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## Matthew Chapter 26g

### The Fall of Peter

Once again, before we get started here this morning, I'd just like to say Shabbat shalom to everyone and thank you for joining us for another installment of our study into the book of Matthew here this morning.

Last week we went into some detail concerning the betrayal of Judas and the unpardonable sin. And we spoke about the difference between the betrayal of Judas and the betrayal of Peter. And we went into great detail concerning the differences between these two betrayals. And although we focused mainly on the betrayal of Judas, this week we are going to be examining the politics that led to our Messiah to be condemned and the betrayal of Peter himself as he also denied our Messiah three different times.

And therefore, I would like to break this mornings study into two parts. During the first part in Matthew chapter 26 verses 57 through 68 we will be dealing with the politics that led to the condemnation of our Messiah. And in the second part of our study this morning we will be dealing with the actual denial of our Messiah by Peter and his betrayal and subsequent curse.

And therefore, let us begin this mornings study by reading **Matthew chapter 26 verses 57 through 68 so that we can know exactly what it says and just as importantly what it does not say E1**

## Jesus Before Caiaphas and the Council

Mat 26:57 Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered.

Mat 26:58 And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end.

Mat 26:59 Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death,

Mat 26:60 but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward

Mat 26:61 and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'"

Mat 26:62 And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?"

Mat 26:63 But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

Mat 26:64 Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Mat 26:65 Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.

Mat 26:66 What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death."

Mat 26:67 Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him,

Mat 26:68 saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

There are a few things that we need to understand concerning this illegal witch-hunt that condemned our Messiah to the cross.

The first thing that we need to understand is that this high priest by the name of Caiaphas was not in the bloodline of Aaron and therefore was not the true high priest of Israel. The high priest Caiaphas was indeed an illegitimate high priest according to Scripture. Let's take a look at what qualifies a high priest to be a high priest; (**scrn 1**)

**Exo 28:1** “Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as priests—Aaron and Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

**Num 18:7** And you and your sons with you shall guard your priesthood for all that concerns the altar and that is within the veil; and you shall serve. I give your priesthood as a gift, and any outsider who comes near shall be put to death.”



What must be understood is that the high priest Caiaphas was not in any way shape or form from in the bloodline of Aaron. The priestly bloodline of Aaron had been destroyed by men and their politics long ago during the Maccabean revolt. Here is some documented history concerning this false high priest who was certainly not in the bloodline of Aaron:

“The succession was to be through one of his sons (Aaron), and was to remain in his own family (Leviticus 6:15). If he had no son, the office devolved upon the brother next of age: such appears to have been the practice in the Hasmonean period. In the time of Eli, however (1 Samuel 2:23), the office passed to the collateral branch of Ithamar. But King Solomon is reported to have deposed the high priest Abiathar, and to have appointed Zadok, a descendant of Eleazar, in his stead (1 Kings 2:35; 1 Chronicles 24:2–3). After the Exile, the succession seems to have been, at first, in a direct line from father to son; but later the civil authorities arrogated to themselves the right of appointment. Antiochus Epiphanes for instance, deposed Onias III in favor of Jason, who was followed by Menelaus.

Herod the Great nominated no less than six high priests; Archelaus, two. The Roman legate Quirinius and his successors exercised the right of appointment, as did Agrippa I, Herod of Chalcis, and Agrippa II. Even the people occasionally elected candidates to the office. The high priests before the Exile were, it seems, appointed for life; in fact, from Aaron to the Captivity the number of the high priests was not greater than during the sixty years preceding the fall of the Second Temple.”

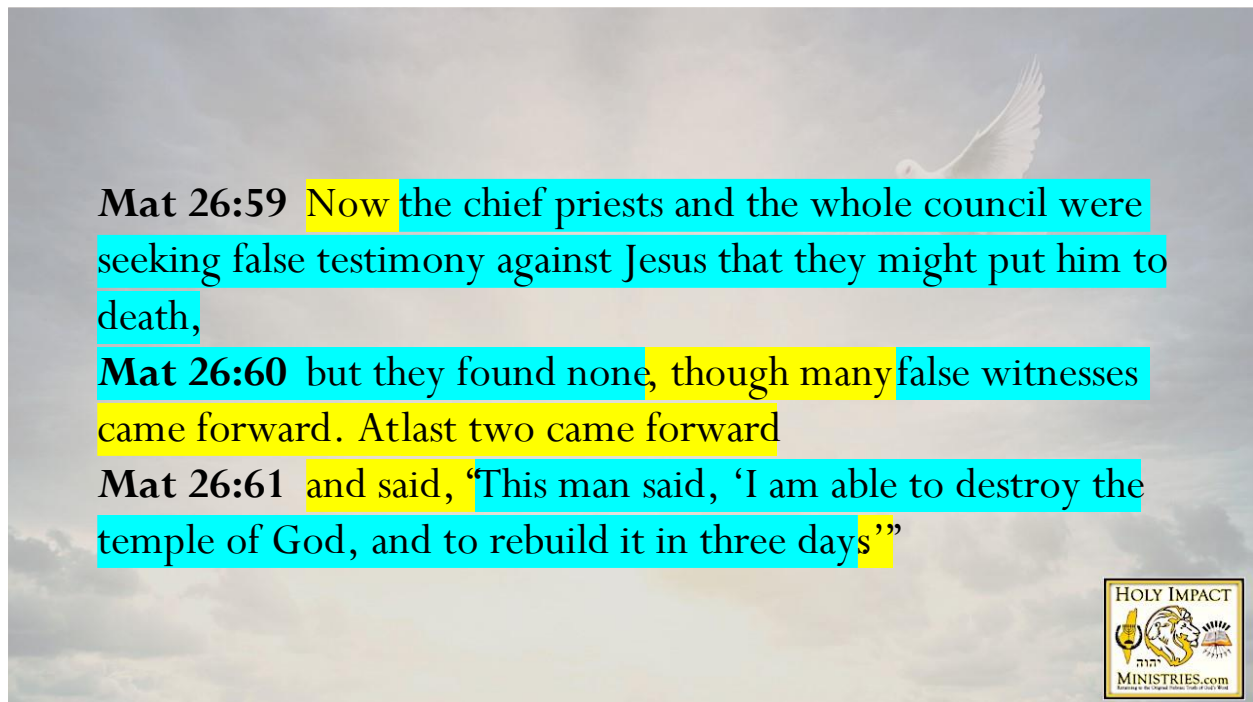
And so, the kangaroo court that condemned our Messiah to death was not of God but of men. Once again, it was for this very reason along with the sinful hypocrisy of these false priests that our Messiah condemned the temple to be destroyed and taken away from them.

And so, here in Matthew chapter 26 we have our Messiah standing before this kangaroo court full of imposters who had taken over his Father’s temple according to their own laws and their own traditions. Once again it was Herod the great himself that nominated six different priests none of which were in the bloodline of Aaron. And even the people occasionally elected candidates to the office of high priest. And therefore, the office of high priest became nothing more than a political revolving door. And therefore... the high priest during our Messiah’s time was no longer appointed by God, but by men. And boy did it show.

Keeping all of this in mind we must also understand that there were two very different legal systems that had condemned our Messiah to death. One was a civil legal system and the other was a religious legal system. Both of which had to work hand-in-hand in order to get the job done and to finally crucify the only begotten Son of Yehovah God. And this is exactly why it cannot be said that the Jews alone crucified our Messiah. Nor can it be said that the Gentiles alone crucified our Messiah. The historical truth of the matter is that both Jew and Gentile were guilty of crucified the only begotten Son of Yehovah God. And therefore, we should not believe those who hate the Jews because they are Jews, and we should not believe the Jews that hate the Gentiles just because they

are Gentiles. The religious systems of both Jew and Gentile working together were responsible for crucifying the anointed one of Yehovah God.

But to be sure, it was indeed this first man-made religious court system that had condemned our Messiah to death under false pretenses. (**scrn 2 show**)



And once again just as we see in Matthew chapter 26 versus 59 and 60, these chief priests and this phony religious counsel were seeking false testimonies against Yeshua so that they could put him to death, but they found none. And I also want us to pay very close attention to **Matthew chapter 26 verse 63 through 65 (scrn 3 show)**

**Mat 26:63** But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

**Mat 26:64** Jesus said to him, “You have said so But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

**Mat 26:65** Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.”



One of the things that this phony counsel demands to hear from our Messiah is whether or not he is the anointed one, the Son of God. And I want us to notice right here in Matthew chapter 26 verse 63 that the Council does not ask him if he is God. The Council asked him if he was the anointed one, (which is what Christ or Messiah means) and the Son of God. And our Messiah does not say no I am not the son of God I am God... Our Messiah simply answers, and I quote, “you have said so.”

I have heard many misguided so-called theologians wrongly proclaim that the reason that the Jews crucified him was because he said that he was God. Our Messiah never says that he is his Father, but rather all throughout his ministry he is very careful to make a distinction between himself and his Father always putting his Father first and in charge of everything that he says and does. And therefore, we must be very careful in our understanding of these God breathed Scriptures so that we are not led astray by the false high priests and Pharisees of today.

And therefore, I just want to make sure that we understand exactly who our Messiah is according to our God breathed Scripture. We can once

again clarify who our Messiah was, is, and always will be according to second Samuel chapter 7. Let's go read that so that we don't leave anyone behind here: **second Samuel chapter 7 verses eight through 17 E2**

2Sa 7:8 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel.'

2Sa 7:9 And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

2Sa 7:10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly,

2Sa 7:11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

2Sa 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2Sa 7:13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

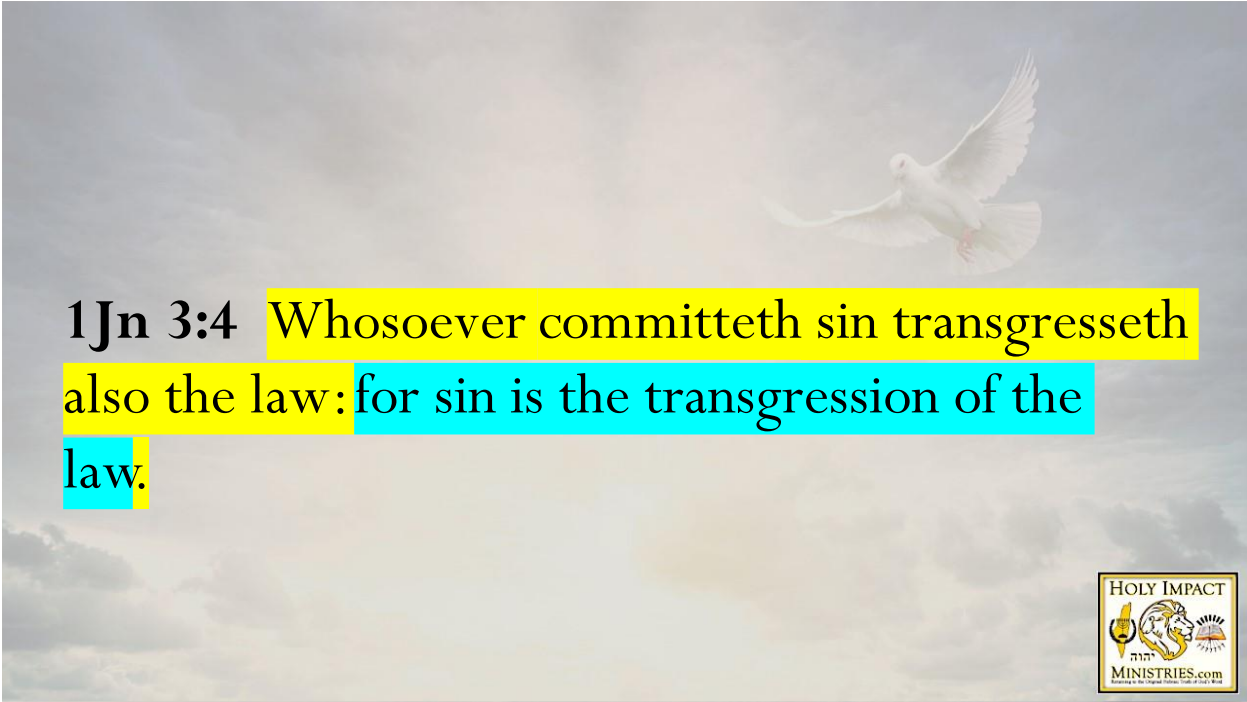
2Sa 7:14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,

2Sa 7:15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

2Sa 7:16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

2Sa 7:17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

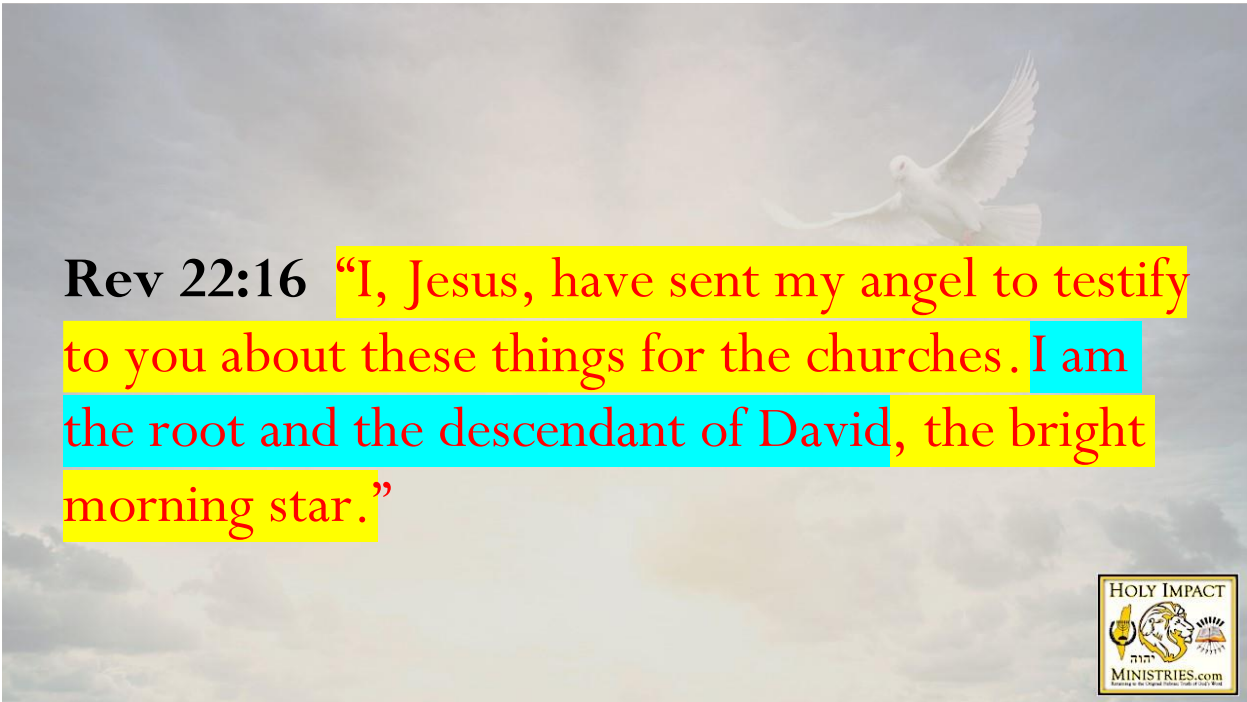
And therefore, anyone who tries to tell you that your Messiah is anyone else other than the descendent of David is indeed a false prophet, a liar, and according to Deuteronomy chapter 13 should indeed be dead to us as true believers. We must always remember that to add to God's word or to take away from God's word is the transgression of God's word which equates to... Sin. **First John chapter 3 verse four (scrn 4)**



1Jn 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.



And therefore, there should be no question in our minds that our Messiah was, is, and always will be the descendent of David. Not says I... but says our very own Messiah himself! **Revelation chapter 22 verse 16 (scrn 5)**



Rev 22:16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”





And for those of you who still have trouble understanding these biblical facts, we have full comprehensive studies on the identity of our Messiah according to Scripture and Scripture alone at our website at: [HolyImpactMinistries.com](http://HolyImpactMinistries.com). And they are free for everyone. The only thing that it will cost you is the time it takes sit down and to view them.

And so, it's imperative that we understand why it was that they convicted our Messiah. It was not because he said that he was God the Father, it was because he said that he was the Son of Yehovah God the Father. And upon hearing from Yeshua that he was the Son of God, what did the high priest do? It is written in Matthew chapter 26 verse 65 that the high priest tore his clothes. Here in the English standard version of the Bible it says that he tore his robes, but the original Greek word here is "him-at-ee-on" (himation)... Which means apparel, cloak, garments or clothes. Which once again was forbidden according to the Torah of Yehovah God. Let's turn back to the book of Leviticus so that we can see this in Scripture; **(scrn 6)**

**Lev 10:6** And Moses said to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar his sons, "Do not let the hair of your heads hang loose, and do not tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the congregation; but let your brothers, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning that the LORD has kindled.

**Lev 21:10** "The priest who is chief among his brothers, on whose head the anointing oil is poured and who has been consecrated to wear the garments, shall not let the hair of his head hang loose nor tear his clothes.



Even the tearing of the clothing of the high priest which represented the house of Israel by the way... shows us the mockery of this man-made kangaroo court that was attempting to condemn our Messiah to death.

And so, it was indeed because our Messiah said that he was the Son of God that this religious kangaroo court along with its kangaroo counsel condemned him to be crucified. And just as we see in Matthew chapter 26 verse 67, they spit in his face, and they struck him and several of them slapped him. And while all of this was going on, it is written in Matthew chapter 26 verse 58 that Peter was watching all of this unfold. Which brings us to **Matthew chapter 26 verses 69 through 75: E3**

### **Peter Denies Jesus**

**Mat 26:69** Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. **And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."**

**Mat 26:70** **But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean."**

**Mat 26:71** **And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."**

**Mat 26:72** **And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man."**

**Mat 26:73** **After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you."**

**Mat 26:74** **Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed.**

**Mat 26:75** **And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.**

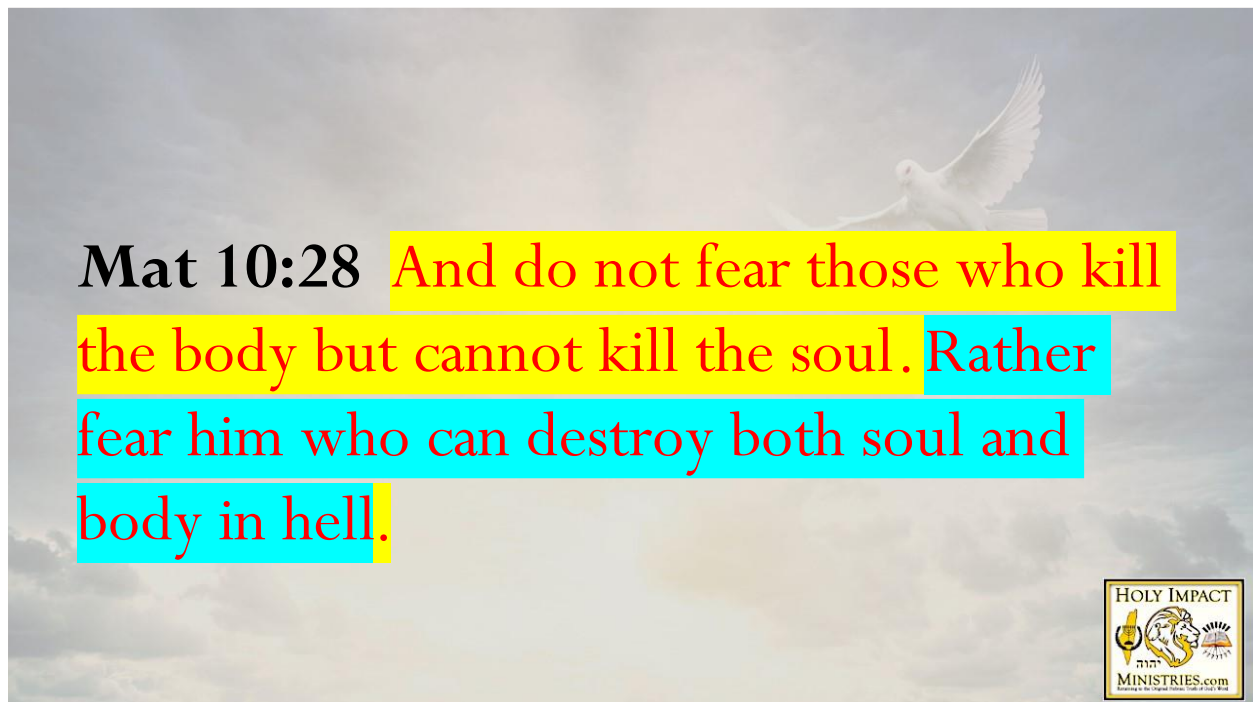
Once again, there should be no doubt in our minds that the devil had struck the heart of Peter with a very poisonous dart. The devil had shot Peter dead center in his heart with the poisonous dart... of fear.

Fear is always what the devil uses in an attempt to separate us from the mercy and the grace of our Father in heaven and his unfolding plan of salvation. Fear is what the devil has used from the very beginning of time in an attempt to separate us from being one with our Father in

heaven and the Lamb that he sent as a sacrifice for us all.

And knowing and understanding that we today are living very close to the end of the age... it is imperative that we as true God-fearing, Messiah following, cross bearing Christians do not underestimate the power of fear.

Fear has the ability to make us tremble. Fear has the ability to make us run. Fear has the ability to make us bow down and obey those who are striking fear into our hearts. And this is exactly why our Messiah warns us not to fear in Matthew 10:28: **(scrn 7)**



Once again, I cannot help but hear the words of David ringing in my ears every time I read Matthew chapter 10 verse 28. Let's go read those most important words of David who was the human father of our Messiah in **Psalms chapter 118; E4**

### **His Steadfast Love Endures Forever**

**Psa 118:1** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast

love endures forever!

Psa 118:2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Psa 118:3 Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Psa 118:4 Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Psa 118:5 Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free.

Psa 118:6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

Psa 118:7 The LORD is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

Psa 118:8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

Psa 118:9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

Psa 118:10 All nations surrounded me; in the name of the LORD I cut them off!

Psa 118:11 They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of the LORD I cut them off!

Psa 118:12 They surrounded me like bees; they went out like a fire among thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them off!

Psa 118:13 I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the LORD helped me.

Psa 118:14 The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

Psa 118:15 Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,

Psa 118:16 the right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"

Psa 118:17 I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

Psa 118:18 The LORD has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

Psa 118:19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

Psa 118:20 This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

Psa 118:21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

Psa 118:22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Psa 118:23 This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Psa 118:24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psa 118:25 Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!

Psa 118:26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Psa 118:27 The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

Psa 118:28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

Psa 118:29 Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

These are words that Peter had forgotten. It was the dart of fear that came directly from the devil that had caused Peter to sinfully deny his Messiah three different times. And it will be that same dart of fear that our adversary will use against us in these last days in order to force us to bow our heads and to bend our knees to him so that he can shackle us and our children with the bondage of his sinful chains.

Peter was clearly not wearing the full armor of God. Fear of what men could do to the body had overtaken him and caused him to bow down to the wicked one. And I want us to think about this for just a moment.

Here was Peter, who vowed to protect our Messiah even unto death. The same Peter who had pulled his sword when they tried to take his Messiah and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. The same Peter who told our Messiah that he would never fall away in Matthew chapter 26 verse 33... had indeed... fallen away.

The same Peter who had walked with our Messiah, the same Peter who had seen the miracles that our Messiah performed in front of everyone. The same Peter who had seen the Transfiguration of our Messiah whose face shone like the sun and whose clothes became white as light standing there with Moses and Elijah in Matthew chapter 17.

Think about this my friends. Let this sink in. After everything that Peter had seen, and after everything that Peter had experienced, and after everything that Peter knew full well down to his boots... Peter still fell away. And why?... because of fear.

I cannot tell you how many modern-day Christians today that I have heard tell me that they will never take the mark of the beast. I cannot tell you how many modern-day Christians today that I have heard tell me that they will never fall away. I cannot tell you how many modern-day Christians today that I have heard tell me that they will endure to the end. But in the end... the question remains... will we?

Have we also not walked with our Messiah? Have we also not seen his many miracles done on this earth time and time again? Have we not seen people healed and people who have turned back to his Father's salvation? Has the light of Yehovah God not shown us our own Transfiguration after going down into the watery grave of baptism to be raised up a new creature? Are we really all that different from Peter?

What is fear really? (**scrn 8**)

## What is F.E.A.R?

F.E.A.R. is an acronym for:  
**False Evidence Appearing Real.**



You see, the devil wants you to believe that he can take your life. The devil wants you to believe that he can snuff you and your children out. The devil wants to make you believe that he can kill your children. But the truth of the matter is, that the devil holds no power over life and death. He may be able to destroy the body, but he cannot destroy the soul unless... we allow him to do so. And therefore, when the son of perdition threatens you with death... know this... the son of perdition will have no power to truly take your life or to give you life. Man has no power over the soul. The only power that man has is over the flesh which we must shed in order to enter the kingdom of Yehovah God.

False evidence appearing real will indeed be used by our adversary in these last days. False evidence appearing real will indeed be what will cause many to lose their salvation. The prophets endured even unto death, the apostles endured even unto death, our Messiah endured even unto death. And so then, the question then becomes... will we pick up our crosses and follow him and do as he did and walk as he walked and endure as he endured... even unto death?

I'm afraid that question will remain unanswered until the time that we are called.

What we must understand is that Peter fell prey to fear because the spirit of Yehovah had not yet been fully given to him. Once we see the apostles being given the Holy Spirit, the Ruach Hakodesh of Yehovah God in Acts chapter 2... we no longer see the apostles hiding. We no longer see fear affecting them. Once the spirit of Yehovah God is given to them in full measure in Acts chapter 2 we see the apostles up and, on their feet, and on the streets teaching and preaching and sowing the word of Yehovah God in the hearing of those who would hear it. We see them being beaten and jailed and threatened because of the name of their Messiah, and through it all it becomes evidently clear that fear no longer has any power over them.

And I would submit to you my friends that in the end the exact same thing is going to happen. Those who truly have the spirit of Yehovah God will stand in these last days. Those who do not have the spirit of Yehovah God dwelling deeply within them... will not.

You see the spirit of Yehovah God is the power of Yehovah God. The spirit of Yehovah God is the mark of Yehovah God. And the mark of Yehovah God is thousands of times more powerful than the feeble mark of the beast. The question is... do you have it?

You see, the will of man alone without the spirit is not strong enough to stand in the face of adversity. Nor is it alone strong enough to withstand the power of the evil one. The will of man alone without the spirit is not strong enough to prevail against a supernatural adversary who once walked among the fiery stones of Yehovah God himself. And this is exactly why we need the spirit of Yehovah God dwelling deeply within us. It is that gift and that gift alone that readies us and stirs our souls and lights the fire of boldness and tenacity under us so that we can be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.



## What is this full armor of God that Paul talks about in **Ephesians chapter 6? E5 show only**

### **The Whole Armor of God**

**Eph 6:10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

**Eph 6:11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

**Eph 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

**Eph 6:13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

**Eph 6:14** Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

**Eph 6:15** and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

**Eph 6:16** In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

**Eph 6:17** and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

**Eph 6:18** praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

**Eph 6:19** and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

**Eph 6:20** for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

The full armor of God has seven different pieces. It includes the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of readiness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit which is the word of God. What is the belt of truth? Truth is what God has spoken which makes it... truth. What is the breastplate of righteousness? The breastplate of righteousness is what is right in the eyes of Yehovah God. What are the shoes of readiness? The shoes of readiness are what causes us to run into the battle and not away from it. What is the shield of faith? The shield of faith is a living faith versus dead faith. We must remember that it is written that faith without works is dead. What is the helmet of

salvation? The helmet of salvation is knowing and understanding who your Messiah is and why he came. And what is the sword of the spirit? The sword of the spirit is the word of Yehovah God as he has given it to us within the confines of his God breathed Scripture and his God breathed Scripture alone.

In a nutshell... the full armor of God is indeed the spirit of God who writes the law of God across our hearts and in our minds and gives us the hope of salvation so that we will stand and fight and endure to the end and to conquer over evil.

For those who have been marked with the mark of Yehovah God which is his spirit... there is no reason for us to fall. There is no excuse for us to fall. There is no reason not to endure to the end, and there is no excuse not to conquer over evil. There is no reason to reject the name of our Messiah or his Father. We have seen the beginning, and because we have seen the beginning, we know the end. And in the end, we know that the choice is ours to make. And we have already made the decision as to whom it is that we will serve.

My hope and my prayer is that we are renewing our minds daily and that we will continue to keep our lamps trimmed and full of oil for I tell you the truth... our redemption is indeed near. And our shield and our buckler will indeed be our strength and our length of days in these last days.

My hope and my prayer is that you will take these things to heart. My hope and my prayer is that we will have the eyes to see in the ears to hear all that we have been blessed with. And my hope and my prayer is that together as one people, as one body, as one assembly... that we will endure to the end and indeed... conquer.

And as we close out Matthew chapter 26 this morning, we will be ready to move into Matthew chapter 27 next seventh day Sabbath at 11 AM Eastern standard Time where we will begin to explore the civil legal

system that our Messiah will once again be forced to endure through.

But until that time, I will do as I always do and ask everyone within the sound of my voice to please take what you have heard here this morning to your own prayer closet. Bow your head and bend your knee and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you have heard here today be true or not.

Ask, seek, and knock on his door and on his door alone so that the proper door can be opened unto you. And if you will do that, and if you will stay the course to the end, you and I will surely walk to the gates of his soon coming kingdom together.