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MINISTRIES

“The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below. ”

The Threshold Covenant

Notice in Zechariah 12:2 it says:

Zechariah 12:2

Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

The word "cup" in that verse is not as accurate as the Hebrew. The Hebrew word for "cup" in that verse is actually "saf" (Sawf). From H5605 in the Strong's, in its original sense of containing; a vestibule (as a limit); also a dish (for holding blood or wine): - a bason, bowl, cup, door (as in doorpost), gate, post, or a **THRESHOLD**.

In ancient times, and even today in the Middle East, there is a custom called "The Threshold Covenant" which is where people make covenants with one another by putting the blood of an animal (kosher animal in our case) at the threshold of the door.

For those who do not know what a threshold is, it is the bottom part of your doors that people step over to enter into your homes. In the eastern world, the threshold was the most sacred part of the entire house. It was where covenants were made with one another and also with deities (the gods or the god of the home).

This was, and still is, a common practice. Do you all remember the Passover account? YHWH told Israel to put blood (of a lamb) on the doorposts and mantel. This was a sign of the covenant.

We are used to seeing a basin as a bowl we hold in our hands. However in ancient times, the basin (the hole) was built into the threshold of the door so you could put the blood into the threshold, and then put it on the doorposts.

The Passover custom was nothing really new. Ancient cultures did these sorts of things all the time towards their gods and to each other. We are ignorant to these customs because we are westernized. The Bible was written in the Middle East, by eastern people, who lived a very Eastern lifestyle, not a western lifestyle. Therefore, it would serve us well to understand the Bible through the lens of Eastern culture, and not western, Greco-Roman/American culture.

The concept of Covenant was rather intense in the eastern culture. At times, people who were instituting covenants with one another would identify the best of their animals, and then take and kill the animals. They would then cut them in pieces so that there would be blood seen in order to show that a blood covenant was being made.

They would then set the animal pieces on each side like two rows with a walkway in the middle. They would then say the covenant with each other, then both walk through the walkway between two rows of dead animals.

When they were done, they would say to each other, "If one of us breaks the covenant we just made with each other, may we be like the animals we just killed..." This is significant to understand, because YHWH, the Creator of the universe, made an everlasting covenant with Abraham.

YHWH came to Abraham in a dream and showed him a bunch of animals already killed, and YHWH Himself passed between the pieces!

Do you see the picture of the covenant YHWH is trying to show us? We wouldn't realize this unless we understood the customs of covenant according to the eastern cultures.

Genesis 15:17-18

And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that PASSED BETWEEN THOSE PIECES (which was the pieces of the animals). In the same day the LORD (YHWH) 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: '

Now with all that in mind, now you understand more fully the context of Zechariah 12:2 when YHWH says, "*I will make Jerusalem a THRESHOLD of trembling.*" In other words, Jerusalem is the anointed place where Messiah will reign, and where YHWH has placed His Name. It is the threshold of His "house".

So this means something; this is important.

Those who cross over it with evil intent in their hearts show that they despise His covenant, and they will become like the cut up pieces of the animals that were killed. This is heavy duty covenant language.

You might ask, how can we really be sure that this is covenant language? Let's examine the very next verse of Zechariah 12:3:

Zechariah 12:3

And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be **cut in pieces**, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

Here you have Zechariah 12:2-3 using ancient covenant language to express the heart of YHWH. Those who cross over His threshold (which is Jerusalem, the place of covenant) with evil intent shall be **cut to pieces** like animals as if one broke covenant with another man right after walking through the animal pieces like the example in Genesis 15.

If Jerusalem is the threshold of YHWH where the covenant is made with all nations, then what blood was shed at that "threshold" to regather us back to His covenant? Jesus, or His Hebrew name Yeshua, should have come to mind.

Yeshua was sent as the Lamb of YHWH whose blood was shed in Jerusalem (the threshold of YHWH) so that we can be renewed into His covenant and be Israel again.

Yeshua was not sent to shed His blood so that we can reject the law, or Torah of YHWH. Yeshua was sent to shed his blood because we have all transgressed YHWH's Torah...because all have sinned and broke His Torah.

Incorporating pagan god worship days and ways, and dissolving such blessing-filled commandments such as the Sabbath, feast days, and dietary instructions was never part of what Yeshua intended to do. Those things are still part of the covenant that Yeshua brought us back into.

Here's the final point. In Eastern culture, the way a person would show hatred toward someone who wants to be in covenant is by refusing to step over the threshold. Instead, the person showing hatred towards the covenant would trample and stomp on the threshold of a person's home. This was considered worse than cursing at your neighbor.

Now with that in mind, please consider this verse prayerfully and carefully...

Hebrews 10:26-29

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has **trampled (stomped)** the Son of God underfoot, counted the **blood of the covenant** by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

So, do you see the connection? Do you see how covenant language was used in that verse concerning trampling or stomping on the blood?

Hebrews 10:30

For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD (YHWH) will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

The reality is that someday YHWH is going to come and clean house. Everything we just read was prefaced in verse 25 in the context of when we see the “day” approaching:

Hebrews 10:25

“...and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

This of course, is the “Day of the Lord”...which is a 1,000 year long day, which starts with judgment of the believers. The judgment for unbelievers does not happen till after the 1,000 years. Many do not really fully understand the “Day of the Lord.”

Most understand, after reading 2 Thessalonians 2 for example, that the Day of the Lord is when Yeshua returns, and that the prophets in their many mentions of the “Day of the Lord” indicate that it begins with judgment. And judgment begins in the House of YHWH first.

Remember, we just read this, in the context of the Day of the Lord, we are told by Peter that a “Day” is a thousand years (2 Peter 3:8) even revealing to us before Revelation was written that the Day of the Lord was to be 1,000 years.

We are told that our Lord Yeshua is going to reign for a thousand years in Revelation 20:4. Are you starting to see why this is called the “Day of the Lord?” It should start becoming clear now. It is because our Lord will be reigning for a full day, or 1,000 years. It is His day, the Lord’s day.

For more on this, we would recommend the following teachings:

- [Hebrews 4: In His Rest Now or Later?](#)
- [The 4th and 7th Day: Parts 1 & 2](#)
- [The Creation Prophecy](#)

Interestingly enough, at the end of the 1,000 years, Yeshua hands the authority and Kingdom back to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24). Why is this important to understand? Why does it even matter?

It matters because the last 1,000 years, the last day, is the end of the 7,000 year period. The 1,000 years in which Yeshua comes back to reign is the 7th day.

Perhaps you are now seeing why this is important, especially if you have Hebrews 3-4 in mind. The 1,000 year reign of Yeshua is our Sabbath rest. It is the rest that we are waiting to enter after judgment.

Remember Yeshua said that He is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28) The weekly Sabbath is a prophetic foreshadowing of the last 1,000 years, the Day of the Lord: that we are still waiting to enter. Remember, the “Lord’s Day” has always been His Sabbath, the 7th day...The promise still remains of us entering His rest:

Hebrews 4:1

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

Then the author of Hebrews warns us about what happened to Israel in the desert.

Hebrews 4:2

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Did you hear that? They had the same gospel preached to them as we did. They had the same Word of God. The same message.

How many have thought that we had a new gospel in the New Testament? They did not have the faith to carry out the Word of God, for if they really had faith, they would have done the Word of God. We do what we believe, right? But we who have faith, who have believed, then enter that rest....

Hebrews 4:3

For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said:

“ So I swore in My wrath,

‘ They shall not enter My rest,’”

although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Notice, just like verse 1 stated that we have not yet entered into that rest, verse 3 focuses on those who have “believed”, past tense. Verse 2 indicates that those who successfully walked out their faith, believed, or ran the race as Paul calls it, are those who can enter His rest. We believe, and we are believing, but until we reach the end, we have not yet fully believed, past tense. Then the author begins teaching on the Day of the Lord, the day of rest, as the 7th day.

Hebrews 4:4-10

For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”; and again in this place: “They shall not enter My rest.”

Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said:

“ Today, if you will hear His voice,

Do not harden your hearts.”

For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

Did you notice what has been said here? It said that if there was another day spoken of, then they have not yet entered His rest. We know that there is another day spoken of, the Day of the Lord. So we also know, that we have not yet entered His rest. You see, there is another day that we look forward to, the

day of rest. It is not until we enter the Sabbath rest, the last 1,000 years, the Day of the Lord, that we finally cease from our work.

Most of us agree that we are still working. We are still sharing the Word and teaching the nations. The rest still remains.

You still might ask, how does this relate to the threshold covenant? Well, remember...Israel in the desert trampled all over the covenant, and they did not enter into His rest. They continued to willfully sin. They continued in disobedience. They received the same gospel as us, but they did not walk it out in faith.

Remember what we also read in Hebrews chapter 10. Chapter 4 obviously precedes chapter 10. Chapter 10 listed the consequences of continuing in willful sin after we have received knowledge of the truth. It listed the judgment one would receive in trampling on the blood of the covenant and insulting the spirit of grace.

So if we do not follow the Word of God, does that mean that we will not enter that still pending 1,000 year rest at the Day of the Lord? Let's continue reading chapter 4

Hebrews 4:11-13

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

We need to be diligent in order to enter that rest, which means being in sync with the Word of God, not against it.

There are so many reasons to not trample the blood of the covenant once you know the truth. If you say you believe and have faith in the Word of God, which is who Yeshua claims to be (John 1:14; Revelation 19:13) the same today, yesterday and forever (Hebrews 8:13), then I strongly encourage you to begin following all the Word of God, instead of select portions of it. Tribulation could be coming soon.

Please repent to the covenant, surrender and learn His ways before the storm comes upon you as a thief in the night. Don't fall into His judgment as Hebrews chapters 4 and 10 warn us. Do not trample the blood of the covenant. Look forward to the 7th day rest, the 1,000 years, the Day of the Lord. We do not want you to be ashamed at his coming.

We hope that this teaching has blessed you, and remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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