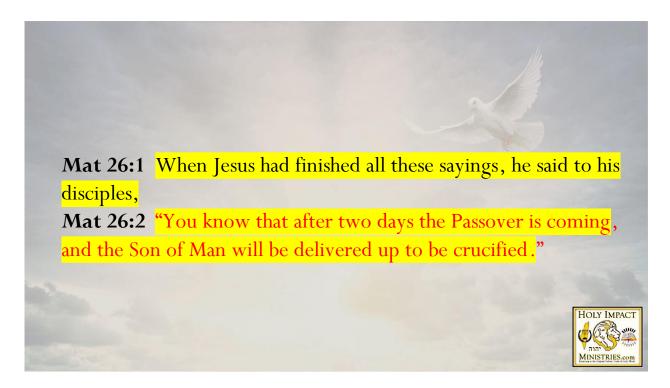


Matthew Chapter 27 The Potter And The Clay

Once again, I would like to welcome everyone for sharing your time with us here this morning as we move into an extremely difficult chapter of the Bible.

Last week during our study into the book of Matthew we examined the fall of Peter, and we made note of the difference that we saw in Peter before he had received the Ruach Hakodesh (the Holy Spirit of Yehovah God) and after he had received the spirit of Yehovah God. And we also made note of the difference in the apostles themselves who were in the beginning hiding and literally trembling in fear and confusion. But after receiving the Ruach Hakodesh of Yehovah they became bold, and this is when we find them going into the town squares teaching and preaching and proclaiming the word of Yehovah God. The same word that Yeshua his only begotten Son had come to write a cross their hearts and in their minds.

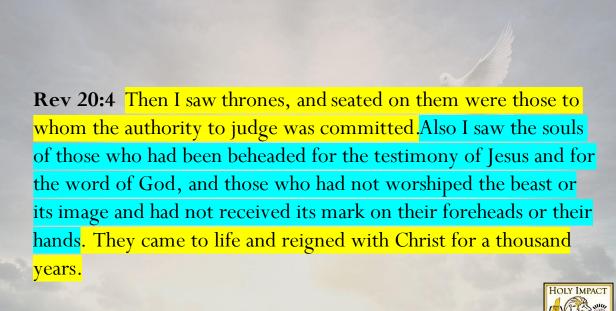
It was only after receiving the spirit of Yehovah that they began to possess the tenacity and the boldness of the lion of Judah. But we must remember that up until this point... that had not yet taken place. And so, here in Matthew chapters 26 and 27 as we see the actual crucifixion of our Messiah playing out in real time, the apostles are indeed frightened and confused concerning what's going on even though our Messiah had already told them several times what was going to happen. If we will remember correctly back in the first two verses of Matthew chapter 26 our Messiah had already told them that he would be crucified on Passover day. Matthew chapter 26 verses 1-2: (scrn 1)



And therefore, there should be no doubt in our minds that our Messiah had already told them what was going to take place. But in all of the excitement and all of the confusion of what was actually taking place the apostles seemed to have almost forgotten what our Messiah had already told them was going to take place. When it actually began to unfold, they had trouble recognizing what was happening right in front of them. It wasn't until Yeshua was crucified and put in the tomb that they began to question what had just happened. And it wasn't until our Messiah returns to them that they actually began to grasp what had taken place and why.

And it's important for us to keep these things in mind because I would indeed contend that we are living in the last days before the return of our Messiah. And as things get worse and worse it's imperative that we also remember what we have been told from the beginning. It's imperative that we not be scattered because of what is to come. We have been warned over, and over, and over again by the prophets, by the apostles, and by our very own Messiah that a great tribulation would indeed come upon the world. Tribulation so bad that it has never been seen before and will never be seen again. This will be a time of testing for true Christians to see whether or not they will endure to the end and weather or not they will willfully and intentionally conquer over evil or whether they will bow the knee to the Prince of the air and the little "g" god of this world.

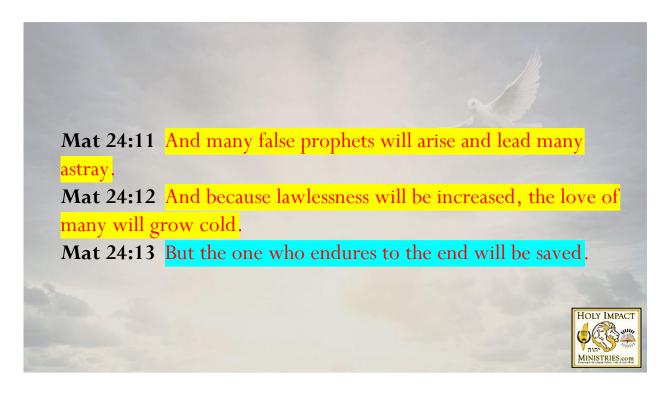
We must always remember that the Bible is very clear about the Christian being here and being tested at the end of the age. **Revelation chapter 20 verse four (scrn 2)**



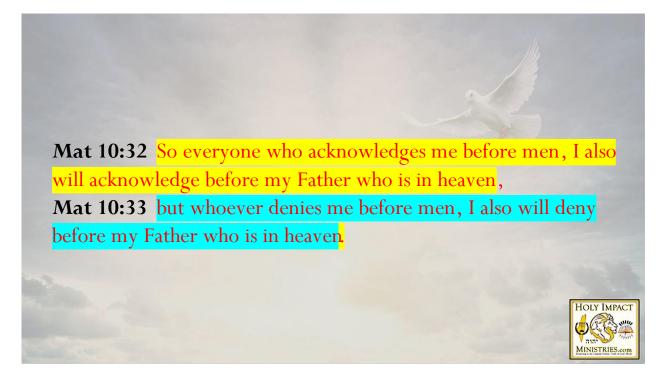


Our Messiah commands us to pick up our crosses and to follow him and to do as he did and to walk as he walked. But this commandment does not substantiate a walk through the park, nor does it imply that we will tiptoe through the tulips the rest of our lives.

The commandment to pick up our crosses and to follow him and to walk as he walked and to do as he did also means that we must endure as he endured and conquer over evil as he has conquered over evil. Our Messiah tells us very clearly in the 24th chapter of the book of Matthew that it will only be the one who endures to the end that will be saved. **Matthew chapter 24 verses 11 through 13 (scrn 3)**

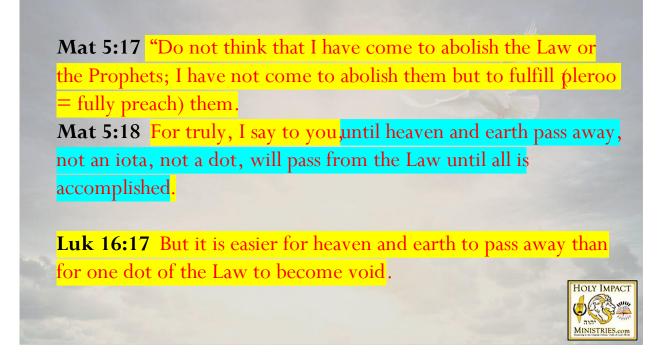


And just as we are told in the book of Revelation, many of us who are true God-fearing, Messiah following, cross bearing Christians will indeed be called to lay down our lives for the name of our Messiah during this great tribulation also known as Jacob's trouble. Our Messiah has already warned us what will happen to those of us who deny his name in the end. **Matthew chapter 10 versus 32 and 33 (scrn 4)**

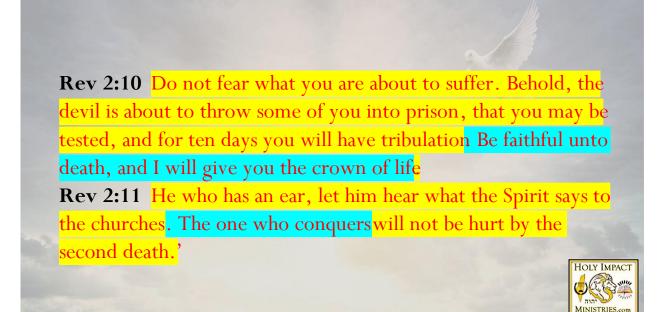


The commandment to endure and the commandment to conquer is a commandment that I would contend the church has long ago forgotten because of its man-made doctrines, dogmas and traditions. But these words still stand true to this very day, and they can be found within the confines of our God breathed Scripture because they are indeed immovable.

And just as our Messiah tells us... not one crossing a "t", nor one dotting a "i" will pass from his Father's Law until heaven and earth pass away and all things are accomplished which once again does not happen until clear at the end of the book at the end of the age in Revelation chapter 21. And our Messiah does not only tell us these things once, but twice so that we might have two or more witnesses to validate this very fact. (scrn 5)



And therefore, as we begin to read down through Matthew chapter 27 it's imperative that we pay close attention to what our Messiah had to endure and what he had to conquer over in order to be accepted by his Father in heaven because I tell you the truth... he was indeed our example. And the way that he has shown is indeed the path that we must follow even unto death. **Revelation chapter 2 verses 10 and 11 (scrn 6)**



To be sure, there is indeed a whole separate study that can be done concerning what is expected of us as his disciples. But I bring these things to our attention here this morning because the devil has been hard at work for generations convincing people that they will be whisked away by a pre-tribulation rescue when things really get bad. And the church today has by and large purchased the snake oil lock stock and barrel and has been teaching this doctrine of demons for generations. But I tell you the truth... It is written that we are to follow our Messiah back to our Father in heaven. And there is indeed only one way to get back to our Father in heaven and back to that tree of life that we were banished from thousands of years ago in the garden of Eden. And that is to follow in the footsteps of our Messiah and to walk as he walked and to do as he did. And as we see how our Messiah walked through Matthew chapter 27 and we see what our Messiah did in Matthew chapter 27 let us not think that we are exempt from walking where he has walked and doing what he has done. Let us not think that we will not be tested. And let us not think that a student is greater than his master.

And with that being said, let us now prepare ourselves for one of the

most heart wrenching chapters of the Bible as we open the books and examine Matthew chapter 27 so that we can know exactly what it does say and just as importantly what it does not say. Matthew chapter 27 E1

Jesus Delivered to Pilate

Mat 27:1 When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.

Mat 27:2 And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

Judas Hangs Himself

Mat 27:3 Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders,

Mat 27:4, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself."

Mat 27:5 And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.

Mat 27:6 But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money."

Mat 27:7 So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers.

Mat 27:8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

Mat 27:9 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel,

Mat 27:10 and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

Jesus Before Pilate

Mat 27:11 Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so."

Mat 27:12 But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer.

Mat 27:13 Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?"

Mat 27:14 But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

The Crowd Chooses Barabbas

Mat 27:15 Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted.

Mat 27:16 And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.

Mat 27:17 So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

Mat 27:18 For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up.

Mat 27:19 Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream."

Mat 27:20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

Mat 27:21 The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas."

Mat 27:22 Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!"

Mat 27:23 And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified

Mat 27:24 So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

Mat 27:25 And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

Mat 27:26 Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Jesus Is Mocked

Mat 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him.

Mat 27:28 And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,

Mat 27:29 and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Mat 27:30 And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.

Mat 27:31 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

The Crucifixion

Mat 27:32 As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross.

Mat 27:33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),

Mat 27:34 they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

Mat 27:35 And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots.

Mat 27:36 Then they sat down and kept watch over him there.

Mat 27:37 And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Mat 27:38 Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

Mat 27:39 And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads

Mat 27:40 and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

Mat 27:41 So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,

Mat 27:42 "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.

Mat 27:43 He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

Mat 27:44 And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

The Death of Jesus

Mat 27:45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.

Mat 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, Iema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Mat 27:47 And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah."

Mat 27:48 And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink.

Mat 27:49 But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

Mat 27:50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his

spirit.

Mat 27:51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

Mat 27:52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised,

Mat 27:53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Mat 27:54 When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Mat 27:55 There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him,

Mat 27:56 among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Jesus Is Buried

Mat 27:57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus.

Mat 27:58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.

Mat 27:59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud Mat 27:60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

Mat 27:61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The Guard at the Tomb

Mat 27:62 The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate

Mat 27:63 and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.'

Mat 27:64 Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first."

Mat 27:65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can."

Mat 27:66 So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

As you can see, the 27th chapter of the book of Matthew is a rather lengthy chapter that covers a whole host of things within a short synopsis of each event. The first thing that we see is Yeshua being delivered to Pilate, then we see the story of Judas hanging himself because he finally realized that he had sinned by betraying innocent blood. Then we see Yeshua before Pilate, then we see the crowd choosing Barabbas. Then we see Pilate delivering Yeshua up to be crucified, and then we see the Roman soldiers mocking Yeshua and humiliating him. And then comes the crucifixion, and then finally the actual death and his burial and the guard at the tomb.

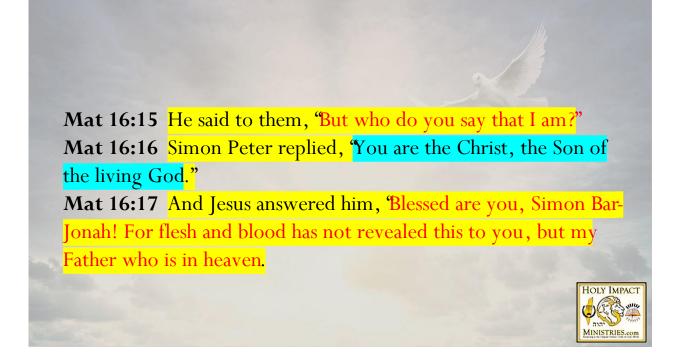
All of this is jampacked into Matthew chapter 27 and therefore there is an exorbitant amount of information within Matthew chapter 27 that needs to be understood in order to get a clear perspective concerning exactly what was taking place in this rather short span of time. And there should be no doubt in our minds that Matthew very quickly describes all of these events consecutively one after another because this is exactly how it happened. All of this took place within a 24 hour time period, and the reason why it took place within a 24 hour time period is because the Passover was about to begin and we'll come back to that a little bit later on in our study as we progress over the next few weeks.

But the first thing that we see in Matthew chapter 27 verses one and two is that all the chief priests and the elders of the people of Israel took counsel against Yeshua to put him to death and they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor of Rome.

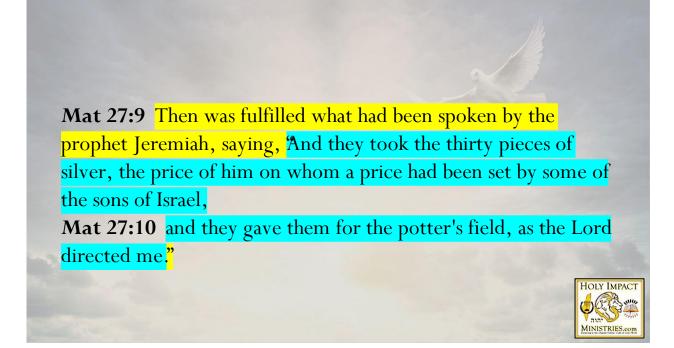
The first two verses of Matthew chapter 27 are extremely important. Because even if you didn't know the rest of the story leading up to this point, and you only had verses one and two to go by... you would certainly know that it was the chief priests and the elders of the people of Israel that had already decided to put Yeshua to death.

And I would also like us to notice that according to verse two, they actually bound him, and I find this ironic concerning the fact that he never tried to run from them. In fact, he was always at the temple and was even found teaching within the synagogues every Sabbath from the time that he was a child. Clearly... the binding of Yeshua was not to stop him from running away as much as it was to humiliate him and to paint the picture for the general public that he was indeed some kind of criminal. Binding of our Messiah was done more for propaganda than it was for anything else. Propaganda has always been used by our adversary in order to paint a picture that is clearly deceptive. But it does indeed often times work in the mind of the uneducated public. To see a man in handcuffs is to see a criminal, and that was the foundation of the propaganda that the chief priests and elders of Israel were attempting to portray to the general public.

And from there we go to verses three through 10 which talk about Judas admitting to the chief priests and the elders that he had sinned by betraying innocent blood. And I want to stop right here for just a moment because this was not any innocent blood that Judas had betrayed. This was the innocent blood of the Lamb of God. This was the innocent blood of the only begotten Son of God. But please notice, that Judas never testifies to this. Judas never says or admits to the high priest or the elders of Israel that he had betrayed the Lamb of God or the Son of God. (scrn 7 show)



And this once again clearly depicts the mindset of Judas versus the mindset of Peter who clearly did confess that Yeshua was the only begotten Son of God. Hence once again, making it very clear that Judas never truly accepted the fact that Yeshua was the Son of God as Peter did. And for more information between these two very different betrayals, I would like to point back to our last several studies that we've already done back in Matthew chapter 26 because this is where we really broke down the differences between the betrayal of Peter and the betrayal of Judas and the unpardonable sin that we all should be well aware of. And because we've already covered this in great detail, we can finally move down to another very controversial Scripture found in **Matthew chapter 27 verses nine and 10. (scrn 8 show)**



Here in verses nine and 10 Matthew seems to be quoting from the prophet Jeremiah when he says and I quote, "And they took the 30 pieces of silver the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field as Yehovah God directed me."

Now... what's peculiar about this quote from the prophet Jeremiah is that we do not see this exact quote from Jeremiah anywhere in the book of Jeremiah. We simply cannot find this quote Word for Word, however... this is often times the way that Matthew quotes the prophets. Rarely does he use the exact words of the prophets verbatim, but he does give us the picture that the prophets were trying to paint.

The closest relation to what we see here in Matthew chapter 27 verses nine and 10 can be found in Jeremiah chapter 18 verses one through 10. Let's go read that very quickly **Jeremiah chapter 18 verses one through 10 E2**

The Potter and the Clay

Jer 18:1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

Jer 18:2 "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words."

Jer 18:3 So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel.

Jer 18:4 And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

Jer 18:5 Then the word of the LORD came to me:

Jer 18:6 ^wO house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

Jer 18:7 If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it,

Jer 18:8 and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it.

Jer 18:9 And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it,

Jer 18:10 and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it.

Although we do not see the exact same wording as we see in Matthew chapter 27, it should be clear that what is being conveyed here to Jeremiah was exactly what was taking place within the confines of Matthew chapter 27 and the betrayal of not only Judas but also the house of Israel through its high priests and its elders.

In Matthew chapter 27 Matthew makes note of 30 pieces of silver which was a direct reflection of the worth of our Messiah Yeshua. In Jeremiah chapter 18 we do not see a price of 30 pieces of silver mentioned. However... we do indeed see the price of sin and transgression. And we do not see the purchasing of a field in Jeremiah 18, but... we do see God's people who are the house of Israel who were indeed purchased for a price by our Messiah.

Notice in Jeremiah chapter 18 what is being depicted here and exactly what it is that our Father in heaven is showing the prophet Jeremiah.

Yehovah commands Jeremiah to go down to the potter's house so that he can show him something. And in the process Jeremiah sees the potter attempting to make a vessel that became spoiled in the potter's hand. What is this a representation of? This is a representation of mankind and the house of Israel in particular. What happened to the house of Israel? The whole context of Jeremiah chapter 18 is how the house of Israel God's people became spoiled in the potter's hand. The whole context of Jeremiah chapter 18 is about how the house of Israel fell from the grace of God.

But what does Yehovah God show Jeremiah? Yehovah God shows Jeremiah through the potter that the potter was able to rework the clay into another vessel as it seemed good to the potter to do. And this is exactly what Yehovah God was doing through the man Yeshua.

Yehovah God sent the descendent of David into the world in order to rework what had been spoiled in his hands.

Yehovah tells Jeremiah that if at any time he declares a nation or kingdom to be bad and decides to pluck it up and break it down and to destroy it he can certainly do that but... if that nation turns from its evil... Yehovah tells Jeremiah that he will relent of the disaster that he intended to do to it. And by the same token if Yehovah God declares that he would build and plant a nation and if it does evil in his sight and will not listen to his voice... then he will change his mind and not do the good that he intended to do to it.

Think about this for just a moment. What is Yehovah God showing Jeremiah? Yehovah God is showing Jeremiah Deuteronomy chapter 30 the difference between blessings and curses. Yehovah God is showing Jeremiah that he Yehovah God is the potter and that we are the clay. And it was the decision of the potter to pay a price by giving his only begotten son as a ransom in order to purchase each one of us so that we might once again be planted in the fertile ground of the Potters field, and so that we might become the new harvest that could be brought into his new coming kingdom.

And therefore when we read Matthew chapter 27 verses nine and 10 about what was spoken of by the prophet Jeremiah, it should be clear that Matthew was not directly quoting from Jeremiah word for word, but was rather explaining the unfolding prophecy that was told by the prophet Jeremiah concerning the potter who is a metaphor for Yehovah God and the clay that is a metaphor for you and I and the price that had to be paid in order to purchase us back from his adversary who had bound us with the chains and shackles of sin and transgression.

To be sure there are all kinds of arguments being made by biblical scholars around the world concerning Matthew chapter 27 verses nine and 10. Some believe that Matthew simply made a mistake and was actually talking about the prophet Zechariah because in Zechariah chapter 11 the prophet Zechariah talks about his work being worth 30 pieces of silver that he threw into the house of Yehovah. However... Matthew does not point to Zechariah, he clearly points to Jeremiah.

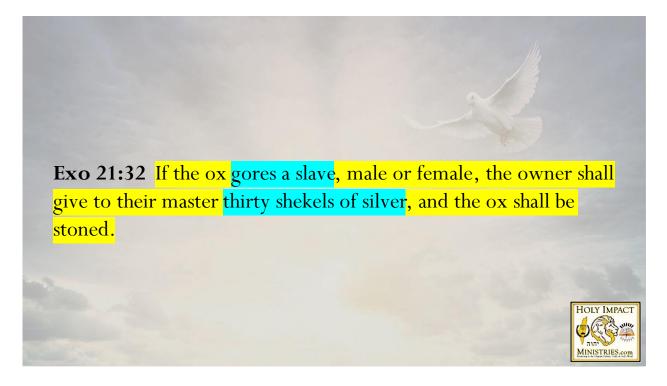
Some say that Matthew chapter 27 verses nine and 10 have to do with the lost writings of the prophet Jeremiah. However... There has been no conclusive evidence that there even are lost writings from the prophet Jeremiah.

And therefore, by simple deduction it seems clear that Matthew was indeed referencing the message given in Jeremiah chapter 18 which has everything to do with the potter who is Yehovah God, the clay that is you and I, and the price of sin and transgression and God's ability to once again have mercy on whom it is that he... will have mercy.

In the end... we should always remember that just as Paul tells us in Romans chapter 7 verse 14... we know that the law is spiritual. And therefore, the law must be spiritually understood. Understanding this, it should also be known that prophecy is also spiritual. And prophecy also must be spiritually understood. The betrayal of Judas and Peter and the chief priests and the house of Israel and each one of us at one point or another in our lives points directly to the mercy and the grace of Yehovah our Father in heaven who has chosen to extend to us all an olive branch of peace and reconciliation.

The question is, will we accept the olive branch of peace and reconciliation that is being extended to us, or will we reject the olive branch and deny the root of David in the process?

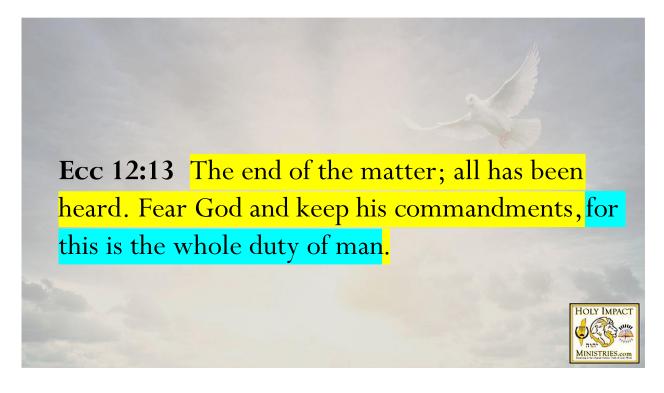
We have all just like the potter's field been purchased for a price. **Exodus chapter 21 verse 32 (scrn 9)**



From the very beginning the price of a slave was 30 shekels of silver the exact price the Judas was paid for betraying our Messiah who was indeed a slave of righteousness. And it is this same slave of righteousness that calls us all to pick up our crosses and to follow him that we also may become slaves of righteousness. For who among us

that has been enlightened and who has tasted the heavenly gift and has shared in the Holy Spirit and has tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come would be anything less?

To be a slave of what is good and righteous and holy in the site of the potter is to be... what the clay was created for. Ecclesiastes chapter 12 verse 13 (scrn 10)



Next week on our Father's seventh day Sabbath at 11 AM Eastern standard Time we will continue our study into the 27th chapter of the book of Matthew as we dive into the introduction of our Messiah before Pilate and the betrayal of not only the high priests and the elders of Israel... but the people of Israel themselves. And we will once again see the Lamb of God fulfilling the qualifying prophecy of the Old Testament in order to become... the only begotten Son of God, Son of David, Son of Abraham.

But until then I will do as I always do, and I will 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 this morning be true or not.

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