

Session #16

To Tremble

The sacred task of handling the Word of God

Whoso despises the word shall be destroyed: but he that fears the commandment shall be rewarded.

Proverbs 13:13

Where the word of a king is, there is power . . .

Ecclesiastes 8:4

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.

Luke 1:38

The Sacred Text

How should one handle the Holy enunciations of God Almighty?

Tremble at it

For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word . . . Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word;

Isaiah 66:2,5

Receive it with all readiness, and search it daily

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Acts 17:11

Receive it in much affliction

And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

1 Thessalonians 1:6

Receive it as, it is in Truth, the Word of God

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually works also in you that believe.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Receive it gladly

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 2:41

Keep it, follow it, bend to it, and revere it

But whoso keeps his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

1 John 2:5

Treat it as precious

And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

1 Samuel 3:1

Let it always reside on your tongue

The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and his word was in my tongue.

2 Samuel 23:2

Let it perform that which it promises, let it build the temple, let it be verified in your life, let it bring you the rest of God

And the LORD hath performed his word that he spoke, and I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel . . . And now, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spoke unto thy servant David my father . . . Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.

1 Kings 8:20, 26, 56

Conform to its pattern for carrying the Holy Presence of God

And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD.

1 Chronicles 15:15

Be always mindful of it, abide in its reality, live in the shadow of its sublime truth

Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations;

1 Chronicles 16:8

Praise it and trust it

In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me . . . In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word.

Psalm 56:4, 10

Publish it

The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.

Psalm 68:11

Listen to it, Heed its every utterance

Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Psalm 103:20

Allow it to try your soul, purify your heart, and prune your life

Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him.

Psalm 105:19

Hide it in your heart, cherish it in your innermost being, protect it as your most sacred possession

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalm 119:11

Never forget it

I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

Psalm 119:16

Be quickened by its power, its grace, its majesty

This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

Psalm 119:50

Allow it to be your strength

My soul melts for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.

Psalm 119:28

Trust in it

So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproaches me: for I trust in thy word.

Psalm 119:42

Hope in it

My soul faints for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word.

Psalm 119:81

Love it and delight in its purity

Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loves it.

Psalm 119:140

Meditate on it

Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.

Psalm 119:148

Let it be the joy and rejoicing of your heart

Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Jeremiah 15:16

Let it be your sustenance, the food of your soul, the life of your being

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4

Jesus the Word of God (Jesus Christ, Spirit of God, Covenant Life of God)

The Word of God in Letter Now the Word of God in Life

The Word of God in Law Now the Word of God in Spirit and Truth

The Word of God in Proverb Now the Word of God in Person

- The Law of God become Flesh
- The Sacrifices, The Feasts, The Tabernacle/Temple become Flesh
- The Wisdom of God become Flesh
- the Prophecy of God become of Flesh
- In other words, The Word of God become Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. **All things were made by him;** and without him was not any thing made that was made. **In him was life;** and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lights every man that comes into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. **But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God,** even to them that believe on his name: **Which were born,** not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God.** And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,** (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:1-14

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he does judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and **his name is called The Word of God.**

Revelation 19:10-13

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Psalm 33:6

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures

Luke 24:45

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:27

Search the scriptures . . . they are they which testify of me.

John 5:39

Tremble before Him

Receive Him with all readiness, and search His heart and mind daily in order to serve him better and love him more

Receive Him in much affliction

Receive Him as, He is in Truth, God Himself

Receive Him gladly

Keep Him in the center of your heart, follow Him, bend to His way, and revere Him

Treat Him as precious

Let the Gospel of His Kingdom always reside on your tongue

Let Him perform that which He promises, let Him build you into His temple, let Him be verified in your life, let Him bring you the rest of God

Bare the Holy Presence of God in the same manner He did

Be always mindful of Him, abide in Him, live in the shadow of His wings

Praise Him and trust Him

Publish His Life by demonstrating His power at work in you

Listen to His voice, Heed His every utterance

Allow Him to try your soul, purify your heart, and prune your life

Hide Him in your heart, cherish Him in your innermost being, protect Him as your most sacred possession

Never forget Him

Be quickened by His power, His grace, and His majesty

Allow Him to be your strength

Trust in Him

Hope in Him

Love Him and delight in His purity

Meditate on Him

Let Him be the joy and rejoicing of your heart

Let Him be your sustenance, the food of your soul, the life of your being

Note: The Word of God - The way you handle it is the way you handle Christ

JOSIAH'S ZEAL FOR THE SACRED WORD OF GOD

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left. And it came to pass in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan . . . the scribe, to the house of the LORD, saying, Go up to Hilkiyah the high priest, that he may sum the silver which is brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the door have gathered of the people: And let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD: and let them give it to the doers of the work which is in the house of the LORD, to repair the breaches of the house, Unto carpenters, and builders, and masons, and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house . . . And Hilkiyah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, Thy servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD. And Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, Hilkiyah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes. And the king commanded Hilkiyah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying, Go ye, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the

words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us. So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asahiah, went unto Huldah the prophetess . . . and they communed with her. And she said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell the man that sent you to me, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read: Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched. But to the king of Judah which sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard; Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heard what I spoke against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD. Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again. And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem. And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD. And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant. And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel. And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to

burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven. And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people. And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove. And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba, and broke down the high places of the gates that were in the entering in of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on a man's left hand at the gate of the city. Nevertheless the priests of the high places came not up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they did eat of the unleavened bread among their brethren. And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech. And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathanmelech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire. And the altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, did the king beat down, and broke them down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron. And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile. And he broke in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men. Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove. And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchers

that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchers, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words. Then he said, What title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulcher of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel. And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria. And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the LORD to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel. And he slew all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem. And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant. Surely there was not held such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah; But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this passover was held to the LORD in Jerusalem. Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD. And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

2 Kings 22 - 2 Kings 23:25

JOSIAH'S PATTERN FOR HANDLING THE WORD OF GOD

Josiah is concerned over the disrepair of the Temple

- Is this what it should be?
- Is there any way that it could be more grand and glorious?

Josiah looks to Christ (The Temple of Israel) for the means to repair

- Is there silver there, in the treasury of God, to pay for such repair?
- Can the Temple itself provide the solution to the problem

It's in the Temple (in Christ) that He finds the Word of God, the Pattern shown in the Mount

- This is truly the Word of God
- This is the most precious thing in all of Israel
- The Temple of God held the Law of God, the Standards of God, the Pattern of God

He hears the Word of God, embraces it, accepts it, believes it, and responds to it

- He tears his clothes in holy fear and mortification as he realizes what Israel has done
- His heart is tender and contrite before God as the nation he rules is stood up and measured against the perfection of the law, the perfection of Christ

He allows the Word of God to pinpoint everything in his nation that is hindering the Glory of Jehovah

- He destroys the evil counselors
- He purges the temple of filth
- He removes from the land the idols
- He burns all that opposes His God to ash

He celebrates the Passover unlike it had ever before been celebrated

- He treats the work of God on his nation's behalf as precious
- He cherishes the rescue of God, the mercy of God, and the judgment of God
- He fully embraces the Perfection of Christ and acknowledges that only the Holy Lamb of God can save him and his people from Sin

Josiah assists God in repairing and purifying the Holy Temple, as well as bringing back the Word of God to the center of Temple Life and Service

- The Levites once again know how to serve God in grace and truth
- The Levites once again know how to maintain purity in the sanctuary
- The Levites once again know how to properly guard and protect the House of God from corruption
- The Levites once again know how to lead the nation of Israel in the worship of God and in the sacred offerings and sacrifice

How is the Word of God being received in our life? Is it bringing the pattern of Holiness to our lives in ever-increasing measure? Is it bringing the Love, the Joy, the Peace of God Almighty into operation? Is it pinpointing all that needs to be removed from our temple, from our land? Do we tremble at it, are we tender and contrite before it?

How is the Word of God being treated in Christianity today? Is it being treated as precious? Is it being treated as if it were an enunciation of Jesus Christ Himself? Is it a sacred book that houses the very Word of God? Is Christianity trembling before it, shaping life and belief around its every word, intrigued and fascinated by its brilliance, its depth, its mystery, its supernatural life-giving substance? Is it our treasure or has it been lost once again in the treasury of the Temple?

The Temple of God has fallen into disrepair, both on the individual level and on the corporate level of Christianity. Only the Spirit of Josiah will do whatever it takes to bring the necessary

repairs. Only the Spirit of Josiah will bring the Word of God back to the center stage of Christian Living, pierce us with the conviction of our selfishness and Sin, and help us purge the disease from our inner lives and from amongst our corporate meetings.

Lord, may we ache to see your Temple rebuilt according to the pattern shown us in the Mount. May it be a picture of Holiness, of Love, of Righteousness, of Justice, of Peace, of Joy, of Mercy, of Faithfulness, of Purity, of Perfection, and of supernatural Triumph. Lord, may we once again tremble before your Holy Word, recognize it as the very utterance of God, and make straight our crooked paths. Lord, may we tear our clothes in dismay as we recognize that we are participants in this unholy and indecent disregard of your Word. We have been part of this thing called Christianity that pretends to serve you under the banner of Selfish gain. We have been party to the dilution and subtle corrupting of your Word – we have stood by and shrugged our shoulders as the Ancient Word of God has been twisted and mishandled in the halls of those who call themselves by your mighty Name. Lord, infuse within our breasts the Spirit of Josiah, the Spirit of Zeal and Trembling, that we may, starting with our own lives, begin the radical reformation of the Church. May we be used to bring the Word of God back to the center stage of the Christian faith.

Zerubbabel

The Rebuilder of the Temple

Who is Zerubbabel?

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, Zerubbabel led the first band of Jews, numbering 42,360, exclusive of a large number of servants, who returned from captivity at the close of the seventy years. In the second year after the Return, he erected an altar and laid the foundation of the temple on the ruins of that which had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. All through the work he occupied a prominent place, inasmuch as he was a descendant of the royal line of David.

Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign showest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? **But he spoke of the temple of his body.** When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

John 2:18-21

And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying, See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee; The tabernacle of the congregation, and the ark of the testimony, and the mercy seat that is thereupon, and all the furniture of the tabernacle, And the table and his furniture, and the pure candlestick with all his furniture, and the altar of incense, And the altar of burnt offering with all his furniture, and the laver and his foot, And the cloths of service, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office, And the anointing oil, and sweet incense for the holy place: according to all that I have commanded thee shall they do.

Exodus 31:1-11

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

Haggai 1:14

Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing? Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts: According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my

spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not. For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:3-9

In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:23

Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel; Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither. But Zerubbabel, and Joshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us. Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, and hired counselors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Ezra 4:1-5

And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both. And the crowns shall be to Helem,

and to Tobijah, and to Jedaiah, and to Hen the son of Zephaniah, for a memorial in the temple of the LORD. And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.

Zechariah 6:12-15

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Isaiah 11:1

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely; and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness. For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel; Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually.

Jeremiah 33:14-18

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

John 15:4

I can of my own self do nothing

John 5:30

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2 Corinthians 6:16

The Word Throughout the Ages

From Genesis to Malachi

After these things **the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying**, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold, to me You have given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. And, behold, **the word of the LORD came unto him**, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness . . . **In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land**, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Genesis 15

Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform **the word** which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Deuteronomy 9:5

But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a **word** in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.

Deuteronomy 18:20

For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou should say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou should say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? But **the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou may do it.** See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou may live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

Deuteronomy 30

And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by **the word of the LORD.**

1 Samuel 3:21

And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may show thee **the word of God.**

1 Samuel 9:27

As for God, his way is perfect; **the word of the LORD** is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.

2 Samuel 22:31

For when David was up in the morning, **the word of the LORD** came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

2 Samuel 24:11

And **the word of the LORD** came to Solomon, saying, Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform **my word** with thee, which I spoke unto David thy father: And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel. So Solomon built the house, and finished it.

1 Kings 6:11-14

Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to **the word of the LORD**, and returned to depart, according to **the word of the LORD**.

1 Kings 12:24

And he cried against the altar in **the word of the LORD**, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

1 Kings 13:2

And it came to pass after many days, that **the word of the LORD** came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, show thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.

1 Kings 18:1

Therefore came all the elders of Israel to the king to Hebron; and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD; and they anointed David king over Israel, according to **the word of the LORD** by Samuel.

1 Chronicles 11:3

So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it: and they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God . . . Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to thank the LORD into the hand of Asaph and his brethren. Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually. Remember his marvelous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth; O ye seed of Israel his servant, ye children of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. **Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations;** Even of the covenant which he made

with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac; And hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant, Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance;

1 Chronicles 16:1,8-18

And it came to pass the same night, that **the word of God** came to Nathan, saying,

1 Chronicles 17:3

But **the word of the LORD** came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight.

1 Chronicles 22:8

The LORD therefore hath performed **his word** that he hath spoken: for I am risen up in the room of David my father, and am set on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

2 Chronicles 6:10

He hath remembered his covenant for ever, **the word** which he commanded to a thousand generations.

Psalms 105:8

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalms 119:105

I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto **thy word**.

Psalms 119:107

Uphold me according unto **thy word**, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope.

Psalms 119:116

Order my steps in **thy word**: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

Psalms 119:133

Thy **word** is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endures for ever.

Psalm 119:160

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving-kindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified **thy word** above all thy name.

Psalm 138:2

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and **the word of the LORD** from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 2:1-3

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. The Lord sent a **word** into Jacob, and it hath lighted upon Israel.

Israel 9:6-8

The grass withers, the flower fades: but **the word of our God** shall stand for ever.

Isaiah 40:8

Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, **the word** is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are

incensed against him shall be ashamed. In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.

Isaiah 45:22-25

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not thither, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall **my word** be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 55:8-13

Moreover **the word of the LORD** came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten **my word** to perform it.

Jeremiah 1:11-12

Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and **thy word** was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Jeremiah 15:16

And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little **book**. And he said unto me, Take it, and **eat** it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

Revelation 10:9

Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou finds; **eat this roll (book, scroll, writing)**, and go speak unto the house of

Israel. So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness. And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with **my words** unto them.

Ezekiel 3:1-4

Is not **my word** like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

Jeremiah 23:29

Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a **word**:

Jeremiah 26:2

The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.

Ezekiel 1:3

Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear **the word** at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

Ezekiel 3:17

For I am the LORD: I will speak, and **the word** that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say **the word**, and will perform it, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 12:25

The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

Joel 1:1

And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executes **his word**: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

Joel 2:11

So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to **the word of the LORD**.

Jonah 3:3

The word of the LORD that came to Micah

Micah 1:1

The word of the LORD which came unto Zephaniah

Zephaniah 1:1

Then came **the word of the LORD** by Haggai the prophet, saying,

Haggai 1:3

In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came **the word of the LORD** unto Zechariah

Zechariah 1:1

Then he answered and spoke unto me, saying, This is **the word of the LORD** unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 4:6

The burden of **the word of the LORD** to Israel by Malachi. I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.

Malachi 1:1-2

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every **word** that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4

The Story of Saul

Wherefore then didst thou not obey **the voice of the LORD**, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD? And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed **the voice of the LORD**, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and

have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal. And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying **the voice of the LORD**? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected **the word of the LORD**, he hath also rejected thee from being king. And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the **commandment of the LORD, and thy words**: because I feared the people, and obeyed **their voice**. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected **the word of the LORD**, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel. And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbor of thine, that is better than thou.

1 Samuel 15:19-28

Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now. Send therefore now, and gather thy cattle, and all that thou hast in the field; for upon every man and beast which shall be found in the field, and shall not be brought home, the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall die. **He that feared the word of the LORD** among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses: And **he that regarded not the word of the LORD** left his servants and his cattle in the field. And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt. And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.

Exodus 9:18-23

Ye shall have one law for him that sins through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourns among them. But the soul that doeth wrong presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproaches the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Because **he hath despised the word of the LORD**, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him. And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Numbers 15:29:36

DESPISING - bazah

What does it mean?

To treat with contempt, to consider something to be without value, weight, or importance. To snub, to disregard, to ridicule, to abhor. As pigs might snarf down pearls ignorant of their true value, or as a husband might cheat on his wife not respecting covenant promise, the bounds of fidelity, and the sacred governance of love. To despise is to spit upon the face of something, to consider it beneath you, to trample it under the soles of your own self-importance.

Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

Proverbs 23:9

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Matthew 7:6

The Danger of Despising

Esau

Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau **despised** his birthright.

Genesis 25:34

NOTE: Esau was swayed by Flesh, eating a temporary meal in exchange for the Living Bread of Jesus Christ

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, **but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.**

Matthew 4:4

And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, **but by every word of God.**

Luke 4:4

I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, dwells in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eats me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eats of this bread shall live for ever. When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? . . . It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profits nothing: the words

that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life . . . From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

John 6:48-56,63,66

Saul

For **rebellion** is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because **thou hast rejected the word of the LORD**, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

1 Samuel 15:23

And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for **thou hast rejected the word of the LORD**, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

1 Samuel 15:26

And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music. And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? And Saul eyed David from that day and forward. And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.

1 Samuel 18:6-11

So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against **the word of the LORD**, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it; And enquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.

1 Chronicles 10:13-14

Michal

And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she **despised** him in her heart.

2 Samuel 6:16

And it came to pass, as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw king David dancing and playing: and she **despised** him in her heart.

1 Chronicles 15:29

Goliath

And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he **disdained** him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

1 Samuel 17:42

For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel . . .

Zechariah 4:10

The Israelites

Yea, they **despised** the pleasant land, they believed not his word:

Psalm 106:24

But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have **despised**.

Numbers 14:31

Ye shall have one law for him that sins through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourns among them. But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproaches the LORD; and **that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Because he hath despised the**

word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.

Numbers 15:29-31

Therefore as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and **despised the word of the Holy One of Israel**.

Isaiah 5:24

Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because **ye despise this word**, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon: Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant.

Isaiah 30:12-13

My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? . . . But thou art holy, O thou that inhabit the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and **despised** of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him . . . Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture. But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. Deliver my soul from the sword; my

darling from the power of the dog. Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

Psalm 22:1-21

Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man **despises**, to him whom the nation abhors, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee. Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; That thou may say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Show yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.

Isaiah 49:7-9

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is **despised and rejected** of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was **despised**, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath born our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt

make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:1-12

And base things of the world, and things which are **despised**, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

1 Corinthians 1:28

We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honorable, but we are **despised**.

1 Corinthians 4:10

He that **despised** Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath **(insulted)** the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 10:28-29

Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaks against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come. Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

Matthew 12:31-33

What was Despised?

- Abraham's Birthright and Blessing
- The Inheritance of God
- The Promised Land
- The Word of God
- The Law of Moses
- David coming in the Power of the Spirit to fight on behalf of Israel
- David celebrating the arrival of the Ark of Covenant in Jerusalem
- The Day of Small Things
- Jesus Christ
- The Holy Spirit

All of the above point to Jesus Christ. He is the Grace, the Power, the Quickening to be saved, He is the eternal blessing, He is the Law become flesh now written upon the tablets of our hearts by the Holy Spirit, He is the Word become flesh, dwelling in us by the Spirit of Almighty God; He is David come in the Power of the Spirit to defeat the Giant of Sin on our behalf, He is the Ark of Covenant entering the human heart making the human body His abode; He is the mustard seed planted within the lives of believers that will grow into a grand and triumphant Kingdom of Grace; He is the Promised Messiah, the Promised King, the Promised Gift of Joy, Triumph, Love, and Peace. He is what the flesh despises and the Spirit celebrates. It was Jesus that Esau forsook, Saul rejected, Goliath mocked, Michal disdained, Israel refused, and we crucified. And it is life of Jesus within that is the inheritance of God, the Promise Land of Israel, The Word of God made flesh once again, The Perfect Righteousness of the Law of Moses written upon human hearts, the Warrior Spirit and Power to fight the mighty Goliaths, the Ark of the Covenant coming to the Temple, the Mustard seed planted, the Spirit of Almighty God making the human body His royal palace. This is the mystery hidden for ages and generation, but now revealed. This is the message, the prophecy, and the sacred substance of the entire Old Testament, pointing toward Jesus, God coming to rescue men and establish His Kingdom within and then without.

Let's follow Christ no matter where he takes us

- Let us respond with trembling as Josiah and not with rebellion as Saul
- Let us respond with willingness as Mary (Jesus' mother) and not despise as Esau
- Let us respond with abandonment as Mary of Bethany and not with derision as Judas
- Let us never despise the Word of God, but let us treat it as if it were in fact the Word of God
- When the Word asks us to pick up our Cross, let us not despise its uncomfortable command
- When the Word asks us to eat of His Flesh and drink of his blood, let us partake and not despise

- When the Word asks us to be Baptized with the Fire of God Almighty, let us yield and not despise
- When the Word asks us to sacrifice our Isaacs, let us grab the knife and not despise
- When the Word asks us to turn the other cheek, let us not hesitate to obey
- When the Word asks us to be willing to be despised even as He was and still is despised, let us not despise but eagerly embrace the honor of being the bearers of His glory