

Book of Hebrews Part 62 of 63: 13:8-13; Yeshua/Jesus Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever

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/bfhf9v4/book-of-Hebrews-part-62>

***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.**

The good news is we are almost done with Hebrews. We will be wrapping this up in our next message. To be honest, this has been the most enjoyable series I've done. I've enjoyed this one. I think it's really powerful digging into this. It's kind of exciting to cross the finish line. The scary part is that I don't know where I'm going after this so, it's kind of Abrahamic in that way and that's okay, be that as it may.

Today, we are going to be confronted with what I would call a very extraordinary passage. In fact, this is something that has some serious depth to it. This is one of those statements that demands your attention. It requires you to step back and spend some time contemplating on the implications of what's being conveyed.

Now, I don't know about you, but I suspect many of you have what I have. I have a repertoire of particular passages that I have clung to for years. Passages that have taken me through the valley of the shadow of death. Passages that have spoken to me in those moments when I needed the Lord the most. Passages that have brought me to my knees. Passages that convict. Passages that build my faith. I have a repertoire of about 50 plus verses that constantly go through my heart, through my mind, and out of my mouth all the time. They're instrumental in my prayer closet.

I will give you a couple examples: Psalms 103:2-4 where the Lord tells us — **forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your sins, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction.** How many of you want to live on the path that gives life, and all the promises of God are yes, in Yeshua? The passage doesn't say that some of your sins will be forgiven and as long as it's not too hard, some of you who need healing will be healed. You can read it in Psalms. It is very clear; all your sins will be forgiven, and all your diseases will be healed. That's powerful!

Another example is 1 John 1:9 — **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.** I think of Jeremiah 3:22 where He says — **Return (to me) you backsliding children, I will heal your backslidings.** I will do it. These are passages that I thrive on.

Passages like Matthew 7:21-23 will change your religion. It changed mine. Christians and believers think everyone's going to get into the Kingdom of Heaven, but Yeshua says — **Not everyone who says to Me 'Lord, Lord', will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but He who does the will of my Father (then He says) — depart from Me, you workers of iniquity.**

Another passage, Ephesians 6:12 — **we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers ... against spiritual host of wickedness.** What does that do for me? It keeps me out of the flesh. It keeps me in the spiritual realm. There's more going on in the spiritual realm than there is in the fleshly realm. We need to have that perspective. There are dark powers moving against you. There are passages like that I recall. Psalms 144:1 — **He trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle.**

I think of 2 Corinthians 10:4 — **the weapons of our warfare are not carnal** (They're not fleshly. It's not a gun. It's not a staff. It's nothing like that.) **but mighty in God for the pulling down of strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God** (and I live in this realm) **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Yeshua.** It's training us in this war. How do I fight this war? You take every thought captive to the obedience of Yeshua. I live in this. This is the realm we need to live in.

I have a repertoire of passages that constantly feed me. They protect me. They give me strength. They build my faith. They take me out of the depths of hell, and in another moment, they are dropping me to my knees in humility.

The passage that we will look at today and be confronted with is one that I have in my repertoire of life-giving scriptures. After today, you will understand why I include it as it's very powerful. I suspect you will add it to yours if you haven't already.

Now, looking at Hebrews 13:8 — **Messiah Yeshua is the same yesterday, today, and forever.** For those of you who have been through the Hebrew series, you know that the author is prolific. He's doing something interesting. He's circling back. Keep in mind that we are in Chapter 13. He's making his exit from this epistle, and yet he takes us back to his introduction in Chapter 1. He doesn't ease into this epistle. As you begin to read it, he blows his audience completely out of the water saying that this is who Yeshua of Nazareth really is; Stand in awe. Then one of the first things he literally says in Hebrews 1:3 — ³ **... Yeshua holds all things** (together) **by the word of His power** meaning He holds the universe together by the word of His power. Who can that be, but God alone? Then he builds on that.

He takes us to Psalms 2 — **Beni attah ani hayyowm yalidtika. You are My Son, Today I have begotten you.** Then he builds on that and says — **Let all the angels of God worship Him.**

Then he builds on that with Psalms 45:6 — **Kisaka Elohim owlam waed. Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.** The writer of Hebrews is literally saying that this is Yeshua. This is the one he's talking about called Elohim.

Then he says this in Hebrews 1:12, and he's quoting from Psalms 102:26 — ¹² **Like a cloak you will fold them up, and they will be changed. But you are the same and Your years will not fail** (emphasis added), The writer's circling back. He's reiterating a point that is critical so that we understand who this Yeshua of Nazareth really is. He says, **Messiah Yeshua is the same yesterday, today, and forever.** Why is that important? Why is this so awesome?

Let's read Malachi 3:6 — **For I am the LORD. I do not change. Therefore, you are not consumed, O sons of Ya'aqov, Jacob** (emphasis added). **I am Yahweh.** It's the tetragrammaton. **I am the Lord** and the Lord doesn't change. Now, here's the thing. To say that **He's the same yesterday, today, and forever** is only a principle that can be ascribed to God. So, who is this Yeshua? He is God, being the Son of God. He is

ehad, one with His Father. This is the *shema*. Remember the *shema* is a revelation of the beautiful relationship between the Father and the Son. “Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one.

Now, let's look at this verse in Hebrews 13:8 alone — ⁸ **Messiah Yeshua is the same yesterday, today, and forever.** This is more than simply a radical deistic statement. There's a lot more here than that. In fact, this is about God's character. This is about power. This is about mercy. This is about love. When this becomes a reality for you and you truly understand this, it will change the way you read the Bible. It will change how you pray and how much you pray. It will change your life. For some, you will change your religion. That's how impactful this is. I guarantee you, if you truly understand this, this is going to happen. So, I want to spend some time on this because it is so powerful. It is going to open the doors of the Holy Spirit in your life.

The first thing I want to talk about is cessationism. How many of you are familiar with this term, cessationism? This is a term that describes the belief that many Christians hold that the outpouring of the gifts of the Spirit, like words of knowledge, prophecy, the speaking in different languages that we call tongues and the gifts of healing ceased with the apostolic age. They think that once John was done with his revelation the gifts ceased to exist. Once the Bible was completed, the gifts aren't needed anymore. They were simply utilized to establish the church, to kind of kick start it.

If you were in business, you would look at the gifts as the initial capital. For a business to get off the ground, they need the initial capital from investors, but after that they don't need the investors. This is kind of the mindset of cessationism. There are cessationists that will absolutely tell you that God can do anything. They believe that God is all-powerful, but He doesn't move like that anymore. The problem with this ideology is this — ⁸ **Messiah Yeshua is the same yesterday, today, and forever.** That's their problem.

Let's read the gospel of Mark 8:1 — ¹ **In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Yeshua called His disciples to Him and said to them, ² I have compassion on the multitude** (emphasis added). This is an absolute fact; it's been recorded. As the story continues, you'll see evidence that Yeshua had compassion. We see Yeshua's heart for His people. If—**Yeshua is the same yesterday, today and forever**, I can only come to the conclusion that He is still compassionate today. Is that significant? It's pretty significant when the devil's whispering in your ear, telling you that Yeshua doesn't care about you and is not going to be compassionate towards you because that was for other people. That becomes very significant.

This is what happened to Israel, don't be fooled. God showed Israel His power and compassion. He supernaturally protected them from the seven last plagues on Egypt. He instructed them to slay the lamb and put the blood on the doorposts, sparing them from His wrath and showing them His compassion so they didn't die. He took them out of Egypt supernaturally and miraculously brought them through the Red Sea on dry ground, and when they looked back, they watched their enemies fall before them. And the very first thing that happened is that the Israelites looked around and said, “Have you brought us out into the wilderness to kill us with hunger? To kill us and our children? This is what you have done?”

Make no mistake about it, the devil repackages it and sells the same thing to you. He whispers in your ear that God is not going to help you in this situation; there really is no hope; it's beyond Him, or as a cessationist: God just doesn't move that way anymore. It's absolutely demonic. This is who He is. He is compassionate, and we can rely upon His compassion.

We are going to find out what prompted this emotion within our Master Yeshua to be compassionate. Pay close attention! Mark 8:2 — ² **I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have had nothing to eat** (emphasis added). There's not a whisper in this passage whatsoever of anyone in that crowd complaining that they hadn't eaten. No one said, "We followed this crazy babbler out into the wilderness and now look, we have no food. He only brought us out here to kill us." See that's what their forefathers said. These people care about one thing. All they want is the Messiah. They want Yeshua.

Think about Deuteronomy 8:3 — **man shall not live by bread alone but man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD** or Yeshua. They were literally walking that out. That was their life. That was their sustenance. Isn't it fascinating?

One day goes by and nobody is saying, "His teachings are awesome, and He's been doing some crazy miracles. I appreciate this guy, but we haven't eaten and there is no food in sight. Is anyone getting worried yet?" Nothing like this is said. Nobody cares! There's not a whisper.

Two days go by, and nobody's eaten anything. And guess what? None of them have left because they are following Him. They have Him. They are seeking first the Kingdom of God and nothing else matters. They are not concerned about their well-being. They're not concerned whether they're going to have enough. They're simply following their shepherd. Absolutely mind-blowing! This is so powerful! But it was these people he showed compassion to.

I wonder, are we this diligent in seeking Him? We wonder why we don't see powers happening, why we're not seeing miracles, why we're not living in the book of Acts today. Are you like these men? Are you following Him with no concern whatsoever for your flesh?

No matter what the cost, you're willing to follow Him, to listen to Him and crave Him. He's the most important thing, and if you die, it would be okay because you're with Him. This is what it takes to evoke that emotion of compassion from Yeshua.

Moving on, we read this in Mark 8:3 — Yeshua says, ³ **if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way**; I can't help but think about what Yeshua says in Matthew 6 — ¹ **Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink or ... what you will put on**. He goes on in Matthew and says, — ³² **for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things**. I will say that again. He knows you need all these things!

How many times in our life have we not appreciated that **He is the same yesterday, today, and forever** and think, "He doesn't really know that I have this need, so I'm going to do this. If nobody takes care of me, it's not going to happen." Yeshua says that what we are supposed to be worried and concerned about is our faith in Him and knowing He knows our needs. Whatever we need, Yeshua knows the need. It's amazing that He actually identifies the need for food because if we don't eat, we will die. Yeshua knows the people will not make it; **they'll faint on the way**. He knows their needs.

Continuing on in Mark 8:4 — ⁴ **Then His disciples answered him, (Oh, this is good) "How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?"** (Emphasis added). Does this sound familiar? Go back to the wilderness experience when Moses said, **"Where am I to get meat to give to all these people?"**

Moses is saying that it's impossible. It can't happen. Yeshua's disciples are now saying the exact same thing, "How can we do this?"

Verse 5 — ⁵ He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" and they said, "Seven." ⁶ So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and they set them before the multitude.

Moving on to verse 7 — ⁷ They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before them. ⁸ So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets (not seven loaves, but seven large baskets) of leftover fragments. In other words, they were left with more than they started with. This was a total supernatural miracle. He literally fed them bread out of nothing. He multiplied what they had, and they were all filled.

If in fact—Yeshua is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and He was willing to feed the multitude in the wilderness who were following him at all costs, will He not do the same for us today? For those of you who are worrying, "Do I have job security? Do I have financial security? Do I have food security?", you need to follow Him. Now is the time, you need to learn not to trust any of those things and not to rely upon those things; the Lord knows your need.

The problem is many of us don't believe it, and we live our lives in a way that proves it. Our actions prove that we really don't believe that—Yeshua is the same yesterday today and forever—because if we did, we'd be a completely different body. I think of Philippians 4:19 — My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory. This is where we need to be.

I want to jump to the gospel of Luke 11:5 — ⁵ He (Yeshua) said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶ for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷ and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you' (What are you doing at my house so late? Go home.) ⁸ I say to you, though he will not rise and give him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs (emphasis added).

Obviously, the lesson, at least thus far, is don't you dare stop pursuing the Lord for a moment. Don't think, "If I don't get my answer, I'm doing it my way; I knew the Lord wasn't going to respond; He's expecting me to do it my way anyway." You pray without ceasing. Do you want to know another scripture in my repertoire? 1 Thessalonians 5:17 — ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. Luke 18:1 — ¹ ...men always ought to pray and not lose heart. Don't lose heart. Trust in Him. When we do not trust in Him, we are saying, "No, you don't know my needs; No, you can't provide." This is scary.

When you get into this topic, some of these scriptural principles really strip down all the deception and lies that we experience, that we tell ourselves, and that we listen to from the enemy.

Moving on in Luke 11:9 — ⁹ So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. In other words, guess what? We have access to the throne room. I cannot overemphasize this enough. We truly have access to communicate with the King of Glory. When you have that, anything is possible.

Yeshua continues in verse 11. He's giving us some perspective in regard to His heart. — ¹¹ **If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?** It's as though Yeshua is insinuating, "Why are you not asking? Do you expect the father to repay you once you ask with evil?" Is that our expectation? Who do we think He is? Has His character been compromised? Is He not the same? Has He changed from the God that we read about in the Bible that is so faithful?

Verse 13 — **If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!** (Emphasis added). Notice, Yeshua reveals the Father's heart. His heart is to grant our request. His heart is to come to our rescue. Would any father here, when their child asks for something, especially if they ask for something that pleases you, and you are thankful and glad that your child has asked such a thing, hesitate to give that child what they ask for? They have brought you joy. This is the reality of Yeshua revealing His heart in this matter. This is who He is. This is who we can trust. We can trust his character.

I want to highlight one point — **the Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.** Let me ask you a question, especially in light of cessationists who believe the power of the Spirit has ceased; we don't have the power anymore. What does the Holy Spirit do? We are being called to ask for it. What does the Spirit of God do? It brings the word of knowledge; it brings instruction; it brings truth; it brings strength; it brings prophecy.

Read 1 Corinthians 12. Read all the things that the Spirit is responsible for; it's responsible for the manifestation of languages that testify of the greatness of Yeshua; it's responsible for all the healings that we read about in scripture that are attributed to the Holy Spirit through the name of Yeshua.

So, when Paul has handkerchiefs being brought from his body because they have the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and the people receiving them are instantaneously healed and demons are driven out, that's the Spirit of God. That is what we are to be asking for. Should we ask and not expect? Should we pray and not be heard?

Mark 1:40 — ⁴⁰ **Now a leper came to Yeshua, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean"** (emphasis added). We talked about the hearts of the men, women, and children that were in the wilderness that were willing to go without food for as long as it took, just to be with the King. Now, look at the heart of this guy because there's a common denominator here with all this power moving through what we see happening in the gospels and in the book of Acts. There is a common denominator of the people who are receiving this power,,, and it's found in this guy. He comes, and what does he do? He kneels down and humbles himself literally in the sight of Yeshua. Then look at what comes out of his mouth; **If You are willing, You can make me clean.** There's no debate about His power. He confesses: You are the one that I need to come to; You're the one that can take care of my issue; I'm a leper; I'm banned; I'm outside the camp; I'm the offscouring of Israel, but you can help me if you are willing.

Let's look at verse 41 — ⁴¹ **Then Yeshua, moved with compassion** (emphasis added). He has moved with compassion again. I'm telling you, when you're distraught and plagued like this leper, know this: **Yeshua is the same yesterday, today, and forever.** In reading this passage, since it was possible with this leper, it is possible with you. This is a biblical fact. — ⁴¹ **Then Yeshua, moved with compassion stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."** ⁴² **As soon as He had spoken, (this is the power of His Word) immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed** (emphasis added).

If Yeshua was willing to do this then, is He not willing to do this now? Or do you believe He's changed? Do you believe He's different? Do you think that because this is a different generation, maybe He's changed? Or because we're living in a much uglier generation today, He's not willing to do something like that? I'm telling you right now, there are so many lies that come to sow doubt into your heart so that when you pray, it's completely meaningless because you cannot pray prayers of doubt and expect absolute response on something that requires total faith. It is impossible.

I feel sorry for those who have fallen into this cessationist mindset; the mindset that God's done doing that because they're being stripped of the power and the riches and the beauty of relationship. This is about relationship with God, the beauty of that relationship and the benefits that come with having a relationship with Him.

I'm showing you several passages in my repertoire. These are passages that I hang upon, and many of you know how many times I quote Matthew 19 where the young rich man comes to Yeshua and asks what he must do to be saved. Yeshua basically tells him to sell everything he has, to get rid of it, and come follow me like these people in the wilderness, willing to leave everything, willing to starve to death just to follow me. You come and follow me. Well, we know that the rich man goes away devastated. He's broken.

At which point, we learn this, Matthew 19:23 —²³ **Then Yeshua said to His disciples, "Surely, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven."** Last thing I want to hear as a believer is that this is going to be hard. We don't want to hear that. I don't want to hear, "Narrow is the gate, difficult is the way." I want to hear, "I'm getting in no matter what." That makes me feel good and there are some pastors that do a great job of preaching that and unfortunately deceiving the masses.

We don't want to hear this, but Yeshua says it is hard. When Yeshua uses this term, what does he mean, it's hard? How hard is it? We find out as we continue —²⁴ **And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."** Yeshua just said it is literally impossible. Try to take your finger and put it through the eye of the needle. It's interesting, Yeshua doesn't use that analogy. He could have said, try to put your finger through the eye of a needle and His disciples would have responded, "That's crazy. That's absurd!" but He goes for one of the largest animals in the land, a camel. It's a joke; it's so preposterous and so out of the question that there can be no debate about what Yeshua is conveying. In other words, you can't get in.

It's impossible, which is exactly what we continue to read —²⁵ **When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"** (They understood what he was saying.) ²⁶ **But Yeshua looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible"** (emphasis added). Understand that you can't do this. It is impossible for you to enter into the kingdom of God of your own accord or through any pastor, any teacher or anyone else. It's not going to happen. It's only with God. It's only by confessing Yeshua. It's only by calling on His name. And with Him, the impossible now becomes possible.

If this is true, if **Yeshua is the same**, God is the same, **yesterday, today, and forever** and Yeshua's teachings are true, and He tells us that with God all things are possible, that means all things. Whatever situation you're up against. I don't care how much death people have been speaking into your life. I don't care how precarious the situation is. This is what you need to remember, with Him, it is possible. I

can go to Him. There's hope. There's help. Again, it doesn't matter what you're going through, there's hope.

Let's take a look at the gospel of Mark, Chapter 9. The father presents himself. He has a son that's riddled by a demon, and nobody can help him including the disciples. He comes to Yeshua and says — ²² **"...But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."** Listen to what Yeshua says — ²³ **"If you can believe, all things are possible to Him who believes"** (emphasis added). Now, I'm showing you this passage in conjunction with what we just read in Matthew 19 because there's a requirement. For that statement to become true in your life, that with God all things are possible, you have to believe. It hinges upon your faith. It hinges upon: I believe that **God is the same yesterday, today, and forever**. If you don't believe it, you'll experience nothing.

It's amazing the conversations I've had with cessationists where they say, "You know what? It's clear that God doesn't work in the power of the Spirit like he used to do in the book of Acts because I can look around, and I'm just not seeing those things." What they are seeing though is a crazy circus show and these extreme Pentecostal movements of people rolling around on the floor, barking like dogs and doing all sorts of other bizarre stuff. So, they see that and say, "This is just phony; I'm not seeing the real McCoy."

You need to study exactly what the gospels say. You need to listen to what's being conveyed here, that you have to believe. My response is that if we are not seeing these things, we have a faith problem.

Two things make Yeshua marvel. They're both on the same topic of faith. On one side, Matthew 8:10, regarding the centurion — ¹⁰ **Yeshua marveled, and said ... I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!** And guess what happened? Exactly what the centurion asked for came to pass. On the other side, Mark 6:6 — ⁶ **He marveled because of their unbelief**. Read Mark 6:5 and guess what you find out? It says Yeshua could not do mighty works there. He was prevented. Now, this is the King of Glory, able to do anything, and He could not do mighty works there because of their unbelief.

So yes, your faith in Yeshua, in His words and believing and knowing that **He is the same yesterday, today, and forever** is going to change your life. It will change your perspective; it will change how you read the Bible; it will change how you pray; it'll change all of it when you believe this passage.

That being said, we are going to cover one more verse today, Hebrews 13:9 — ⁹ **Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines**. There's more to the verse, but I am interrupting this for a moment to deal with the statement alone. Think about what the writer is warning! He's in his exit of this epistle, and he leaves his audience with a severe warning; don't fall into this trap. The New Testament is riddled with this very warning, and so the author has fallen into line with all the other apostles and with Yeshua's teachings.

I'll give you an example from the apostle Paul, 2 Timothy 4:3 — ³ **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**. How scary is it when you are living in this warning; when you're actually seeing this happen; when people are being picked off one by one. I'm seeing believers being picked off. They are being seduced by seductive spirits that are alluring.

Yeshua makes a statement in Matthew 24:24 that if it were possible even the elect will be deceived. That's a kind of deception you don't want to hear exists. I don't want Satan to come to me as an angel of light and his ministers as ministers of righteousness claiming they are declaring the way of the Lord. This is exactly what is happening. So, the deception is real. There's no question about it.

As the writer says — ⁹Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines, be aware. This falls in line with all the other ones. In 2 Peter 2:1-2 — ¹But there were also false prophets among the people, (You can read about it in the book of Jeremiah) even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies ... ²And many will follow their destructive ways. Many! They will be taken out!

Paul warns Titus to beware of Jewish fables. As we know, there were believing Jews in the first century that were wreaking havoc on the church. Again, I say believing Jews that did not line up with the apostles. There was a schism and fracturing, but the problem is now they're going to build up disciples. No, you follow Yeshua, you come with me. It's a disaster from the first century on. It's chaos. It's war. Satan knows the power of the gospel.

Continuing with Hebrews 13:9 — ⁹... For it is good that the heart be established by grace (emphasis added), I'll never miss an opportunity, at least not intentionally, to talk about grace. Paul says in Titus 2:11 — For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. Who are we talking about? We are talking about Yeshua. So, if you want to be good and faithful students of the Word, every time you come across *charis*, grace in the Greek or *hen*, grace in the Hebrew, you need to replace it with Yeshua. If you want to truly understand the full impact, we should be reading it this way — For it is good that the heart be established by Yeshua (emphasis added). That is critical. If we are not founded on grace, on Yeshua, we are as good as dead. We are as good as lost. We are open for deception. It's open season. You will not make it. Yeshua is the rock that we need to be founded upon.

Continuing in Hebrews 13:9, the author says we're to — be established by Yeshua, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. What does the writer mean? Now we are getting into a little bit of controversial land where there's a little bit of debate. Where is the writer of Hebrews coming from in this statement? Is he referring to the absolute craziness of the first century that erupted where you had “meatetarians” versus vegetarians? Is he referring to Romans Chapter 14? We know these things existed.

1 Timothy 4:1-3 — ¹Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³ forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth (emphasis added). Is this where the writer of Hebrews is going? Is this the context of what he's saying? Certainly, without debate, this stuff is happening in the first century where this dichotomy is being presented. You had gnostic Christians, and we still have gnostic gospels today, and you can read about them and see how far off they really are. But gnostic Christianity was Christianity mixed with this philosophical craziness of Gnosticism. It infected the mass of the church. It was very popular. Gnostics were vegetarians. They were reaching for a higher element of spiritual enlightenment by removing all of what they would call death from their diet. So, it was seen as a spiritual advantage. So, you had gnostic groups and you had Jewish Christian groups running around and promoting this.

For example: Epiphanius Panarion goes guns blazing. I mean he absolutely comes unglued against all the heresy that's going on. He calls out these different groups, one of which was the Nasaraeans. Listen to this: Against Nasaraeans 1:4 — **And so, though they were Jews who kept all the Jewish observances, they would not offer sacrifice or eat meat; in their eyes it was unlawful to eat meat or make sacrifices with it.** This was a Jewish Christian group. So, you have these factions going out. They existed.

We have the Ebionite movement, and I'll read this from Against Ebionites 22:3 — **And again, the Lord himself says, "With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you."** (Referencing Luke 22) **And he did not simply say "Passover" but "this Passover"** (Now listen to Epiphanius' terms) **so that no one could play with it in his own sense. A Passover, as I said, was meat roasted with fire and the rest. ⁴ but to destroy deliberately the true passage these people have altered its text** (emphasis added). It's so funny; it's crazy actually because people in the first century were maligning and twisting scripture and it's still happening today. There's nothing new in regard to this. It kind of blows your mind. — **which is evident to everyone from the expressions that accompany it—and represented the disciples as saying, "Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the Passover?" and he supposedly saying, "Did I really desire to eat meat as this Passover with you?"**

In other words, what Epiphanius is saying is that, the Ebionites came on the scene and changed what was recorded in the gospel, how I desired to keep this Passover with you. They said, "No, what he actually meant was did I really desire to eat meat at this Passover?" You can't find it in any Greek manuscript. It's completely made up, but this is what they have done.

There are other examples I could give like changing the diet of John the Baptist from locusts, which is meat, to cakes simply by playing with the Greek from moving from *akris*, locusts to ἐγκρίς (*enkris*) cakes. The first century is riddled with this craziness of vegetarians saying that you can't eat meat. Paul deals with this explicitly in Romans 14. This stuff was really happening!

The question is "Is this what the writer is talking about in Hebrews 13:9? — ⁹ **For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.** Follow me because while the writer could address everything that we know existed, there's no debate, and it has been addressed in the New Testament, this is not what the writer is dealing with. The writer, just like verse 8, the preceding verse where he reverts back to Chapter 1, is now reverting back to Chapter 9. There's something he wants to reiterate again. Follow me on this, and this will play out.

In Hebrews 9:8 — ⁸ **the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was standing. ⁹ It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered **which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience** (emphasis added). This is obviously talking about the priesthood fulfilling the ceremonial sacrifices. It couldn't make him perfect because the conscience as you read Hebrews 9:10 — ¹⁰ **concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation** (emphasis added). Remember what this chapter was all about? It was about Yom Kippur. The whole context of this is explicit. It's Yom Kippur.**

Let's go back to Hebrews 13:9, and you will see something interesting because the whole context of this is Yom Kippur. That allows us to understand exactly what he is saying. There's more in this verse — **which have not profited those who have been occupied with them** (emphasis added). ¹⁰ **We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.** This

is explicitly Yom Kippur. Leviticus 16:27 talks about how they couldn't partake of those animals. They could not partake of that sacrifice, and so the bodies of those animals were burned outside the camp, and that's exactly where we need to go.

Moving on to verse 12, the writer says — ¹² Therefore Yeshua also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. ¹³ Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. Hopefully, you can interpret everything I just said. It's very simple what the writer is laying out. He doesn't want you to get caught up with these foods and referring to the ceremonial sacrifices that were given on Yom Kippur. Our rock is Yeshua. This is literally a parallel passage from Chapter 9.

We need to be founded on Him. We need to believe the very statement that we talked about today: that He is the same, yesterday today, and forever. If He was able to do all these amazing things, to forgive our sins and care for us miraculously, then He is able to do it today. This word is so powerful!

What will divide us, the sheep from the goats, is the faith. True faith draws you into righteousness. True faith draws you into repentance. True faith draws you into prayer and fasting, things that your flesh hates. But you will desire to be so close to Him and so convicted over those struggles in your life that you are having, that you will run to fasting. You will know that this is where you need to be. It is an awesome thing. In fact, I can tell you weekly, it's the best part of the week for me. You want to shed that ugliness. You want to draw close to Him. Amen.