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## Deuteronomy Chapters 7b and 8 The Devil's Temptation

Last week as we dove into Deuteronomy chapter 7, we spoke in some detail about the reciprocal love that is required from our Father in heaven in order for us to be considered part of his family. And we talked about first John chapter 5 verse three that tells us that the biblical definition of the love of God is that we keep his commandments and that his commandments are not burdensome to us which fits perfectly with what our Father in heaven is telling us here in his Torah clear back in the beginning of the book.

And we also mentioned the fact that today's apostate church loves to continuously regurgitate God's love for them while doing virtually nothing to help today's modern-day Christians know and understand how important it is to show our love for him. There are few words if any that are ever taught or even mentioned in the apostate church today concerning the reciprocal love that we are to show our Father in heaven if we truly do love him.

They continuously talk about faith, they continuously talk about belief, but they never truly define faith or belief or the works that complete our faith because we do indeed believe. **James 2:19-26: E1**

**Jas 2:19** You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

**Jas 2:20** Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

Jas 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

Jas 2:22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

Jas 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God.

Jas 2:24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Jas 2:25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

Jas 2:26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

It becomes more than just a clear and present danger for a Christian to think that faith and belief simply have to do with uttering a few words down at the front of the aisle with some stranger that they barely know.

Salvation is much more than simply professing that Yeshua is the Son of God and then turning right around like a dog to its vomit and like a pig to its mire because you think you have proven your faith and your belief through your lips.

I assure you my friends, there is much more to salvation than honoring Yehovah God with your lips while your heart is far from him because you're following after and teaching as doctrines the commandments of men and not the commandments of Yehovah God.

And this is exactly what we're going to see once again through the scriptures today as we study the end of Deuteronomy chapter 7 and the beginning of Deuteronomy chapter 8.

But before we do that, I'd like to once again simply mention the fact that what we are reading about here in the Torah and especially here in the book of Deuteronomy is why the house of Israel was made to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. The trek from Mount Sinai to the promised land was a very short trek. It was a relatively short journey that would in

no way have taken 40 years. And therefore, it's important for us to remember why it took 40 years to get to the promised land.

We must remember that a whole generation of the house of Israel had rebelled against Yehovah God and had not shown him their reciprocal love by keeping his commandments. And this is why the first generation of Israelites that came out of Egypt were not allowed to enter into the promised land. And therefore, they had to wander in the wilderness until that first generation had all passed away. The only people from that generation that were allowed to enter into the promised land were Caleb and Joshua because they did not rebel against Yehovah God. Caleb and Joshua did show their reciprocal love for him by keeping his commandments and making sure that his commandments were not a burden to them.

When Yehovah God commanded the house of Israel to rush in and to take the land that he had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to give them... the whole house of Israel was struck with fear because there were giants in the land in those days. And because these giants made them look like grasshoppers, they refused to do what Yehovah God had commanded them to do. All except Caleb and Joshua who were ready and willing to do what Yehovah had commanded them to do in order to take this promised land back from these giants who had no inheritance in the land.

And this is part and parcel of what we will be talking about here today in our study into Deuteronomy chapters 7 and eight.

What's important to take away from this teaching is that fear is a very effective tool that our adversary will use against us if we allow him to do so.

Let me say that again so this registers firmly within our minds... fear is a very effective tool that our adversary will use against us if we allow him to do so. What kept the first generation of the house of Israel out of

the promised land?

Fear.

It was fear that kept a whole generation from entering into the promised land. The devil had struck fear into their hearts because of these giants, and the house of Israel sat down when the house of Israel was supposed to stand up. And I would submit to you my friends, that many modern-day Christians today are doing the exact same thing because they too are stricken with fear.

Often times when we see what we perceive to be a more powerful adversary standing before us, because of the fear that our adversary may be bigger than us, or stronger than us, or more powerful than us... we simply choose not to fight. We simply choose to sit down and to shut up and to cower under our beds. And by doing so... we are essentially bowing our knees to the wicked whims of the evil one. All it takes for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing. That's not just a cliché my friends. That's the truth. And most of us have already seen that truth come true with our own eyes. Whole cities here in the United States were taken over, police stations, town squares, businesses and buildings because good men chose to do nothing. Those in power did absolutely nothing.

I would submit to you that there is no difference between the house of Israel rejecting the commandment of Yehovah because of the fear that was struck in their hearts by these giants and the Christian today who will ultimately reject the commandment of Yehovah because of the fear of some left-wing radical movement that seems to be bigger and stronger, and more powerful than they are.

Let me ask you something my friends... why is there no prayer in school anymore? Why are football coaches being fired for bending the knee on the field for a moment of prayer? Why is there abortion the law of the land? Why are our children confused about their gender and who they

are? Why are we here in the United States allowing those who govern these United States to decree that men should be allowed use little girls' bathrooms and women should be allowed to use little boys' bathrooms?

Why is all of this going on here in the United States? Is there a king that rules over this nation or is there a president that is elected by the people for the people and to uphold the law? Do we have a Constitution, or do we have a dictatorship? The question is not is it lawful for us to stand up against these things here in the United States. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights of these United States clearly makes it lawful for us to stand up against these things here in the United States. So why don't we?

I would submit to you that the reason that we don't stand up against these things is because of the giants in the land.

The reason that we don't stand up against these things is because of the weapon of fear that the devil has used against us. There is no difference.

In some nations, the people have no right to vote or to petition their grievances, or to bear arms, or to have the freedom of speech. But here in the United States... we do have these inalienable rights. And even though we by law have these inalienable rights... how many are exercising those God-given rights to protect the land and to protect our children and our communities? We here in the U.S. not only have the right to stand for what is right in the eyes of our Father in heaven... we have a duty as citizens of this nation to stand and to be heard and to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. But the question is... are we doing that? Are we standing for what is right in our Father's eyes in this country? Or are we making excuses as to why it is that we have become slothful and lazy and apathetic and driven by a spirit of fear?

When we don't stand for Yehovah and his truth and his commandments, we are no better than the house of Israel who rejected God's commandments and were therefore rejected by Yehovah God.

Some will say “Well this is not our land”. Those commandments were only for the house of Israel. But I would submit to you that all the earth is Yehovah’s. And I would also submit to you that the New Testament itself proclaims that we are indeed one with a Jewish man who came from the house of David and the tribe of Judah. **Galatians 3:27-29 (scrn 1)**

**Gal 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**Gal 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek (Gentile), there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Gal 3:29** And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.



Here in the United States, it is the duty of the United States citizen to stand up and make decisions for themselves. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights were written here in the United States in order to give that power, that authority to the people and not to the dictatorship of those who are running the nation. The United States was literally built upon Judeo-Christian values and concepts for this very reason. But how many United States citizens are now standing up against those who they voted for who now think that they are the Kings and Queens of the nation?

Just this week we had the president of the United States stand in front of the whole world and claim that as much as half the nation were

terrorists. And this... just after hearing that the FBI had declared that parents of grade school children raising up against school officials because of their wicked policies were also terrorists. And this... just after hearing that the IRS was given billions of dollars in order to hire a virtual army of tax collectors.

Now... the only reason that I mention these things is to put things into proper perspective.

Many people will look at the house of Israel who were rejected by God because they did not go in and take the land as God commanded and think that they were a bunch of cowards. Which they were. But... my question is have we looked in the mirror lately? Have we as Christians in the United States not been acting cowardly for generations?

My friend's freedom is not free. Not in this world, it's not. The only reason that we have any resemblance of freedom left in this nation is because of those who laid down their lives and spilled their blood so that we would have the freedoms that we enjoy today (or at least... what's left of them). Our freedom was bought and paid for with the blood of those who wanted us to have freedom. Please do not think that the freedom that we have here in the United States has not been bought and paid for with human blood because it certainly has. It was because of the love of others who gave their very lives selfishly... that we today have any resemblance of freedom left today in our time.

And do not think by any means that those people who laid their lives down for freedom and Christian values and faith will not be readily accepted by our Messiah who knows a little something about dying for freedom so that others may live apart from bondage.

And I say all of that in order to help us to better understand that what we are looking at here in the beginning of the Bible, in our Father's Torah is virtually a mirror of ourselves.

It is written that our Father teaches us the end from the beginning. King Solomon tells us that there is nothing new under the sun what has been done will be done again. Those who came before us fought and died so that we and our children and our children's children would be able to live in freedom. Each and every American citizen has a duty to stand up for what they believe is morally just and correct. The problem comes when Americans shirk that responsibility by becoming slothful and apathetic slaves to the fear of the earthly power that the devil wields.

Fear my friends... is the devil's favorite tool. And we can see that right here in the book of Deuteronomy. What was it that stopped the house of Israel from obeying the commandment of Yehovah to take the promised land as he had promised them? It was clearly fear that the devil used to prove to Yehovah God that the house of Israel did not love him as much as he loved them.

You see the devil had used fear to prove to Yehovah God that the children of Israel were not worthy of the love of God. And it was for this reason that Yehovah God rejected that first generation of the house of Israel. And this is exactly why they were made to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. And I would submit to you... that this is exactly why you and I are wandering in the wilderness today. It was for this very reason that the first two temples of Yehovah were brought to desolation. It was for this very reason that Yehovah divorced the house of Israel and caused them to be scattered among the nations of the world in the first place. It was for this very reason that there is no Temple on the face of the earth today.

It's important that as we read through these Scriptures, that we apply these Scriptures to ourselves. It's important that as we read through these Scriptures, that we notice the similarities between them and us. Because I would submit to you that this is exactly why we still have these Scriptures before us today.

These Scriptures are a navigational system that helps us to navigate

through our lives today. These Scriptures are a spiritual compass if you will that gives us direction and shows us the way. Our Messiah was a human fleshly compass that Yehovah God had sent in order to show us the way back to him. And what did our Messiah come to teach and preach... his own word... or his Father's word?

Let me ask you this... do you think that our Messiah came to teach us to be cowards? Did our Messiah come to teach us to shrink back? Did our Messiah come to teach us to be pacifists? Did our Messiah come to teach us to embrace darkness? Did our Messiah come to teach us to be followers of the world, or did our Messiah come to teach us to be the light of the world? Did our Messiah come to teach us to assimilate ourselves with the world or to lead the world in righteousness and the light of the truth that is the word of Yehovah?

Because I would submit to you that our Messiah who is the lion of Judah came to teach and preach not his own... but his Father's word that we are reading right here in the book of Deuteronomy. I would submit to you that our Messiah came to teach us to be lions, not cowards. I would submit to you that our Messiah came to teach us to stand up not to shrink back and be destroyed. I would submit to you that our Messiah came to teach us to be warriors, not pacifists. And I would submit to you that our Messiah came to teach us to be the light of the world not the darkness of the world. And I would submit to you that our Messiah came to teach us to follow him back to his Father and not to follow after the world. You see, it's not about following the world, it's about leading the world into truth the same way that the prophets led, the same way that the Apostles led, and the same way that our Messiah led.

Assimilating ourselves with the world is the last thing that our Messiah came to teach and to preach to those who would follow him. The very reason that our Messiah was crucified was that he did not assimilate himself with the world but stood for the truth! A truth that the world did not like but needed to hear.

Our Messiah spoke openly to thousands of people about what was right and what was wrong. He made clear and concise distinctions between the lawful and the lawless. He did not hide under his bed. He did not shrink back. He did not make up excuses. And he did not ride on the skirt tails of the Prophets that came before him. He stood for what was right in an otherwise broken and fallen world and they murdered him for it. But his reward was great in heaven and so too will be our reward if we too stand for what is right and endure to the end and conquer over evil even unto death just as our Messiah and the Prophets before him did.

And so, the question then becomes... are we standing for what is right? And if we are... then why is there no more prayer in our schools today? Do we not assimilate ourselves with the world by standing down and bowing the knee to the wickedness of the world? Do we not assimilate ourselves with the world by allowing the world to attack our children in our schools? Are we not assimilating ourselves with the world when we allow them to remove prayer from the schools and the 10 Commandments from our courthouses? Are we not assimilating ourselves with the world when we allow teachers within our schools who are supposed to be teaching our children reading, writing, and arithmetic to challenge the gender of our children?

We as modern-day Christians love to make excuses. We love to say that we're Christians but because we're not of this world we're not responsible for this world. But that's not what the Bible says and that's not what the Bible has shown us from the very beginning. Listen closely to what the apostle Paul tells us in **first Corinthians chapter 5 (scrn 2)**

1Co 5:9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—

1Co 5:10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

1Co 5:11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

1Co 5:12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?

1Co 5:13 God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”



Does Paul tell us to go out of the world? Does Paul tell us not to associate with the sexually immoral people of the world?

The clear unarguable answer to that question is no he does not. Paul tells us very clearly right here in first Corinthians that he does not tell us not to associate with the sexually immoral people of the world or those who are greedy or swindlers or idolaters since then we would need to go out of the world.

Are we residents of this world... or not? Does what the leaders of our nation do and say and write as law not affect us and our children? Of course, it does. Of course, it does. And why? Because we are residents of this world whether we like it or not. Cheap excuses are nothing more than cheap excuses my friends. Those who are kept silent because of the fear that the devil has struck within their hearts will always bend the knee to the wicked and hide under a cloak of excuses. And this is exactly what happened during the dark ages when false prophets and false Christians sided with the government and the Pope of Rome and decided to murder millions of men, women, and children in cold blood! How did

that happen?

It happened because far too many professing Christians sided with the Pope of Rome, and his demonically inspired decision to torture and even murder millions of people who were true God-fearing, Messiah-following, cross-bearing Christians. It happened because people were not reading their Bibles for themselves. It happened because the devil had his own... “Christian army”.

My friends... do not think that the Devil does not have his own army of Christians because I tell you the truth... he does indeed, and we’ve seen the blood-curdling power that they once wielded upon the earth. And I tell you the truth... that same blood-curdling power will rise again in the very near future. Do not be so foolish as to think that the Devil’s Christian army will not rise up again, because I tell you the truth... it has already begun, and its return to power will be more devastating than the last time it ruled.

Keeping all of this in mind, let’s turn to **Deuteronomy chapter 7 and let’s read verses 25 and 26 (scrn 3)**

**Deu 7:25** The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the LORD your God.

**Deu 7:26** And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction.



What do we see here in Deuteronomy chapter 7? Our Father in heaven is telling the house of Israel not to covet the silver or the gold that belongs to their enemies because it is an abomination to Yehovah. Yehovah God tells the house of Israel not to bring any abominable thing into their houses because by doing so they themselves will become devoted to destruction like it. Keeping this in mind, I would like us to now read **Deuteronomy chapter 8 verses one into (scrn 4)**

**Deu 8:1** “The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers.  
**Deu 8:2** And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.



How many here see the correlation between Deuteronomy chapter 7 verses 25 and 26 and Deuteronomy chapter 8 verses one and two?

Deuteronomy chapter 7 verses 25 and 26 tells the house of Israel not to be tempted or to covet the silver and the gold of their enemies which Yehovah God hates and finds detestable. He warns them not to take it into their homes or they will be devoted to destruction like it.

In Deuteronomy chapter 8 verses one and two the context is all about being tested by Yehovah to know what was in their hearts whether they would keep his commandments are not.

And I would also like to draw a very clear and distinctive line between being tested and being tempted. Being tested and being tempted are two entirely different concepts. **James chapter 1 verses 13 through 16 (scrn 5)**

Jas 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

Jas 1:14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

Jas 1:15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Jas 1:16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.



Just as we can see here in James chapter 1 verse 13 Yehovah God cannot be tempted with evil and he himself tempts no one. However... This does not mean that our Father in heaven does not test us. Once again, testing and tempting are two very different concepts. And what was our Father doing here in **Deuteronomy chapter 8?** (scrn 6 show)

**Deu 8:1** “The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers.  
**Deu 8:2** And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.



According to Deuteronomy chapter 8 verse two, our Father in heaven was testing the house of Israel to know what was in their heart and whether they would keep his commandments or not.

You see, Yehovah God knew that the promised land that he was commanding Joshua to go in and to take was full of gold and silver. And he knew that even in the days of Moses gold and silver were exactly like money is today in our time.

And I like to stop right here for just a moment because I know a lot of our brothers and sisters love to wrongly proclaim that the house of Israel only traded livestock and produce and that they had no such thing as money. But those of us who study our Bibles know full well better than that. They certainly did have money. They were known as shekels or talents. It's written clear back in Genesis chapter 37 verse 28 that Joseph was sold by his brothers for 20 pieces of silver. Each piece was probably a shekel's worth and the shekel was the equivalent of about a half an ounce. And this was clear back in the book of Genesis.

Genesis chapter 23 verses one through 20 tells us that Abraham bought the cave of Machpelah to bury Sarah in with 400 shekels of silver. In **Genesis chapter 42 verses 25 through 28 what do we read? (scrn 7)**

**Gen 42:25** And Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, and to replace every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. This was done for them.

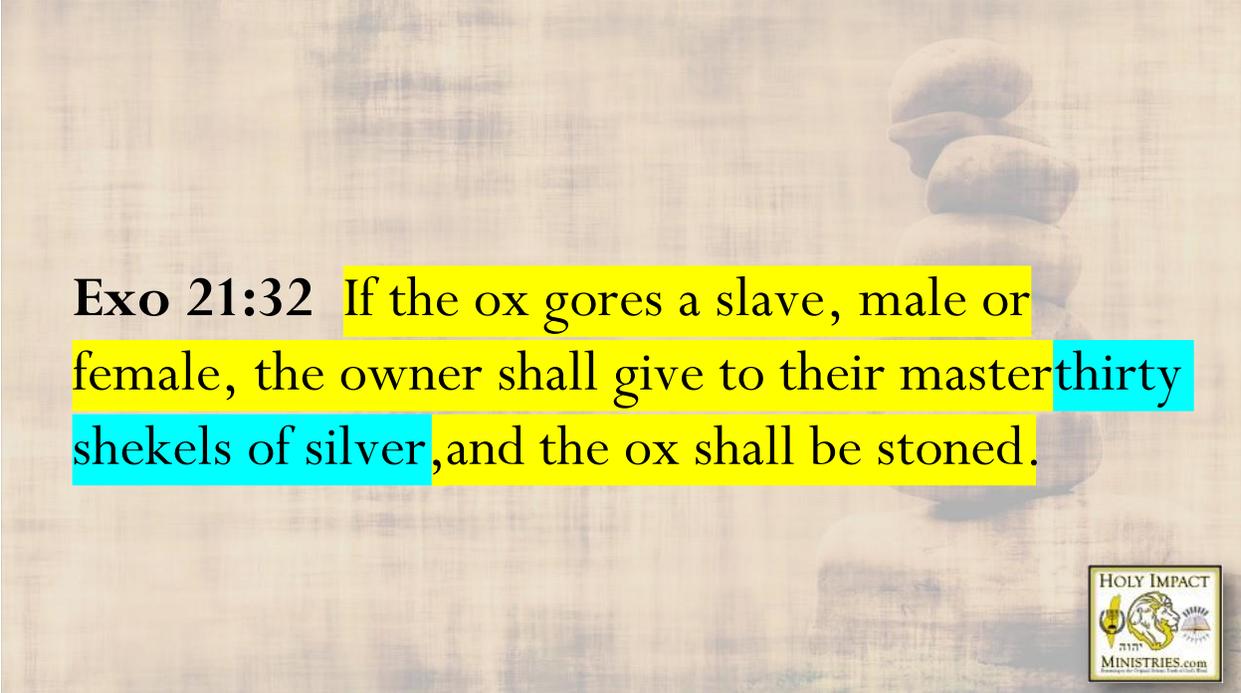
**Gen 42:26** Then they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed.

**Gen 42:27** And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money in the mouth of his sack.

**Gen 42:28** He said to his brothers, "My money has been put back; here it is in the mouth of my sack!" At this their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, "What is this that God has done to us?"



At the beginning of Genesis chapter 42, Joseph tells his sons to go to Egypt and buy grain for them. My friends, they did not take sheep, livestock, and produce to trade for the grain. They took... money. They took a sack of money to buy the grain with. And this is exactly why Joseph who was their brother that they did not know put their sack of money back into their bags. Even clear back in the book of Exodus we can clearly see that the house of Israel did indeed deal in money. **Exodus chapter 21 verse 32 (scrn 8)**



**Exo 21:32** If the ox gores a slave, male or female, the owner shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.



And therefore, there is no doubt that the house of Israel did indeed know what money was. Animals and produce were used for bartering and for sacrificial offerings and purposes. But... money was clearly exchanged for goods and services let there be no mistake about it.

And all of this is important to understand here in Deuteronomy chapter 8 because it was indeed this gold and silver... this money if you will which has always consisted of silver and gold and precious metals... that Yehovah was using to test the heart of the house of Israel.

And once again this was not Yehovah tempting the house of Israel... this was Yehovah testing the house of Israel. Yehovah was not trying to get the house of Israel to sin against him. Yehovah was testing the house of Israel to see if they would sin against him or not. He was laying before them a choice to either keep the commandments that he had commanded them or not. This is different from tempting someone to do evil for the sole purpose of making them evil.

Tempting someone is a very sneaky process. This was not a sneaky

process. Yehovah was telling them openly that there was going to be silver and gold in this nation that they were taking over. And he was upfront with them by commanding them to ignore it and not to be led astray by it. He was warning them upfront. My friends, you can't tempt someone with something if you're warning them upfront. You can't cause your brother to stumble over a stone if you are pointing out the stone to him so that he can step over it.

And I say all of that in order to reestablish the fact that there is a difference between tempting someone and testing someone. And the house of Israel was clearly being tested by Yehovah and not tempted. There is a difference, and we need to know that difference. Yehovah God tests us in order to confirm our faith. Or to prove our commitment. The devil tempts us in order to prove to God that we do not have faith and that we are not committed to him. You see there is a difference. And we need to recognize that difference.

But the question is, did the house of Israel listen to what Yehovah had commanded them? Did the house of Israel pass the test, or did they fail the test? The answer to that question is both yes and no. Most of the house of Israel was obedient... but there was one individual who just couldn't seem to keep his hand out of the cookie jar. Let's turn to **Joshua chapter 7 E2**

**Jos 7:1** But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel.

And so, here in Joshua chapter 7, we find that one man by the name of Achan had taken some of these silver and gold trinkets that Yehovah God commanded them not to take and the anger of Yehovah burned against the people of Israel.

And I'd like for us to think about this for just a moment. Because this

was just one man. This was one man out of millions of people that disobeyed the commandment of Yehovah. And so... why was Yehovah angry with the whole house of Israel. It's important for us to understand this concept. Why was Yehovah angry with the whole house of Israel when it was only one man who had stolen and disobeyed him?

You see, this exemplifies the importance of being one with our Father in heaven. In the eyes of our Father in heaven we as his people are one. And we are seen as one people. And this is exactly why the apostle Paul tells us in the New Testament to set the wicked person outside of the assembly.

If you have someone that is wicked within your assembly, you need to set them outside of that assembly. They are no longer welcome to be a part of Yehovah's assembly. Not says I... but says our God-breathed Scripture in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. And when we do not set the evil person outside of the assembly... we are all guilty of that sin because we did not abhor that sin. We are guilty of that sin because we did not separate ourselves from that sin and therefore... we have become part of that transgression.

Think about that for a moment and let that sink in.

What we must understand is that we are seen as a holy people before Yehovah. What is holy unto Yehovah cannot be tainted with evil or with something unclean. And this is exactly why it is so important to teach the difference between the clean and the unclean and what to do if someone becomes unclean. What is holy to Yehovah belongs to Yehovah. Nothing unclean or sinful can belong to Yehovah. And therefore, if you have unclean or sinful people congregating within your assembly, and you know that, and you do not get rid of that sin and that transgression... you are thereby guilty of it because you assimilated yourself with it and allowed it within your ranks and within your gates.

Let's now scroll down to **Joshua chapter 7 verses 19 through 26**

**(scroll down)**

**Jos 7:19** Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me."

**Jos 7:20** And Achan answered Joshua, "Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did:

**Jos 7:21** when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

**Jos 7:22** So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was hidden in his tent with the silver underneath.

**Jos 7:23** And they took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the people of Israel. And they laid them down before the LORD.

**Jos 7:24** And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor.

**Jos 7:25** And Joshua said, "Why did you bring trouble on us? The LORD brings trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones.

**Jos 7:26** And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his burning anger. Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor.

Once again, this Achan had willfully and intentionally disobeyed the commandment of Yehovah by stealing this gold and silver. And I want us to pay particularly close attention to Joshua chapter 7 verse 25 where Joshua asks Achan and I quote, "Why did you bring trouble on us?"

What needs to be taken away from this is the fact that when anyone within our assembly breaks the commandment of Yehovah, we are all seen corporately as unworthy. All of us corporately within the assembly are affected by that sin. And once we are aware of that sin... we must irradicate that sin immediately by either bringing that person back to repentance or by setting that wicked one outside of the assembly.

In today's world, we all love to think about ourselves. We all like to think that our actions don't affect anyone else. We all like to think that our decisions are our decisions and that nobody else is affected by what we say or what we do or how we behave. We all like to think that our bodies are our bodies and that we can do with them what we please. But the truth of the matter is... that because we are seen as one in the eyes of our Father in heaven, we must not only turn away from sin and transgression in order to obtain the crown of salvation for ourselves, but we must also turn away from sin and transgression in order to make sure that the assembly that we are part of is not tarnished by the filth of sin and transgression. And in order to help us better understand this most important concept, I would like for us to read **John chapter 17 verses 17 through 26 E3**

Joh 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Joh 17:18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

Joh 17:19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Joh 17:20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

Joh 17:21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Joh 17:22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

Joh 17:23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Joh 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Joh 17:25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me.

Joh 17:26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Being one with our Father in heaven is no new concept. The concept of all of us being one is a teaching that has been taught by our Father in heaven from clear back in the beginning of the Bible. And right here in John chapter 17 our Messiah is once again teaching Torah. He is teaching the word of his Father which is the Torah, the law, the spoken word that our Messiah became in the flesh and calls us to also become by picking up our crosses and following him and walking as he walked and doing as he did.

There is a lot to ponder here within the pages of the book of Deuteronomy. But we should never chop the Bible into separate books when attempting to understand the whole of Yehovah's word. All 66 of these books are indeed needed in order to understand the full unfolding plan of salvation that our Father in heaven has been unfolding for thousands of years.

My hope and my prayer is that we will all take the time to ponder just what we have heard here today and that we might apply this wisdom in our own lives so that we do not count ourselves as separate or far and away from these brothers and sisters who had come before us.

For I tell you the truth. The tricks and snares of the evil one that the house of Israel stumbled over are the same tricks and snares that the devil sets for us and our children today in our time. And far too many of us are getting caught in these tricks and snares of the evil and this need not be.

But for now, as we close the books for this evening, I will once again do as I always do and ask everyone within the sound of my voice to please take what you've heard here today to your own prayer closet. Bow your head and bow your knee and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you've 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 to you. And if you'll do that, and if you'll stay the course to the end... you and I will surely walk through the gates of his soon-coming kingdom together.