazing thing.

Look at what Yeshua says in John 12:48—**“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.** If you subscribe to modern-day theology in which Yeshua will judge people immediately upon death, then he would have said that. But that is not what He said; it's not until—**the last day.**

Look at what it says in 2 Peter 2:4—**For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;** [Not even the angels who sinned against him have been destroyed yet.] Moving to 2 Peter 2:9—**Then the LORD knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment** (emphasis added).

You see how beautiful Scripture is and how everything makes perfect sense when you allow it to develop your eschatology and theology. It's so much easier. However, for some reason we fight against these things. It's the flesh, right?

Well having said all of this about the wicked in judgment, it is a perfect opportunity to segue into our next elementary principal, which is eternal judgment. When you look at eternal judgment in Hebrews chapter 6, you'll notice out of the six elementary principles, this is the last principle mentioned. However, I want you to be very careful. Don't think because it's the last it's the least. It is not the least of all the principles, and you will agree as we move forward.

This one principle is the driving force and the catalyst that propels the gospel. I couldn't possibly put enough emphasis on this. If you take this one away, the rest will fall to the wayside. You might say, “What do you mean by that?” It is real simple. Until eternal judgement is preached, you will never recognize your need for a Savior. Until eternal judgment is preached, you will not value and you will not see it as a necessity to repent from your dead works. It directly affects all these other principles. It's the engine that drives all of this.

I want you to think about this for a second. If you want to preach the gospel to a dying and lost world and say, "Listen, you need Jesus. You need a savior," and the world says to you, "Why, what do you mean I need to savior? Perhaps you don't know, I just got a raise, I just got promoted at work, and my life has never been better. You are telling me I need a Savior?"

Then of course, you say, "No. You need a Savior because of sin." They say, "Why? What do you mean, because of sin? What's that got to do with anything?" Now, you have to get to the very basement of this core issue and have to say, "The wages of sin is death."

See, this is what it is. It is life and death. If you do not move on to repentance from dead works, if you do not confess Yeshua as LORD and Savior, while asking and begging Him for forgiveness of your sins, you will be destroyed, utterly destroyed. Isn't it amazing we can have such moments of clarity and perspective in a twinkling of an eye?

There are people who had really scary things happen to them when they were growing up. One of them was a friend of mine having a gun put to his head. In a moment, he got perfect clarity on what mattered. All the money he valued and was not willing to part with, he was willing to give at that moment so he was not killed. Isn't it amazing how you can have, in a twinkling of an eye, perfect clarity on what is valuable? I'm telling you this principle gives us that clarity. This is the principle that will give us the moral clarity on life and death and reality.

I want you to think about something. What would the gospel look like without it? What would the gospel of the Messiah Yeshua look like without this principle of eternal judgment being preached? My answer is it will look a lot like the gospel we see taking the world by storm today. This is a seeker friendly, seeker sensitive movement. It doesn't talk about sin anymore. It doesn't talk about eternal judgment. Now they've created a new gospel that is much more appealing. It is palatable. Instead of having this very narrow path that is so narrow minded and so difficult, they have widened the path for you, making it easy. This path doesn't demand change or demand obedience. In fact, they will retrofit this gospel to fit your fleshly desires so it fits into your life. They've created a gospel that's literally pliable to the culture. That's what this new gospel is, and they tell you, "Hey, this gospel really inspires," to which I say, "To what end?" Then they say, "Oh, this gospel is so, right." According, to who they see, it is so wonderful, but for how long?

This is a scary new gospel we're seeing being preached all over the world. It's not just an American phenomenon anymore. This is a gospel rooted in deception that does not have eternal judgment as part of an elementary principal of the gospel, and it is sending people to hell.

Irenaeus of Lyons, in the second century, made this statement—[Those persons prove themselves senseless who exaggerate the mercy of Christ, but are silent as to the Judgment.](#) What is fascinating about Irenaeus is when he made the statement, he lived in the generation of one of the fastest growing Christian sects the world had ever seen. It was one that Tertullian tells us infected the whole mass of the faith known as Marcionism. Irenaeus is responding to this type of gospel. Marcion threw away sin and judgment. He talked nothing about it. He literally unhitched, pun intended, from the Old Testament, which was no longer of value to him. The message was nothing about sin and repentance. It clothed itself in this beautiful nomenclature of love, grace, and mercy, and that is all he talked about.

We need to talk about those things. We need to share the love of the LORD, but it has to be tempered with the elementary principle of eternal judgment. Eternal judgment is the mortar of the brick wall.

Don't build up all your elementary principles, but leave out eternal judgment. I tell you, if you want to build a brick wall, go home and lay bricks on top of one another. If you set up all your elementary principles, but leave out eternal judgment (the mortar) a young person could just go up and push it down with their hand. But if you put it up with mortar, it is going to hold up against the storms, against the waves, against the sea, and it can hold up to what's happening. If you remove that principle, you will experience total collapse. We need this principle. We've got to preach this principle. We need the full gospel more than ever before.

Going to 2 Corinthians 7:10, we find Paul says—**Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to Salvation.** How many times have we looked at this process? Paul is very well aware of how this works. The first domino begins with Godly sorrow. Godly sorrow, this is pain. This is suffering. This is conviction. This is where eternal judgment comes in the terror of the LORD and overcomes you because you're listening to His Law, and you know what the Torah says. You know what the Prophets say, and what they say is, "You will be blessed if you keep My commandments, but you will be cursed if you do not."

Terror sweeps over you, and what does it do? It produces repentance, which is another elementary principal. This is what I am saying; eternal judgment is directly attached to all these principles. If you embrace this, and then you move to repentance, what does that do? That leads to salvation through faith. That's where it's at. You think the devil is going to try to come in and interrupt this? Absolutely.

Look at Proverbs 16:6—**by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.** I want you to go home and do a word study. See what you find. We could do a sermon series on just the fear of the LORD and all the times you find it in Scripture. What is the fear of the LORD? It's the fear of His wrath; of His vengeance. This is eternal judgment. Every time you look at this, you could say, "By the eternal judgment of the LORD, one departs from evil."

This is where we get the fear of the LORD. Isn't it interesting that it's only through that fear you will have the strength to overcome the flesh that comes naturally to rebel? What is inherent in our flesh is to rebel against God. You will break that when you grab all these principles, all of them, including eternal judgment. You will break the hold the flesh has over you.

Go back to the garden and look at what happened? What did HaSatan do to Eve? He comes to her and tells her, "Did God really say you should not eat of every tree of the garden?" He calls into question God's Law, His commandments, but how did he set the hook? You will surely not die. You see how that one principle of eternal judgment was taken away from Eve, and it was the fall of mankind. Do you see the emphasis we need to be placing upon this principle?

Let me give you some examples; and without exaggeration, there are thousands. It's terrifying how many examples I can give you. I want to give you real examples of what we're dealing with today.

In the last year, I don't know how many of you heard, but in Iowa they proposed a special bill called the Heartbeat Bill. What it says is that upon being able to hear a child's heartbeat, which is within weeks of conception, you cannot abort. It is an amazing bill. It would essentially ban abortion in Iowa. That's what would happen with a small window, and certainly that window would still be considered by the LORD as murder, but think of all the children it would save.

Well, here's the thing. Let me read to you one of the headlines that came out of this—**SHOCK: Dozens of 'Christian' faith leaders sign letter supporting 'right to abortion'** (LIFE SITE – Mark Hodges, March

20,2018, *Abortion Heartbeat Bill, Iowa*) This is not a joke. When it says dozens, let me elaborate on this. This is actually in the article. This is what it said—[Sixty-eight faith leaders who say they are Christians signed a letter of protest against the pro opposed to Iowa law that would protect the preborn children from abortion once their heartbeat is detectable](#). This is their actual letter that they submitted. This is a quote from it—[As Faith leaders, “We want to use our collective voices to stand with Iowan women in support of their constitutional right to an abortion.”](#) Mainline Protestant denominations, led the letter in both numbers and prestige with a female United Methodist bishop, a priestess from the Presbyterian Churches USA, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, American Baptist Churches USA, Reformed Church in America, Unity Church, Episcopal Church, and United Methodist Church signing the document (LIFE SITE – Mark Hodges, March 20, 2018, *Abortion Heartbeat Bill, Iowa*).

Isn't that amazing? How ecumenical! Let me get this straight; all these pastors decide to get ecumenical and break down the lines of doctrine to find unity and stand against life. This is insane. This is the age we are living in, and you cannot make this stuff up.

Let me continued—the [letter from faith leaders characterizes the heartbeat bill as immoral. Pastors are calling this immoral and an attack on the constitutional right of women. They conclude that the Heartbeat Bill is unconstitutional and it is wrong. The letter concludes another person's theological understanding of when life begins cannot trump the rights of women](#) (LIFE SITE – Mark Hodges, March 20, 2018, *Abortion Heartbeat Bill, Iowa*).

This is where we are at today. I am going to tell you; lawlessness only leads to more lawlessness. You want to un-hitch from the Old Testament, then this is what you will see. Anything goes; the sky is the limit; anything is apparently possible. This is what happens when you remove the elementary principle of eternal judgment from the faith. The unthinkable will absolutely happen. Every single one of them still professes Yeshua as LORD. They clothe themselves with the nomenclature of love, mercy, and grace, and how much God cares for these women.

Do you understand the deception that is involved here? This is absolutely insane. We are living in an age where God's Holy Law and the reality of eternal judgment is abomination, and we're not talking about the world. We're talking about the church. Think about that. The church is literally being swayed by the spirit of antichrist. This is demonic. This is from the pit of Hell. Where are these people who are supposed to stand up for truth? Where are they?

I am going to share another article; however, in this one you actually find a man with integrity. His own flock pushes him out of the church. Did anyone hear about the story in California this week? Well, let me show you. Here's the headline—[Congregation ousts pastor over sign outside church saying homosexuality is 'still a sin.'](#) [What it read was this] [Bruce Jenner is still a man, Homosexuality is still Sin. The culture may change; the Bible does not.](#) He put this on his sign out in front of the building where you do your clever little messages so people driving by can see. Then his own church ran him out. They would not tolerate that because they are tolerant.

Do you understand what is happening here? Where is the fear of eternal judgment? That fear is not there. That fear has been stripped. It's gone.

Let me read to you the words of this pastor—[As, of today, I'm no longer the pastor of Trinity Bible Presbyterian Church. After much prayer and counsel, I have decided that it is best to briefly](#)

communicate what has taken place. I was informed that essentially all but one couple in membership would leave the church if I continued as pastor of TBPC.

They pushed him out. Were we ever forewarned of something like this? In other words, if you say things we don't like, we as a congregation are going to run you out of here.

To answer that, look at 2 Timothy 4:3-4—**For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;**⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables (emphasis added). In other words, if you say things we don't like, as a congregation, we are going to run you out of here.

This man has the conviction of the Holy Spirit, holding fast to what is true, conviction of God's Law, wanting to do what is just, wanting to do what is righteous, and you would think the sheep would back him on this. They totally threw him out. This is where we're at. This is what happened.

You see, the pastor understands hell is coming. It's on its way. The church is looking to appease the world and to be pleasers of men rather than being pleasers of God. They want to receive the praise of men rather than the praises of God. We are in trouble.

Here is a quote from Leonard Ravenhill—**All you have to do is get in a closer walk with God and you will find out your own enemies are in your own church.** Unfortunately, this pastor in California found that out firsthand. It is just a reality, and Ravenhill was a revivalist. This guy was a prayer warrior, and this guy ripped to shreds this false gospel I am talking about today. He ripped it to shreds. It is the Antichrist masquerading by using the beautiful and holy name of Yeshua.

Now we're going to go to Acts and see what the gospel looks like in action. Acts 24:24—**And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.** I want to give you a little backdrop here, which does come into play. Felix and Drusilla were no saints. Felix is on his third wife, and Drusilla, who is Jewish, abandoned her last marriage for this Gentile; for this uncircumcised man. On multiple levels, this is un-Torah like. This is not a good situation.

Continuing in Acts 24:25—**Now as he [Paul] reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time, I will call for you."** Look at what it says. He reasoned about righteousness. How does a first-century Jew reason about righteousness? Where did he go? He went to the Torah. He went to the Prophets and he began to unpack righteousness, holiness, and the commandments of God and use these as he began to reason about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come. That is what Paul did, and Felix was afraid. When you look at that in Greek, it literally means totally full of fear: paralytic fear.

So, when Paul is preaching the true gospel, notice he talked about the judgment to come. This guy is, metaphorically speaking, broken down to his knees. He couldn't handle it. He was terrified. This is what the gospel looks like when it is preached fully. This is the effect it has on people.

Now certainly there are going to be some people who will laugh in your face. They will laugh, mock, and scoff. However, I am telling you when you preach this gospel, the gospel of repentance, and it hits its mark, it will drop them, but, we have to do it the way God has commanded us to do it. We find that in

2 Corinthians 5:11—**Knowing, therefore, the terror of the LORD, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences** (emphasis added). Paul is focused on eternal judgement. He knows what is coming. It is the motivation. It's the driving force for him to overcome all these tribulations because he knows what the world is going to go through. He has the heart of Yeshua; he doesn't want anyone to experience the judgment to come. He wants them to be set free. He wants them to possess grace. He wants them to have the mercy and forgiveness of the LORD. Knowing the terror, He goes forth.

Look at Colossians 1:28—**Him we preach, warning every man** [in what: the judgement to come] **and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.** This is what he's doing, **warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom.**

Let me give you a little bit of an idea what this looks like to show you what Paul is drawing from, and his talking the terror of the LORD and warning every man. Let me take you to the prophet Isaiah 13:6-9—**Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. ⁷ Therefore all hands will be limp, Every man's heart will melt, ⁸ And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces will be like flames. ⁹ Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it** (emphasis added).

Who talks like this anymore? Are we hearing these messages from the pulpit about the wrath and anger of the LORD? You never hear about it? That is scary because it is what is coming.

Marcion would tell you that wrath and anger is of the God of the Old Testament, "He's a random vengeful hateful wrathful God. We, however, serve a God who is just, loving, merciful, and graceful. He will love you right in your sins, and you just keep going. You are going to be fine."

That's not what the Prophets say. The prophets tell you that Hell is coming, and you should think about this. One of the things to grapple with, as you grow in the word, is thinking of this context of the LORD being angry. He literally says in Torah in Deuteronomy 32—**vengeance is mine.** I am not hearing this hellfire being preached today; that is what is scary.

So when Paul talks about knowing the terror of the LORD, this is what he's talking about. The LORD is coming to destroy, and isn't that interesting? He's coming to destroy sinners from the world. This is very different than His first coming. We have this delusion as Christians that we think the first way He came is exactly how He's coming again. He did not come to call the righteous the first time but sinners to repentance. That was His love, mercy, and grace. That is not how He is coming next time. He's bringing wrath, and He's coming to kill the sinners, not save them.

Understand he is not coming to save the sinners. He's coming to kill them. This is why we need to start talking about eternal judgment. It is a huge aspect.

Look at Psalms 7:11-13—**¹¹ God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day** [That should terrify you but here's the hope.] **¹² If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword;** [that tells you if you do turn back, He will relent. Do you grab the elementary principle of repentance from dead works? You do so by putting your faith in Yeshua, trusting in His righteousness, knowing He paid the price, and He can forgive your sins. Through that, there is hope. But, it says] **¹² If he does not turn back, He will**

sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready. ¹³ He also prepares for Himself instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts. This is the reality of what is coming.

I'm going to take you to one more passage. In Revelation 19:11, John looks up and he sees the coming of the LORD—**Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war** (emphasis added). This little detail John was very careful to include. He says, "in righteousness." This comes right out of the prophecy found in Psalm 96:13—**For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth.** What is interesting is in Psalm 119:172, it tells us—**For all Your commandments are righteousness.** Go back a few verses to Psalm 119:151—**And all Your commandments are truth.**

Do you think we should be putting some emphasis on the commandments today, because this is how He is coming to judge? When the Shema says in Deuteronomy 6:7—**you shall talk of them when we sit in your house, when we walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up**—there's a reason. It is because the judgment is coming. It is because the gates of Heaven are going to open, and the judge is going to come forth. He is going to judge according to His commandments, and the ones that are going to make it are the ones who never, for a second, forgot His commandments. Every day you go out into the world, what is the devil trying to do? He wants to separate you from the commandments of God in order to get you to depart from His Holiness? This is scary, and yet it is happening.

Continuing on in Revelation 19:12—**His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.** ¹³ **He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called *The Word of God*** (emphasis added). Yeshua has many titles. He is Meshiach Ben David. He is the son of David. He's Emanuel. He is the Bright and Morning Star. He carries all these titles, but this title is used in this context of Him coming to judge. The name given to Him in this context is **The Word of God.**

Think about the commandments, righteousness, and truth. He's coming to judge in His commandments. It is His word, and Yeshua is His word. That is why He's dedicated as judge.

One of the things I want to specifically mention is He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood. The natural response is because, "He paid the price for the sins of the world, so, He is clothed in His own blood." No, He's not. The context of this is judgment. It's not His blood. It's the blood of the wicked.

Let me show you this passage from the prophet Isaiah. This is what John is talking about—**Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?** ³ **"I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes** (emphasis added, Isaiah 63:2-3).

That is a prophecy. It is the blood on His garments, the blood of the wicked, the blood who rejected Him, and it is the blood of those who would not turn in repentance. It is the blood of those who would not hear eternal judgment was coming. It saturated His garments is what we are told in Revelation. The blood is going to flow to the bridles of the horses. No one is going to make it. This is the hell that is being brought here in Revelation 19:15—**Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should**

strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (emphasis added).

Now I want you to look at how He destroys them. How does He destroys them? **Out of His mouth goes a sharp sword.** What does the sword represent? Hebrews 4:12- **For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.** (emphasis added). It's with His word. His name is the Word of God.

I am telling you to go to His word, the Bible, and start studying His commandments. Start immersing yourself in the word. Get to know who Yeshua is. I am trying to tell you, right now, something is going on because I have never experienced so much persecution in my life from preaching the legitimacy of Torah through faith in Christ. I have never experienced anything like this. People are calling me the Antichrist. There is literally hatred for the commandments of God. We are living in a filthy and perverse generation. There are very few men who are willing to say what needs to be said and to stand with the LORD in the face of adversity.

Let me take you to Isaiah 66:16—**For by fire and by His sword The LORD will judge all flesh; and the slain of the LORD shall be many** (emphasis added). There are two things I want you to see: the fire and the sword. Let me take you to Jeremiah and show you something about fire. Jeremiah 23:29—**Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?** (emphasis added).

You see, these Holy Commandments we find in Torah are the righteousness of God. It is these commandments that are going to set the world on fire. If you have not kept them, it's going to burn you. You are going to dissolve. You are going to melt away. You're going to be destroyed.

Listen to this in Hosea 6:5—**Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have slain them by the words of My mouth; and your judgments are like light that goes forth** (emphasis added). When he says—the words of His mouth—you might think of Psalm 78:1-- **Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to hear the words of my mouth.**

Think about that. Nobody wants to hear about the Torah anymore. Nobody wants to hear about His commandments because they're offended. I am not talking about the world. I'm talking about the church. It is offensive.

I am going to leave you with this thought from Isaiah 63:4—**For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come** (emphasis added). That is talking about the Messiah. Yeshua is coming, and this is in His heart. It is His desire to destroy the wicked ones who rebelled against Him, and He is going to set His captives free.

He goes on and says—**the year of My redeemed has come.** So Yeshua will lift them up. He will lift up the righteous. You do not want to be on the other side of this coin. Amen?